

1920 **100** years 2020

Chiara



CHIARA AND SCHOOL

This year
Chiara Lubich
would be
100 years old!
With the Gen 3,
we take this
very special occasion
to **learn** more about
her story,
her city
and her passionate
commitment to make it
more beautiful with love.

12 MY SCHOOL AND THE UNITED WORLD

12 MY SCHOOL AND THE UNITED WORLD



Objectives

- behave more and more consistently with the values I believe in
- develop the ability to witness and communicate the Ideal also in school

Introductory activity: how I want my school to be

9-12 year olds

If we were instructed by the Minister of Education to design a new school, what would our suggestions be?

Materials: posters, boxes of various sizes, colored markers, pens.

Directions: In small groups let us imagine the characteristics we would like our "Ideal" school to have, then draw it out on a large poster or build it up with various boxes and colors.

Dialogue and sharing: Each group presents its own project to others, illustrating its characteristics.

At the end of the deepening on Chiara and the school, the projects and experiences could also be presented to parents or teachers.

13-17 year olds

In the center of the room, put a poster rolled up like a cylinder, with the following sentence written on it:

"Let us make (...) our school a little city of God, a center of irradiation of love for Him in society"

PART 2
100
years

- Let us then ask the Gen3 if they know who and when they think this sentence was written.
*(It is taken from the **Student's Decalogue**¹ written by Chiara Lubich in 1959).*
- Inside the cylinder there are questions to kick start the dialogue.
 1. Are there any young people in your school who are considered as "influencers"? What characteristics do they have? What behavior and lifestyles are they offering?
 2. Do you have hours in class during the school year devoted to dialogue and / or concrete action in favour of others?
 3. What spaces and opportunities are there in your school to talk about important values and involve others to work for a more just and united world (student assemblies ...)?
 4. Let us dream with open eyes: what do we wish we could suggest to all our classmates?

1 In 1959, in addition to the St. Catherine Center for the world of politics and the St. Luke Center for the world of medicine, the St. John Bosco Center was born for the world of education, which brings together teachers and educators, and the St. Ignatius Center for students. Chiara, on that occasion, gave 10 pointers for educators and 10 pointers for students (known as the Student's Decalogue)



Living Peace

Let us deepen our knowledge of our "Living Peace" program which is involving thousands of students and schools in the 5 continents. We can look it up on the internet <http://livingpeaceinternational.org/it/il-progetto/dado-della-pace.html> or we can interview someone who already applies it in their school.

livingpeaceinternational.org



Teens Magazine

You will find a beautiful variety of experiences in all the issues of our "Teens" magazine. Video of the experience of Trent <https://vimeo.com/68603474>

www.ciitanuova.it



Has someone already had the occasion to present at school some of the activities of the Young for Unity, such as **Zero Hunger**? Write your experiences and send to centro.rpu@focolare.org. We will publicize them for the encouragement of many others, thanks!

centro.rpu@focolare.org



EPISODES FROM CHIARA'S STORY

Chiara to the students

of "Mary, Seat of Wisdom" College in Fontem (Cameroon),
May 15, 2000

Question:

"How should young people live?"

Chiara: Well, I know millions of young people, not just thousands. So I know them. They must live as I have just said, and even adults must live in the same way. We are aware, however that young people have qualities which are not always found in older people. Young people are more detached from things, they have more spiritual and physical strength, they do not have the burden of a past that conditions the present and, generally, **they aim to live for a dream**, for an ideal as I said earlier.

I often find myself in the position of

passing on my ideal to the young, and to say: "The third millennium is in your hands. I believe in you." And they feel this responsibility and they are wonderful! All over the world.

We have come to the last question.

Question: **"I would like you to say something special to us students of Mary, Seat of Wisdom College and to give us a motto."**

Chiara: This is what I would say to you: In the world all revolutions, good and bad, arise in schools, especially in universities, because young people have ideas, and the revolution fosters change, it changes things, and young people are made for change. Well, even our revolution could be born and develop here, in our college, above all through

you. And what do these university students do in all states of the world? When they have free time, they meet each other, run errands, talk, discuss: What shall we do here? What will we do there? How do we conquer that country? How do we conquer that person? How do we convey our ideal? And then make an impact on those people around. So this revolution, which we hope to be a good one, keeps going onward. And so my wish is that you make this college, "Mary Seat of Wisdom" the heart of our revolution of love, a beating heart, which helps all others to make this revolution of love. And I am inviting you, not only one, not only the other, or that other one, but everybody, nobody should be missing. We really hope this is so.

And then— and with this, we conclude - you want a motto for your College. I am giving you mine when I started living like this. Let me explain when it came about. There was a great bombing in Trent, so with my parents we ran away into the woods, it was night, and there in the woods we slept on the ground, under the stars. But the Movement had already begun in the city, I had my companions there. And I thought during the night: now we will return to the destroyed house and my family will have to go up to the mountains to look for a place to stay, but I cannot leave the city because I have my companions, there is the Movement. And then I cried and saw the stars, the stars of the sky and I saw how they moved during the

night, so much so that I called that night, it was May 13, "stars and tears". At one point I was really sure that my family would evacuate, far away, and I was very fond of my family. I also helped them economically because I was a teacher. How could I leave my parents in these conditions? And I was crying a lot, when at a certain point I felt a sentence deep inside me, which is what I want to leave you students "Love wins over all." And I said: Should love win over this, too? Yes, over this too. The next morning we headed for home, we found the house completely wrecked, completely destroyed. I had said nothing to my parents. I went up the stairs all broken up, and I found my dad, I knelt before him, and I said: "Dad, I can't leave" and my dad understood and said to me: "Daughter, I give you my blessing". And that same morning my family left for the mountains and I headed to the city. I saw all the trees uprooted, the houses blown down. And I remember that a woman came up to me, from out of these shattered houses. She took me by the shoulders and said to me: "Four of my family have died, four have died!" I was still crying for my parents, but I wiped away my tears and I understood: forget your suffering and dedicate yourself to the suffering of humanity. And so the Movement went ahead. But what marked this experience was that sentence: "Love wins over all".

You too, you too: **"Love wins over all, love wins over all."** (Applause)



BULGARIA

At the beginning of the year we learned that one of our classmates had to undergo a delicate and expensive surgery: bone marrow transplant. I immediately recognized Jesus Forsaken in her, so I wanted to do something to help her.

An idea came to me: to organize a concert with our schoolmates.

Since I was attending a music school, singers and musicians were not lacking! But what was lacking was unity in our class. We talked over it but, after some discussion, it seemed that nothing was happening.

One evening, before falling asleep, I prayed, entrusting everything to Jesus. The next day, the teacher to whom I shared my idea, asked what we had decided and, to my surprise, everyone, without exception, agreed: we will make the concert!

That same day we started rehearsing and we divided the various tasks among ourselves: preparing posters to promote the event in the city, make handcrafted items and sweets to raise more funds. We also got the permission to set up piggy banks in the busiest nooks of the city and in the end about 2000 people responded to our invitation in various ways.

We managed to collect a fairly large sum, but still not enough for the operation. I continued to pray. After 10 days a person who had won a big cash prize decided to donate the sum that was still missing.

Now our classmate is already in the country where she will be doing the surgery and we hope to see her back soon among us. After all this, our class has become united and I feel great joy, because I loved Jesus Forsaken and saw the fruits of unity brought about by love for Him. With the new school year there will be changes in the composition of our class and a new challenge is certainly awaiting me!



Fun Game

Scenario: Dialogue at the school assembly. First of all let us set the theme of the Assembly, for example: “Zero Hunger”

Directions: Let us split into two “opposite” groups.

One group supports the introduction of “Zero Hunger” project in school.

The other group is against it and contradicts with various arguments. We must designate the president of the school assembly who will act as referee in the game.

Funny method: Each person in the group can say only one word and only together can the group compose the sentences.

A “student” begins to speak by saying a word, the second “student” repeats the previously mentioned word and adds another, the third student repeats what the first two said and adds still another word (verb, adjective, conjunction) and so on.

The phrase must always make sense and be understandable. When a player no longer knows what to add or makes a mistake, they pass the word to the other group.

The group that manages to compose the longest possible sentences wins: therefore it will depend on the group’s oratory ability for the project to be approved; otherwise the opponents will win!

