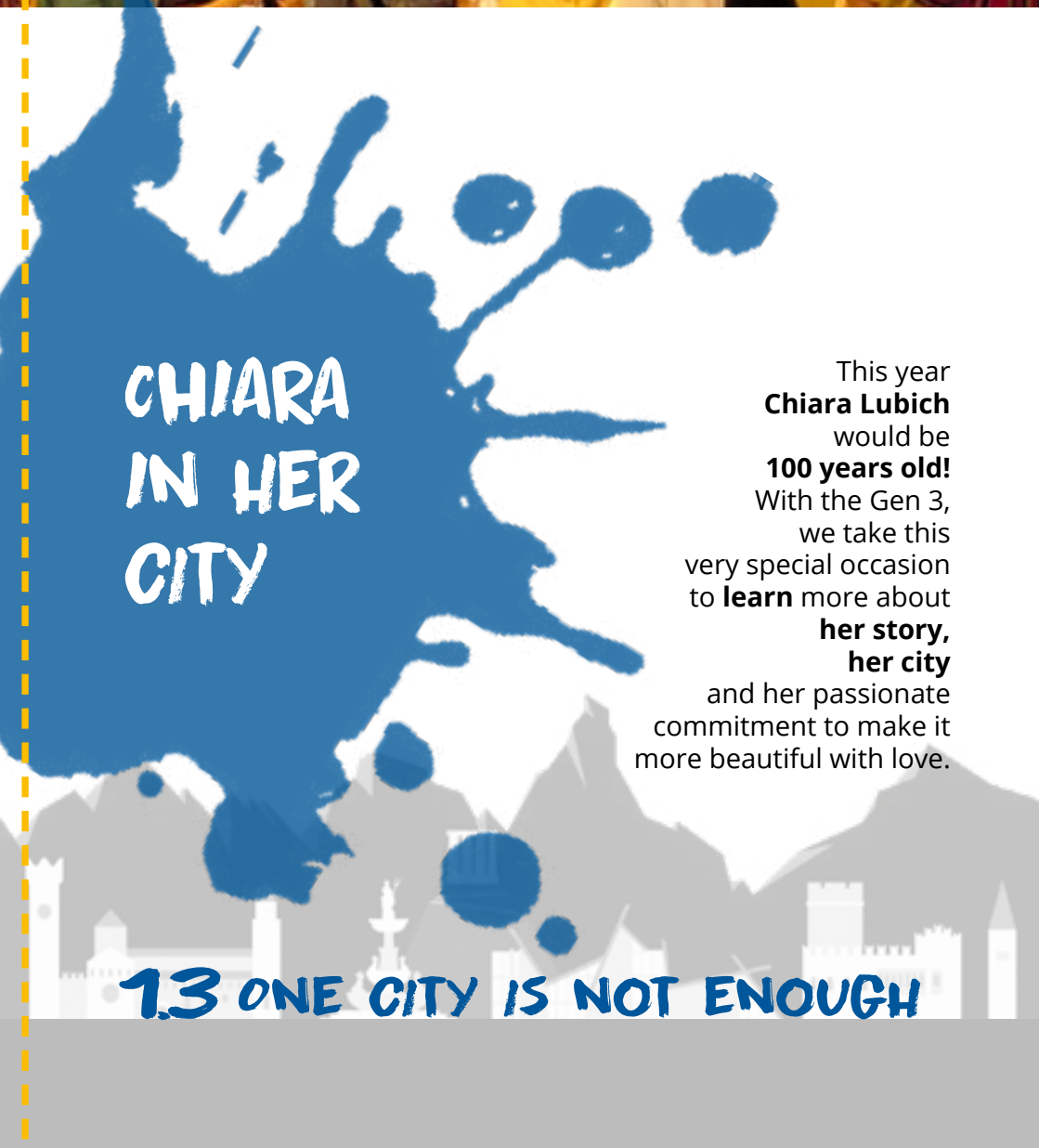


1920 **100** years 2020

Chiara



# CHIARA IN HER CITY

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.

**1.3 ONE CITY IS NOT ENOUGH**

# 1.3 ONE CITY IS NOT ENOUGH



## Objectives

- learn episodes of Chiara's story, discover the commitment of the first men and women focolarini for their city and for the world.
- Make as your own the manifesto that Chiara gave to Gen3 "One city is not enough" and implement it together.



## Manifesto: "One city is not enough"

Deepen this Manifesto, point by point, that Chiara personally gave to the Gen3, putting it into practice.

Link your commitment in your city to the **Zero Hunger** goal.

*Chiara recorded a video-tape for the min-Gen boys and girls: Text from the keynote speech "One city is not enough" by Chiara Lubich to the Gen boys and girls. Rocca di Papa, May 31, 1970 (with notes and light variations edited by the Gen 3 Center):*



## Manifesto: "One city is not enough"

Rocca di Papa, May 31, 1970

[...]

*Many years ago, when I was young, I wrote an article. Maybe then the Lord had already put in my heart in a small way the vocations of all the generations and so this includes the vocation of the third generation, of the younger Gen.*

*This article is entitled: One city is not enough. I re-read it and I realized that it is made just for you. The Ideal, God, Whom we all have in our hearts has made me affirm what should be our strategy for conquering the world, and so I am really happy to dedicate this article of mine to the youngest part of the Gen movement, almost to make it the manifesto of the third generation.*

*There were some words which were maybe a little difficult for the younger Gen who are here and so I have tried to change some that maybe not everyone will understand. I shall try to explain this manifesto little by little as I read it to you.*

## One city is not enough

If you want to win over a city to the love of Christ, if you wish to transform a town, into the kingdom of God, first make your plans.

Gather round you friends (true Gen) who share your feelings. Unite yourself with them in the name of Christ and ask them to put God before anything else.

Then make a pact with them: promise one another constant and perpetual love, so that the Conqueror of the world may be always among you and be your leader.

Then size up the city. Seek out its spiritual head (the Bishop<sup>1</sup>). Go with your friends to see him. Present your plans to him, and if he does not consent, do not

1 Chiara addresses Catholic children; identify the spiritual leader according to the confession or religion of the children.





take even a step, for otherwise you will ruin everything. If he advises you and offers you some guidelines accept them as a command and make them an order for you and for your friends. Assure him of your loyalty for Christ has commanded it, and offer to help him – with your spiritual contribution – in his heavy responsibility.

Then look for the poorest, the destitute, the forsaken, the orphans, the prisoners. Without pause in your action, run with your friends to visit Christ in them, to comfort them, to reveal to them that the love of God is close to them and watches over them. If someone is hungry take food to that person, If you have no clothing or food, ask for them from the Eternal Father with faith, because they are necessary for his Son Christ, who you wish to serve in every human being. And he will hear you. Loaded with all these goods go through the streets, go up into attics and down into cellars, seek out Christ in public and private places, at the stations, along the railways, in the slums, and caress him above all with your smile. Then promise him eternal love, so that the places you are unable to go, may be reached by your prayers and your sufferings, united to the Sacrifice of the altar. Leave no one alone, and do not be sparing in your promises, because you go in the name of the Almighty.

While you are gladdening the Lord in your brothers and sisters, God will concern himself with filling you and your friends with heavenly gifts. Share these with one another, so that the light may not grow dim and love go out. If your action is determined and your speech filled with wisdom, many will follow you. Divide these people into groups so that with them you may leaven the city that you wish to undermine with your love.

Keep going. If others, having got to know your life and seen with their own eyes the gifts you have, ask you to talk, then speak, but let the core<sup>2</sup> of your speech be the things you have learned from life. Base what you say on the teaching of the Church and on Scripture which you and your group<sup>3</sup> have absorbed, as your first, safe, inexhaustible, eternal source.

<sup>2</sup> Driving force idea.

<sup>3</sup> Chiara meant "a group of people united in doing something"



Having consoled, helped, enlightened, made happy, those who were the dregs of society, you have laid the foundations of the building of the new city. Then gather your friends together and repeat the beatitudes to them, so that they may never lose the spirit of Christ and of his preferences.

After that look further a field and tell everyone that every neighbor, rich or poor, beautiful or ugly, gifted or not, is Christ who passes by. Let your task force, the task force of Jesus, of Mary, be at his service and each of you weep with those who weep, rejoice with those who rejoice, constantly share sufferings and joys with any sacrifice, without ever ceasing.


Alternate your action with the deepest prayer, lifted up by your army<sup>4</sup> in perfect unity, so that – through Christ – there may be won the greatest glory from that place. And if the struggle costs, know that there lies the secret of success, and that he who urges you on has paid with his blood. Forgive and pray for those who think ill of you, for if you do not forgive, you will not find mercy. And if suffering consumes you, sing out: 'Behold my spouse, my friend, my brother', so that in the hour of your death the Lord may say to your soul: 'Arise, and hurry, my friend, my dove, my fair one, and come away.'

Do this for a city until victory, to the point, that is, that good overcomes evil and Christ through us can repeat: 'I have overcome the world.'

But with a God who visits you every morning, if you wish, one city is too little. He is the one who has made the stars, who guides the destiny of the ages. Come to an agreement with him, and aim further: at your country, at everyone's country, at the world. Let your every breath be for this; for this your every action; for this your resting and your moving.

Having reached the other side, you will see that which has most value, and you will find a reward proportionate to your love. Act in such a way that in that hour you will not have to be sorry for having loved too little.

<sup>4</sup> Chiara sometimes uses military language to indicate the strength of a compact and determined group.



And so, Gen, it seems to me that this is your Manifesto.

[...] (In a few years, when you will be an adult), to a certain extent you will be able to govern the world. You can form it as you want it if you have begun now to change the heart of people. The structures will change, the boundaries will change, many things will have a new appearance because the Holy Spirit will help us, but only of from now on as little children you will already have faith in God that he will make us of you to change the heart of people. And how can you change the heart of people? We can change it with love.

Well, Gen, let us make a competition with you, the littlest ones, the ones whom I am sure God loves most; the ones whom I too love most so as to share in this predilection of the heart of Jesus. We shall have a competition between all of us to see who will love most of all.

And this is the wish that I leave you, the wish with which I finish my Manifesto.

Let's love, let's love, let's love: so that at the end of our life we won't regret the fact that we have loved too little.

And with this wish, I leave you to continue your congress in perfect unity and I am very happy that this year also my first companions will tell you about their experiences, about when they were Gen and they will demonstrate to you in a concrete way, how to put into practice this manifesto which is your program, that of the third generation.

Goodbye Gen! Bye, Gen!

*Chiara*



Songs

*"lo credo nel noi"*

Gen Verde

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=stMDRnv2SbE>

*"Turn It Up"*

Gen Verde

<https://youtu.be/5HHv9ozyunM>

*"lo ci sto"*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tA2gPk3rnA>



*Points for deepening*

Invite someone who was a Gen in the 70s to tell how they put into practice this Manifesto that had been just received from Chiara.

## GETTING READY

Depending on the needs we have discovered in our cities, let us prepare ourselves by training with experts, together with the Young for Unity or other friends, in certain skills such as "first aid", a "cooking course," etc...







## COLOMBIA

In Colombia there was an armed conflict that lasted for more than 50 years. In the early months of last year, a peace agreement was finally signed between the government and the FARC guerrillas to end this war that made so many victims. Thousands of people have been forced to leave their homes and lands, indeed, the guerrillas had taken children away from many families, forcing them to join them in their fighting.

I personally try to put the art of love into action, and one of its points is "love your enemy".

There are so many people who do not want peace in our country because they have suffered for all that the guerrilla has done.

At school, when we talked about this topic with my classmates, I said that we all have the right to be forgiven and to start a new life, even those who have done so many bad things.

Many of my schoolmates disagreed with me, but

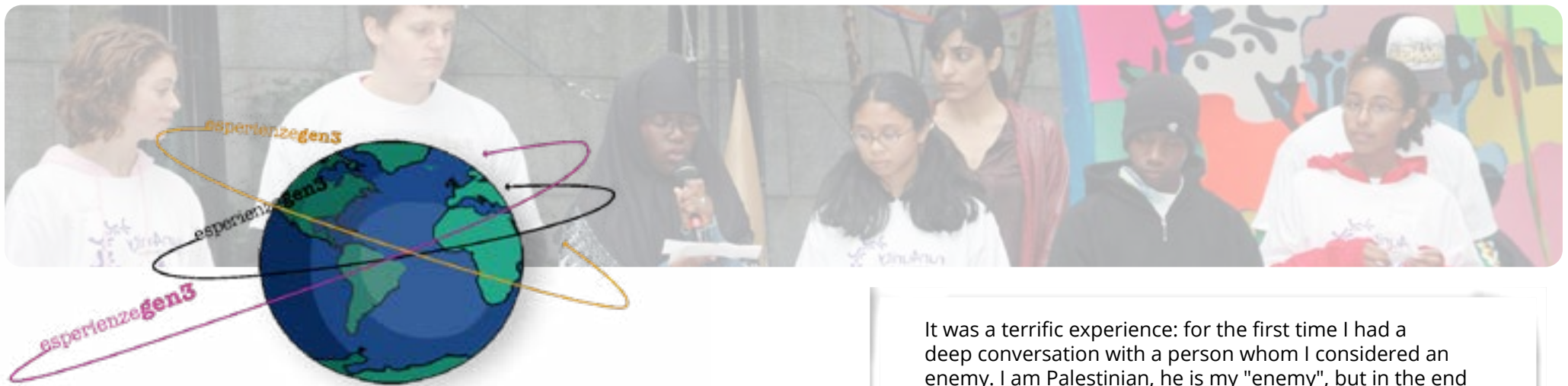
slowly they began to change their way of thinking. They understood that they too (those of the FARC) are human beings who had suffered from injustices, the loss of their loved ones, were injured, and often suffered psychological pressure, even for years.

With this change of mentality we are helping these people to become part of Colombian society, living a normal life.

There are also many poor people who live on the streets, trying to survive from day to day.

One day, while I was going to school, I found a man sleeping on the pavement. I decided not to buy myself anything for breakfast, but to buy something for him who was so cold and hungry. Even though I hadn't eaten anything, I felt great happiness at seeing how he enjoyed the breakfast I had given him.

Later at school, a friend of mine, who knew nothing of what I had done, gave me a yogurt, and another classmate gave me a cookie, so I was able to eat something before going to class!



## TERRA SANTA

I am Palestinian and I live in a country where there is no peace, but where only tension, disorder and war reign. We Palestinians are really a wounded people: we go through many hard times. We are trying to tell the world that we exist, that Bethlehem is alive, it is the place where Jesus was born, but our voice is not heard.

I am a peaceful person who tries to live in harmony with others and I always hope that things will get better. But there are many people who say that peace will never come, that it is inconceivable.

I have travelled a lot with my basketball team, I was able to meet new people and discover different cultures. Last year I was able to attend a peace conference. At one point they asked me to interview other young people about what they thought of the conference.

As soon as I had the chance, I approached a Jew and told him, "I am D. and I am Palestinian." He told me he was a Jew and came from Argentina. We talked about the conference and he sincerely said: "Yes, we want peace, we need peace".

It was a terrific experience: for the first time I had a deep conversation with a person whom I considered an enemy. I am Palestinian, he is my "enemy", but in the end I embraced him.

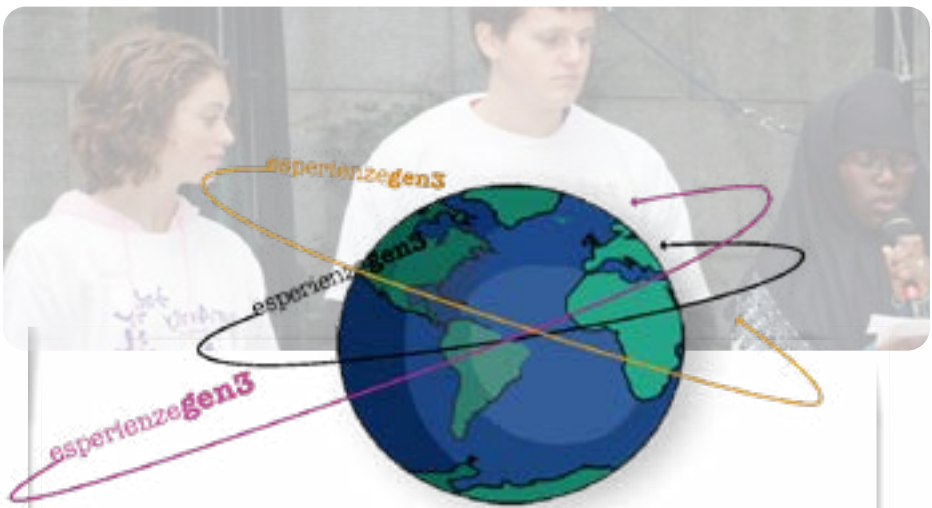
We Gen 3 from the Holy Land, where the Prince of Peace was born, hold in our hearts the love and hope of peace for all. We are a new generation and we can be "the change." We can influence others and the whole community.

My plan for the future is to build peace in my country that needs it so much.

## ITALIA

For about three years now, Ventimiglia has been an immigration destination because it is near the border with France. Due to the need for these refugees to receive assistance, a refugee camp came up spontaneously in the courtyard of a parish near the Roja River, where women and children are hosted and where meals are cooked for migrants who stay under the bridge waiting to cross the border.

My sister and I went to help the volunteers at the refugee center one morning. With great effort on both sides, we managed to communicate with the refugees, and with the help of someone who translated some words of English in our language into Arabic, we were able to understand each other. It was a wonderful experience, above all because we were able to establish a relationship with the youth and children present despite the difficulties of the language.



## VENEZUELA

I'm a Gen 3 from Caracas. At this moment the situation in my country is very difficult: a large part of the population suffers and is exhausted without any initiative due to the lack of food, medicine, water and electricity.

Many people search for food in the trash and everyone seems depressed, without hope for the future.

To try to uplift this situation, together with the Gen2, other young people and adults, we started an activity that we called "Time Out".

We gather one afternoon during the week to play and prepare concerts. We call them "Té Concierto" ("Tea Concert"). They have proven to be a wonderful experience that generates a positive spirit of exchange, first of all among ourselves and then also with others, a true space of fraternity and interculturalism that transforms us.

As an entrance ticket to our concerts, we ask people to bring non-perishable food which we then cook and offer to people on the streets of the city.

Through music and food we can bring a message of Love and Closeness to people, even to the poorest and the loneliest.

