

"Everything belongs to God!!!"

Hello generosity



Aim

To strengthen the certainty that small acts of generosity can make the world around us better. To experience the joy that comes from living the culture of giving and sharing.

Where we left off...

In the previous meeting, we were committed to combating greed by filling up our "savings box of giving" with our acts of generosity. Let us try to share how it went.



- Let us open our savings box and take out a small card. Do we recall an experience about it? What did we "give" that time?
- How did we feel when we were able to be generous with others?
- What changed around us after our act of generosity?
- What difficulties did we have? Is there something about which we would like to ask the others for help or advice?



A pudding for you!

AIM: The winner is the pair that first finishes the pudding.

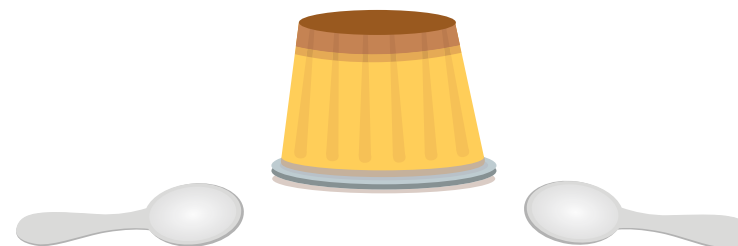
TIME: around 15 minutes

PLACE: outdoors or indoors (useful to cover the floor under the players with newspaper or cellophane)

PLAYERS: four or more

MATERIALS: Each pair is given a pudding and two plastic spoons (better not metal ones to avoid hitting their teeth) and (perhaps) 2 bindfolds to cover their eyes, and two strips of cardboard or other hard material to keep one arm straight without bending the elbow.

PROCEDURE: The pairs sit in front of each other at about one meter distance, with one hand behind their back. With the other hand – using the arm that cannot bend – they hold a plastic spoon. The pudding is between them.



FOR THE ANIMATOR: Since it is not possible to bend the elbow, the players must feed one another...But do not tell them, they must discover it themselves. If you want to make the game more challenging, you can blindfold the players...

We live this way

I have a friend who is in the second year high school. Her parents are illiterate so they cannot help her with her studies. Besides, oftentimes she cannot go to school because she has to take care of her other siblings. As you can imagine, she is not doing well in school since she lacks the basic notions. To encourage her to study, I invited her to do her homework in my house, where it is quieter, and offered to help her in the most difficult subjects.

However, seeing that she does not know how to do many things, I understood that I had to give witness to my love in a more concrete way. So, I made a plan of the most important things as well as the most basic that she needs to learn. In the afternoon, I try to finish fast my homework quickly so I can help my friend so she can learn something. She is very happy and says: "It's the first time that somebody is caring about me."

M. L. - Pakistan



One day it was very cold and rainy. In school, I saw that a friend of mine did not have a coat. I asked if she felt cold and she said yes, but she had forgotten to bring her coat. But the next day, the same thing

happened and I realized that she did not have a coat. So when I went home, I took an extra coat that I had and brought it to her. She thanked me very much and was very happy.

S. [Brazil]

GENEROSITY

There is also generosity which is the opposite of greed. Something else that we know about Mary is that she followed Jesus when he went preaching through all of Palestine, and finally that she was with him during his passion up until his death. Just think: what was the aim of Mary's life? After the "yes" that she had said to the angel, she had just one reason to live: to live well, being the mother of Jesus as best she could. You know what a son means to a mother, and even more so an only son. Imagine what it meant for Mary to have a son like Jesus. She had nothing else in her life that mattered to her, and Jesus was God.

Well, Mary put generosity into practice in a way that



is so great that we can't even imagine it. **She gave her son to the Father, accepting his terrible death for the salvation of all human beings.** And when he told her from the cross, "Woman, behold your son," showing her John, without complaining, Mary took John in the place of her Jesus, John who represented all of us. **This is why we now have a mother in heaven who is always with us.**

Chiara

Chiara Lubich,
Gen 3 Congress, 1973, Rocca di Papa,
"NO TO VICES, YES TO VIRTUES"

The video in Italian-English-Spanish and the international version of the powerpoint is available at the website <http://assistentigen3.focolare.org>

Often the communications media try to push us towards consumerism by telling us that if we buy certain things we will live better and be happy. How can we avoid falling into this trap?

We must convince ourselves and others that consumerism does not bring happiness, that "having" is not what makes us happy; you become bored once you have that bicycle or something else, you become bored. You might be happy for a while, but then you become bored.

Happiness is not having but giving. Try giving and you'll see how happy it makes you. Scripture tells us: **"There is more happiness in giving than in receiving."**

This is what we must do. We must love, because loving means giving. What should we give? Give a smile, give your time to listen to someone, give advice, give a piece of bread, give something to wear. Love, love always. If we love, we fill our hearts with happiness, and those of others, too, if we teach them to love.

This is the right thing to do. **So good-bye to consumerism.** When we put into practice all our "culture of giving", as we call it, you'll see how these false dreams disappear, really, and what truly makes all of us happy remains.

Chiara

Chiara Lubich,
To the gen 3, 1996-2002. Città Nuova,
Rome 2010, pp. 81-82

The video Answers of Chiara to the Gen 3 (9-12 years old) Link up via satellite from Mollens (CH), June 22, 2000 is available at the website <http://assistentigen3.focolare.org>

GENEROSITY at the time of Jesus

Biblical reference: Mk 10:17-27

The rich young man

PROCEDURE: After reading how the rich young man's meeting with Jesus went, let us try to create an alternative ending, and act it out. What would have happened if the rich young man had done what Jesus asked him?

REFLECTION: To end, you can start a dialogue with the Gen 3: What will you do if Jesus asks you to leave everything and follow Him?

GENEROSITY in movies

On the website <http://assistentigen3.focolare.org> you can download the video clip "An act of generosity creates an endless wave" (there is a little dialogue, in English with Italian subtitles). It can be useful to reflect with the youth on the effects of generosity, which, in small steps, can change the world around us for the better.

DURATION: 4'14"

Moving into action

"Do we have something that is not necessary and that we can share with others?"

Let us take a serious look at the objects and other resources at our disposition (time, talents and knowledge). Let us set a time with the other group members: In 1 week or 2 weeks... and a place to meet and bring all that we can share with others (for some it can be objects, games, clothes...for others it can be time or talents...). Let us be like plants that absorb from the soil only what they need.

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teens

With whatever we have gathered, let us organize an action to give what we have to others. It can be an

opportunity to give the proceeds for the project **Teens4Teens** <http://www.amu-it.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/12Prog-Teens-2017.jpg> or to the worldwide communion of goods; or to bring gifts or give our time and friendship to some needy people where we live (a foster home, the poor...). It will be a celebration for everyone: "God loves a joyful giver!"



