



**Love
Beyond
Every
Limit**

“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep” (Rom 12:15).

This sentence is taken from the letter that Saint Paul wrote to the Christians living in Rome. He asked them to take the step from loving only people who shared their faith to **loving everyone**, as the Gospel teaches us to do. He tells them that for believers, **love has no boundaries. It cannot be limited to just a few people.**

This is an invitation to «walk in the shoes of the other person», in order to understand how they really feel. This is TRUE LOVE.

«To love in a Christian way, we have to **MAKE OURSELVES ONE with every neighbor, to enter as much as possible into their heart and mind in order to truly understand their problems and their needs, to share their sufferings and joys. It means bending toward others, in some way becoming them, making ourselves them.**



“Make ourselves one with others in everything, except if they are doing something wrong – no! Not a sin!”

¹C. Lubich, «Mutual love,» Castel Gandolfo, March 30, 1989



We know that the expanse of a tree’s branches often corresponds to the diameter of its roots.



The same is true of us. The deeper we go in our relationship with God, the more **we will grow in our desire to share the joys and bear the burdens of the people around us.**

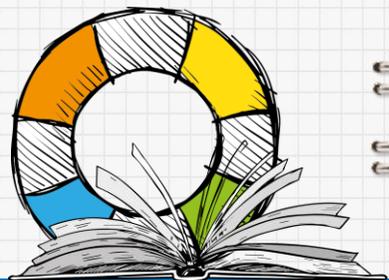
Our heart will open up and become more able to contain all that our neighbor is living in the present moment.

In the same way, love for our neighbor will help us enter even more into a personal relationship with God.

When we live like this, we’ll see things change around us, starting with our relationships in the family, at school or in the community. We will have the experience that when love is sincerely and freely given, sooner or later it is returned - and love becomes reciprocal.”



Experiences
from around the
world: **Diego**



All year long I tried very hard to study well.

At first it took a lot of discipline to start on my homework as soon as I got home from school, but little by little, it became my routine.

My friends in the neighborhood were always coming to my house to see if I could play, but I usually had to tell them no, and stay at home to finish my work. Just once in a while I went with them.

At the end of the year, I passed every subject and got good grades.

Instead my friend, Bob, was surprised to see that he failed in four subjects. When I heard about it, I really felt like judging him and saying, «Logical! All year long he was out on the street playing, instead of doing his homework!»

Just like every summer, I invited him to come to the beach with my family, but his mother said he had to stay home and study.

I felt really sorry about this and started to think what I could do about it. So I went to talk to his mother and told her that if he came, I would definitely help him do his homework every single day.

I felt it was a good opportunity to live the sentence; «Do to others as you would have them do to you». In the end his mother agreed with this plan.

We would get up very early in the morning to get his work done, and then we had the rest of the day to go to the beach. We had a fabulous vacation!

One day, when I woke up, I really had no desire to help him study, and for a moment I was sorry I had suggested that he come. But it was only a moment, because then I immediately felt happy at the thought that I was doing it for love. Loving is always the most beautiful thing to do, even when it costs some effort.

When we got home, Bob continued studying a lot so that he could do make-up tests in those subjects. In fact, he passed all four before school started again!

This experience made me convinced more than ever that it’s worth it to love, because when I do an act of love (in this case to study when I didn’t have to), I feel really happy.




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