

Let's live
like this
The program:
Unity

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We were living in Trent, Italy, during World War II.

In the air raid shelters, with the light of a candle, we read the Gospel.

One day we found this sentence in the Gospel of John: "Father, that they may all be one."

I told my friends: "This is our program: we will live in the world so that all may be one."

We were born for that passage of the Gospel. We were born to bring unity into the whole world, unity with God and unity among all our brothers and sisters in the human family.

But how can we bring unity to everyone? We understood the answer: we had to love one another in such a way that Christ would always be in our midst.

And, because He was present among us, we felt a greater joy than we had ever known before, a new peace, a new ardor. His light guided us!

Since Jesus was among us, people around us found or re-found their faith, the same faith we had, and people of all ages, of every social category, of all vocations joined us.

In this way we began to fulfill the dream of Jesus, for which he begged his Father before dying: "Father, that they may all be one."

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«That they may all be one.»

(Jn 17:21)

In chapter 17 of the Gospel of John, we find Jesus's last prayer. He knew he was asking what was closest to his Father's heart. God had created us human beings as his family, gave us every good thing, and even shared his own divine life with us.

All family members resemble their parents. It's the same with the members of God's family. When God created the human race in his own image and likeness, he gave us the same capacity to form relationships with people, so that everyone might live in mutual self-giving.

The model for our unity is nothing less than the unity that exists between the Father and Jesus.

How can we help to fulfill this prayer of Jesus?

First, we have to make it our own. We can offer our lips and heart to Jesus so that he can continue speaking these words to his Father. And we can confidently say the same prayer every day. If this is God's dream, we want it to be ours as well!

Before every decision, before everything we do, we can ask ourselves: does this help to build unity, is it the best way to bring about unity?

And finally we ought to run to wherever disunity is most evident and take it upon ourselves as Jesus did.

"I will try every day to make my own Jesus's dream for unity on earth."

There might be friction in our families or among people we know, tension in our neighborhood, disagreements at work, in the parish or among churches.

We should never shy away from conflicts and misunderstandings, never be indifferent, but rather bring our love to that situation, listening with close attention to the other person, sharing in the pain caused by their open wounds.

And, above all, live in unity with whoever is open to sharing Jesus's ideal and prayer, and remember: «It's better to do what is less perfect in unity than what is more perfect in disunity.»

"How can I be a bearer of unity in my family, at school, with my friends?"

