

A LOVE THAT IS LIKE...

A FOUNTAIN OF TRUE JOY

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

PAOLO  
ITALY



11

A VACATION  
WHERE I GAVE  
MY ALL

couldn't wait for vacation to come! I had worked very hard all year long, together with a lot of new friends.

I was looking forward to seeing all my friends at the beach where we go every year with my family to camp.

One evening the phone rang and it was my pastor, asking me to be the leader of a younger teens' group for the whole month after school ended. I asked him for some time to think about it and to ask my parents about our family plans.

But in my heart I had already made my decision. I would definitely say no to this invitation! I go to church every week, but had never taken any commitment to participate in their activities.

I kept on doing little chores around the house, but every once in a while I would think of that proposal. I found many excuses like, «This is something I've never done before»; «I'm still too young»; «They'll find someone else...»

But the truth of the matter was that I wasn't happy. At a certain point I felt within me a strong voice saying: "I'm the one who's asking you!" It was Jesus, whom I had gotten to know better just recently, also through living the Word of Life. He was asking me to love Him in «the little ones».

That evening I spoke to my parents about the invitation I had received from the pastor. When they asked me what I thought about it, I answered that I would be glad to give it a try, and would join them later at the beach.



«FOR WITH YOU IS THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE»  
(Ps 36:9)

11

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

This phrase from Scripture tells us something very important for our lives. First of all, it tells us that there is only one source of life: God. The universe, which provides a home for all of us human beings, came from his creative love. **He is the one who gives us life with all its gifts.** So the first step we should take is to **praise and thank God with all our heart for the wonders of the cosmos and for creating all of us.** In fact human beings are the only **creatures** who are able to tell him: "For with you is the fountain of life."



THE  
SOURCE  
OF ALL  
GOODNESS

At times we might think: "How beautiful it must have been to live during the time of Jesus!" Well, his love invented a way for him to stay here on earth, not in just one small corner of the Holy Land, but in every part of the world! He made himself present in the Eucharist, as he promised. **We can draw from this source to nourish and renew our life.**



A SONG OF  
THANKSGIVING

Another source from which we can draw the living water of God's presence is other people. If we love **every neighbor we meet, especially those in need**, they are not so much benefited by us, but rather we are benefited by them, because **they give us God.** **Another overflowing fountain is God's presence within us.** He always speaks to us. It's up to us to listen to his voice, which is that of our conscience.



THERE ARE MANY  
PLACES  
WHERE WE CAN  
MEET GOD

And there is a very special moment, like no other, in which we can draw from his presence within us. It is when we pray, trying to go in-depth and build a direct, personal relationship with him who dwells in our soul.

It is like a very deep spring of water that never dries up, that is always available for us to use and can quench our thirst in every moment.