

A LOVE THAT ... OVERCOMES EVERY OBSTACLE.

TEENS' BOOKMARK

I Care becomes a bookmark it will accompany you this month and help you live this Word of Life.

FROM
JORDAN

Together, teens and adults, we decided to prepare a Christmas party for 25 families in need.

To raise the money for this activity, we had bake sales, and made and sold bracelets and scarves. We also organized a movie night, which was attended by 50 of our friends.

How should we organize the gift-giving?

Each one of us teens would provide a gift for a boy or a girl, while the adults would prepare food baskets for the families.

This allowed for many surprises during the party!!! After some caroling and skits, it was time for Santa Claus.

One little girl had dreamed of having a butterfly, and even though no one knew of her wish, the person who prepared the gift for her got it right!

Everyone was very happy, both those who had received that one and only Christmas gift, as well as those who prepared the party and experienced a true family atmosphere. We kept thanking one another because the gift had been reciprocal! **At the end of the day, it was logical to promise each other that we would meet soon again!**

Let's think of what we can do for others.

GIVING
COLOR
TO OUR CITY

«MAY THE LORD MAKE YOU INCREASE AND ABOUND IN LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER AND FOR ALL» (1 Tess 3:12)

From a commentary by Chiara Lubich – Adapted by the Gen 3 Center

Love is the very center of Christian life. If we don't keep growing in love, our Christian life becomes weak and can even die out. **It's not enough to have understood what the commandment to love our neighbor means. We have to make our love grow continually by keeping it alive, active and concrete.** This will happen if we respond quickly and generously to the many opportunities to love offered to us each day.

THE COMMUNITY
AND THE WARMTH

OF A TRUE
FAMILY

St. Paul believes that **Christian communities should have the same warmth and vibrancy of a real family.**

It's easy to understand, therefore, his eagerness to draw attention to the **dangers** that most threaten this atmosphere of love, like being **individualistic, superficial or mediocre.**

TO KNOW HOW
TO RECOGNIZE
THE POSITIVE
IN EVERYONE

He wants communities that are open to others. It's typical of charity to love our brothers and sisters who share the same faith, and, at the same time, **reach out to everyone, being sensitive to the problems and needs of all.** It's a characteristic of love to build bridges with every person, **recognizing the positive in them**, uniting with all people of good will to make the world one family.

A LOVE
THAT
ALWAYS
WELCOMES

CLEARLY SUCH AN ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL LOVE IN OUR COMMUNITIES WILL RADIATE ITS WARMTH TO EVERYONE AROUND US. Even those who don't know anything about Christianity will be attracted by it, and quite naturally, almost without realizing it, **they will feel that they too belong to the same family.**