



FIRST DAY *MY BEST FRIEND*

Conversation with Chiara

We suggest that you prepare the Gen 3 well with a very good introduction to the video, so that each Gen will feel that Chiara's experience is still very applicable to our life today. After that, you can watch the DVD or read the text from the book "Un'avventura a mozzafiato" [unfortunately it has not been translated into English] and act it out. It is important to emphasize that these are the founding moments in the story of our Movement.

After listening to Chiara, you can ask the Gen if they remember some similar experiences they have had. They could share it by acting it out, writing a comic strip, or making a video clip about it.

Text taken from:

DVD The "Yes" of Chiara (7'37" to 10'52")

Time passed and then on May 13, 1944, Trent was heavily bombed – it was terrible! As soon as we heard the alarm, my whole family ran for shelter in the woods outside of the city. That night we slept on the ground in the woods.

The sky was full of stars, but I remember that I couldn't sleep because I knew I couldn't leave the city with my family. I had to follow up with my companions in the newborn Movement. I knew my family had to leave, but I was the only one who was working and supporting them.

How could I tell my mom and dad that I wouldn't be able to leave with them? I cried and cried. My mom tried to comfort me, saying: "You'll see, everything will be okay." She said the same to my little sisters who were lying there on the ground under the trees. I kept looking up at all those stars and what I remember from that night is "stars and tears." In fact, we call it the "night of stars and tears."

When morning came, we went back towards our house, but we could already see from a distance that it had been hit. In fact, bombs had fallen all around the outside and the interior of the house had collapsed.

I was the first to climb up inside the house, because I had already decided that I was ready to die for others out of love for God. I went in first so that if anything happened, it would be me, and not them, to be injured. Then they came in after me. I told my dad: "Dad, I can't leave with you. I promised God that I wouldn't leave the city." My father answered, "All right, I give you my blessing." And, just think, my father wasn't a religious man at all!

Then I went to my mother. I was sure that my mother, who was very, very religious, would say the same thing. But she told me: "You're... You're really ruining everything..." She used very strong words against me. But I knew I couldn't leave.

They decided to set out towards the mountains around six in the morning. At a certain point, I had to put on my mother's curved back the mountain sack I was supposed to carry. It was so hard! I felt so bad, but I watched them as they went off towards the mountains, not knowing where they would find shelter.

Then I went back towards the city. The bombs had really destroyed everything; it was a disaster! Trees were uprooted and had fallen onto the streets. St. Clare's hospital had been hit, killing and injuring many victims. As I went along, all of a sudden a woman came running up to me, grabbed me by the shoulders and screamed at me: "Four of my family were killed, four were killed!" In that moment I understood that I had to put aside my small suffering in order to embrace the sufferings of humanity."

Following the footsteps of Jesus

Here we suggest a table game called, "Jesus, our friend on our journey." It will give a deeper understanding of Jesus' life, especially the moments of his passion and death, including the reality of Jesus Forsaken. Attached you will find the files with the cards and the instructions. There are 7 steps.

For the first day of the Congress, we suggest that you do the following footsteps:

- The last supper
- Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane

Olympics

Attached, you will find a suggested game to be adapted according to the number of Gen present.

SECOND DAY

OUR SECRET

Going in-depth with Chiara

1 - Text taken from:

DVD The "Yes" of Chiara (19'50" to 22'10")

I'll tell you another episode. One day, one of my companions had to stay in the house because her face was covered with sores. She got them when she went to visit a very poor woman. She had washed the floor and cleaned her house very well, but she caught an infection from her. A priest came to her house to bring her Communion and I was there, too. He asked me: "Do you know when Jesus suffered the most?" I had learned that he had suffered the most in the Garden of Olives, and so I said: "In the Garden of Olives." He replied: "No, Jesus suffered the most on the cross when he cried out: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'"

Then the priest left, and I told my friend: "Did you hear that? We have only one life, so let's spend it well! Let's follow Jesus crucified, but especially in that cry of his, in that moment he cried out, in his abandonment."

We immediately began to see his face everywhere, in all the people who were suffering, who resembled him. We saw him in women who were divorced, because they were all alone. We saw him in orphans, because they were all alone. We saw him in everyone who was abandoned or deserted or alone. We tried to love him even more than before because we saw his face in all the people who were suffering.

But what struck us the most about him was the thought that in that moment he truly lost *everything*. He was dying which meant he had lost his physical health. He lost his disciples because they weren't there with him, except for John. He lost his Mother because he gave her to all of us. He had lost everything. And yet he still had the very consoling presence of his Father who was one with him. However, the Father asked him for this, too, and so he cried out: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

2 - Text taken from:

Chiara at the International Gen 3 Congress, June 1972

DVD: Chiara's Flag in Our Hands

You know that life has joy and suffering. And even if we don't want it, some suffering always comes to us. All of you have experienced it. There are two different ways to react when faced with suffering.

Those who are not Gen cry, complain and stop going ahead. Those who are Gen, instead, see a great opportunity in that suffering. They see it as their chance to be like Jesus Forsaken and offer their pain to him.

And so what happens is that the revolution doesn't stop, but continues, and the race doesn't slow down, but keeps going ahead.

There are many kinds of suffering. Let's take a few examples. Someone might make fun of you. Well, just think that they made fun of Jesus, too. So tell yourself, "I'm happy to be like him." You don't even

think about getting even, but rather try to do something good to the one who made fun of you. And this is a victory for our revolution.

Or maybe you feel treated like a baby and left out of conversations with the adults. But then you remember that Jesus felt left out of the society of his time. You smile happily and offer your suffering to him.

Or maybe your teacher scolds you and yet you didn't do anything wrong. And so you remember that Jesus was unjustly accused, too. He was innocent. Think of how he was insulted and then rejoice at this new chance to show him your love.

It's the same when one of your friends speaks badly about you. Could there be anyone who was insulted more than Jesus?

It might happen that your mom or dad don't understand your commitment to live the Ideal and this makes you feel alone. You can remember that Jesus felt really alone on the cross. In the midst of all that suffering, he didn't have any consolation from his Father.

It could also happen that you get a bad grade in school or you might even fail one of your classes. What should you do? Certainly you should study harder in the future, but for now, take advantage of that suffering. Think right away that Jesus felt like a failure and instead of crying, say, "I'm happy to be like you."

Perhaps one of you sees that your dad and mom are not getting along too well and you feel left all alone. Jesus, too, felt abandoned. Take courage! Tell yourself, "Now is the time to show God whether I am a revolutionary or a weakling."

If you happen to get sick and you have to stay in bed and can't even move, it's time to be happy!

Or if the moment comes for one of you that your mom or dad dies – and this is an enormous suffering! – if you are a Gen, you will certainly cry a lot, but you should tell Jesus: "Here I am, just like you! Because you felt like an orphan, too."

Or when you feel useless, distressed, lost, discouraged, weak, sad, frightened, when you're hurting in any way, always say, "I'm happy to be like you." And he will give you strength.

But Jesus Forsaken is not only the secret of how to bear your own personal sufferings, which makes you a revolutionary of Jesus, and helps you to be always up and always ready to love.

Jesus Forsaken is also the secret to accomplish the plan we have for the Gen revolution, the direction we want to take. In fact, you find Jesus Forsaken in the poor people who resemble him. When he was on the cross, he was so poor that he no longer had anything. He gave his mother to John and he even lost the joy of feeling that he was united with his Father.

You find him in sick people. Jesus was seriously ill and dying. You find him in prisoners because he was nailed to the cross. He is in all the people you plan to see when you make a survey of your city to find those in need. You can see him in all of them.

For you to be true Gen 3, therefore, Jesus Forsaken has to become your best friend.

In this congress, make a pact with him. Tell him, just like the Gen 1 and the Gen 2: "I want to be like you. I want to love you."

And don't be afraid, Gen. I know him well, and so do the Gen 1 and the Gen 2. If he feels that someone sincerely loves him, he knows how to repay you. He fills you with so much new joy that you will have enough to give to everyone. Not only, but he will also make you saints.

The saints who are already in heaven all agree in saying that they managed to become saints because they loved Jesus crucified in all the sufferings of their lives.

Courage, Gen!

Let's fill the world with saints, with an infinite number of real Gen 3!

Following the footsteps of Jesus

For the second day, we suggest that you follow the footsteps:

- The crucifixion and death of Jesus
- The resurrection of Jesus

Final Mission

To conclude the Congress, you can give each Gen 3 a bookmark with the following words of Chiara that can help them live the commitment or resolutions that they made during the congress.

“For you to be true Gen 3, therefore, Jesus Forsaken has to become your best friend. (...)

“Let's fill the world with saints, with an infinite number of real Gen 3!”

Chiara to the Gen 3, June 1972.