

Cadine, 5 January 2020  
To the gen 3

## AT THE ROOTS

### OUR SECRET – JESUS FORSAKEN

#### *Premise*

**Yesterday morning we had a beautiful moment of meditation alone**, one on one, with God. We should have a moment like this now, but all together.

**We are on the third day of our congress and today we should go deeper into the roots** of the great tree that is the gen life in the world.

You know that **the size of a tree's crown** is proportionate to the size of its roots and when you see how big the Movement that was born of Chiara is, you can imagine the depth of the roots that were in her.

**It is the same for us too:** the flowers and fruits we bring around us are proportionate to the depth of the roots within us.

**When we talk about roots, we don't only think about prayer and inner life, we also think about darkness** and even difficulties, and this can arouse some fear, but we must think about the good that can come forth, if we live these moments well.

**In fact Jesus says:**

**Gen girl:** “Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds”.

**And this is what we want to deepen today:** how Jesus helps us to transform the difficulties that often appear as obstacles into a launching pad.

**Listen to this passage from the Gen3 Manifesto:**

<p><b>Gen boy:</b> “And if it costs to fight, know that the secret of success is there and that he who encourages you has paid in blood”.</p>
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**We must therefore talk about suffering**, a subject that touches us all, each one personally, in one way or another, and which is also omnipresent around us. We touched it with our own hands yesterday afternoon.

**So many sufferings in the world that surrounds us**, in our countries, in our cities, around us, among our friends and in our families. I will tell you one of my experiences.

## *My experience*

**I still remember how one day**, when I was still very young, I must have been 8 or 9 years old, I went to school crying and told myself that if for my classmates life was a game, for me life was serious.

**My mom was in fact suffering from a psychic illness.** She had a mood disorder that caused her to go from moments of deep depression during which she no longer had the strength to do anything, to moments of strong excitement and so much energy that she no longer slept.

**In those years there were still no** medicines that could cure this disease and my father, who was an only child and orphaned by his father, did not know what to do. It wasn't even clear whether it was a real disease.

**Sometimes my dad couldn't take it anymore**, especially when my mom was too upset, and so he got violent. At times he even beat my mom up. It was terrible.

**We were five brothers in the house** and we didn't even understand why all this was happening. We suffered, sometimes a lot and that's why at times I went to school crying.

**Years later I met the Ideal** and felt embraced by God. I understood that He was there and that He loved me immensely. His love changed my heart and I began to love. I started from my home, with my father, my mother and my brothers.

**One of my younger brothers was learning to play the clarinet**, at first I used to tease him a lot, but then with the Ideal I learnt to love him and he felt it. I invited him to a Gen day, he was 15 and he understood. So then there were two of us who wanted to live the Gospel at home.

**When I used to come back from college my brother would tell me how things had been** during the week, whether our parents had quarreled or not, and we would try to figure out together how best to love them. We lived the Word of life and read Chiara's writings to give us strength.

**I can say that among us there was really Jesus in the midst** because we told each other everything and thus became brothers not only by blood, but also of the Ideal.

**We were young, we were your age, but Jesus really helped us** with this unity among us. Being in two and then in three, because another brother of ours also understood and became a Gen, was our strength.

**After some years the situation at home improved a lot**, we also found a good psychiatrist for my mom and we managed to convince my dad to go once a month with her to see this doctor.

**A few years ago my mother who was quite elderly by then was hospitalized** for a serious infection and I took my father to visit her. He was all upset because he was afraid she would die and made me buy flowers for her. He was already in a wheelchair and we went into Mom's room with the flowers. He approached the bed, gave her the flowers and then bowed to give her a kiss, she also reached out to him from the bed and they kissed on their lips like two children.

**I realized then that they loved each other much more than I could have thought.** They were ending their lives being united.

**For me this was a fruit of Jesus among us brothers** and that great pain that we had experienced during our childhood and adolescence was now over, that abandoned Jesus had risen also with the help of our love and unity.

**In all this experience, it helped me a lot to know Chiara's secret: Jesus forsaken,** that is, how she had seen and discovered in him, in his cry, how far God's love for us goes.

### *The discovery of Jesus forsaken*

**Let us listen to the story that Dori,** Chiara's second companion, herself told about how the first focolarine discovered Jesus forsaken:

**Ascoltiamo dal racconto che ne ha fatto Dori stessa,** la seconda compagna di Chiara, come le prime focolarine hanno conosciuto Gesù abbandonato. Chiara reads this writing by Dori:

***Video of the first theme of Chiara on Jesus Forsaken key to unity from 6'38'' to 8'48'':***

*« We used to go to visit the poor and I probably got an infection in my face from them. I was full of sores and the medicine didn't stop the pain. I continued, however, with my face suitably protected, to go to Mass and to the Saturday meetings ...*

*It was cold, and going out in that condition could be harmful. Since my parents had forbidden me to go out, Chiara asked a Capuchin father to bring me Communion. While I was doing my thanksgiving, the priest asked Chiara what, according to her, was the moment in which Jesus had suffered the most during his passion.*

*She replied that she had always heard that it was the pain He had suffered in the garden of olives. But the priest said, "I believe it was when*

*He cried out on the cross: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Mt 27:46)".*

*As soon as the Father was gone, having heard Chiara's words, I turned to her, sure of an explanation. Instead she said to me: "If Jesus' greatest pain was the abandonment by His Father, we will choose Him as the Ideal and follow Him like this.*

*At that moment, in my mind, in my imagination, was impressed the conviction that our ideal was Jesus with a tormented face that cries out to the Father. And my poor wounds on my face, which were shadows of His pain, gave me joy, because they made me a little similar to Him. From that day on Chiara often, in fact always, spoke to me about Jesus Forsaken. He was the living character of our existence»<sup>1</sup>.*

**In that story of Dori, it's somehow already all said.** Her face was full of wounds and note well that if she found herself like that it was because she had gone to the poor.

From the very moment that she recognized in it a shadow of Jesus forsaken, what for her could only have previously been a pain and an obstacle, becomes a reason for joy because she felt that Jesus was like her, close to her and she felt somewhat similar to Him.

**Is it fine up to here? I think so. Lets go in order** and see first very quickly why Jesus found Himself to be crucified and abandoned.

## *Jesus*

**Let us close our eyes for a moment and travel with our minds to Palestine,** to the land of Jesus, and let us also go back in time and go there during the time of Jesus. Are we there?

Ok, **we also see Jesus, that man of about thirty years** who is known as the carpenter's son and starts talking to everyone about God who is about to intervene in favour of his people of Israel and announces:

**Gen boy:** *"The kingdom of God is near, open yourselves and believe this good news"*.

**But Jesus does not just say this, he makes the people experience it.** In fact, when his message is accepted, wonderful things happen: he makes blind people see, he makes paralytics walk, heals lepers, multiplies loaves of bread and even calms the stormy sea... People remain astonished and

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<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, p.§; p.§ e Chiara, *Gesù abbandonato chiave dell'unità (1° tema)*, to the focolarine, Rocca di Papa, 23.12.1983, p.§.

recognize that they have never seen anything like it: "A great prophet, a man sent by God, has risen among us.

*Gen girl:* "A great prophet, a man sent by God, has risen among us. Praise be to God!"

**But Jesus does not only do wonderful works, he also says wonderful things**, that is, all the words of the Gospel that we know and that we will never finish discovering:

*Gen girl:* "He who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life".

*Gen boy:* "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added to you".

*Gen girl:* "Whoever acknowledges me before people, I too will acknowledge him before my Father".

*Gen boy:* "Blessed are you when you are persecuted for my sake, for great is your reward in Heaven".

**And we could go on for a long time. Who ever talked in this way before?** No one. People realized this and testified to it: "This is a new teaching". One was left amazed at his words and Jesus shortly became famous. It was a phenomenon, and people came from afar to listen to him and also to be healed.

### *The conflict*

**All this, however, did not happen without problems** because if on the one hand Jesus aroused enthusiasm, on the other he also aroused criticism and jealousy. He was full of love and also of compassion and mercy for those who had done wrong and repented of it, but he was very harsh with the corrupt, with those who were false and not sincere and transparent, the hypocrites or the rich attached to their wealth. He didn't hesitate to reprimand them openly and he scolded them as well:

*Gen girl:* "Woe to you, rich people, you already have your reward".

*Gen boy:* "Woe to you who appears beautiful in front of others. You are like tombs that are white on the outside, but inside they are full of filth and wickedness".

**"Woe... woe... woe...". Jesus denounced injustice and falsehood** and does so loudly and publicly. He didn't let himself be influenced by anyone, so much so that as soon as he opened his mouth, there was someone who went against him immediately. Remember when he chased the merchants out of the Temple of Jerusalem, he was a true protester of any established order that was not from God, and his enemies were furious and could stand him no longer, so much so that they plotted to kill him.

### *Jesus crucified and forsaken*

**But they had to be clever to do this** because Jesus was greatly followed and also loved by many. They found Judas, one of the twelve, one of his closest disciples, who was willing to betray him, they picked him up at night, called some fake witnesses, paid the crowd to ask Pilate, the Roman governor, to condemn him, they pressured Pilate to wash his hand and hand him over... and eventually they succeeded. Jesus was condemned to death and crucified: a horrible thing that we cannot even imagine how painful it is.

**Video:** an excerpt from the film of Mel Gibson about Jesus' death on the cross.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wv5MZ8PjFEM> only 1'30".

**It was there, on the cross, at the height of his suffering, that Jesus cried out:** *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*

**Gen girl:** "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

**Gen boy:** "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

**Do you understand his drama?** He had always lived in the deepest unity with God whom he called "Abba", that is "Daddy" in Aramaic, his language. He had always felt sent by this Father of his and had done his works and spoken his words. He even said: "Everyone will abandon me, but I am not alone, the Father is with me" and then there, on the cross, he had the impression that God Himself abandoned him and that God no longer recognized him as His son, but renounced him and distanced Himself from him. It couldn't get worse than this. There was so much to scream about, so much to despair of, so much to go mad about.

**But Jesus did not despair, he believed in love despite of it all.** The Gospel tells us this in different ways and we can see it from other words that he pronounced on the cross.

**Gen boy:** "Father, forgive them as they don't know what they do".

**Gen girl:** "Today you will be with me in heaven".

**Gen boy:** "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.".

**Jesus surrendered himself to the God from whom he felt abandoned.** He saw everything black and believed in white anyway, but he had no answer there on the cross, he died and was buried. The answer came later, three days later, when the Father resurrected.

*He is risen!*

**Gen boy:** "He is Risen!"

**Gen girl:** "He is Risen!"

**Michel:** "*He is Risen! We have seen him!*", this is the cry that comes out of the mouth of Mary Magdalene and Jesus' disciples three days after his death. "He is risen, we saw Him, we talked to Him, He ate before us, we touched His wounds, it was really Him, Jesus, who was crucified and now He is alive again, but of a new life because he appeared among us when the doors and windows were closed. He is the same as before, but he is also different because he is no longer subject to the limits of space and time, he can no longer suffer, death no longer has any power over him. It's an incredible thing, it's like he has passed to another dimension, to a life that is divine and eternal and he told us that he will take us with him up there to his kingdom, to Heaven".

**The disciples could not believe** what they saw and touched as it was extraordinary and it gave them immense joy. The Gospel says this.

**Jesus was resurrected and appeared to them for 40 days**, once even to 500 people at once, Saint Paul says this. Then he ascended into Heaven, but he promised his disciples that he would not leave them alone because he would send them a Comforter from the Father, the Holy Spirit and then he himself would remain always present with them and also with us today, every day until the end of the world, even if in an invisible way.

**And in fact, when we love one another**, when we are truly united in his name, **we feel this presence of his**, and sometimes even we feel our hearts burning in our chests as it burned in the disciples when they saw him risen among them.

*Musical interval*

**But let us now go back to suffering and how we can live it, as Gen,** that is, as people who know Jesus forsaken.

**When Chiara discovered Jesus forsaken,** that is when she understood that the moment when Jesus suffered most was the moment when He cried out to God: "Why have you forsaken me?", she proposed to Dori to make him their Ideal and that is, to spend their whole life to love him and that is, to respond, if one can say so, to his cry.

**On that day Dori had her face covered with wounds** and, after hearing Chiara, she had the impression that these wounds of hers made her somewhat similar to Jesus forsaken. They could then become an opportunity for her to love him, sharing his fate.

**Even Jesus, in fact, was all a wound too. So surely he could understand her** and she could love him in these wounds of hers. Dori then felt joy because her pain had changed their meaning, it had become an occasion to meet Jesus forsaken and to show him her love.

**Gen, what I am saying to you is very important because, if you understand it, it can really change your life,** but let us listen rather to how Chiara herself spoke about it years ago to the Gen 3 in a conversation about the revolution of love that we want to bring to the world.

**Video:** Chiara, *Our secret: Jesus forsaken*, June 1972

*"Life, as you know, has joys and sufferings. And even if you don't want to, some suffering always arrives. You've experienced some. Now when faced with suffering, there can be two behaviours:*

*Those who are not gen cry, complain and stop. Those who are gen see, instead, in that suffering an enormous possibility: that of being similar to Jesus forsaken and offer the suffering to him.*

*What happens then is that the revolution does not stop, but continues; the race is not slowed down, but goes on ahead always. There are plenty of sufferings. Let's take a few examples.*

*It could be, for example, that someone is making fun of you. Then you think: Jesus has also been mocked. I'm happy to be like him. And don't take revenge. In fact, try to do good for those who make fun of you. Here is a victory of your revolution.*

*It can happen that you feel treated as a child and left out of the conversation with the grown-ups. Then you remember Jesus who felt rejected by society at that time. Smile happily and offer him your suffering.*

*Or it may be that the teacher reprimands you and perhaps unjustly. Then you remember that Jesus heard all sorts of things, he who was innocent. Think of Jesus insulted and rejoice at this new chance to show him your love.*



*And when one of your friends speaks ill of you, be equally happy: who is more insulted than Jesus?*

*It may happen that your mother or father say that you are exaggerated in living the Ideal and then you feel a little lonely; but you remember that Jesus felt really alone on the cross. In the midst of all those sufferings he no longer even had the consolation of the Father.*

*It may happen that you get a bad grade at school or even fail. What do you have to do? Certainly good resolutions for the future. But in the meantime, take advantage of that suffering: think immediately that Jesus felt almost failed, like you; and instead of crying, say: "I am happy to be like you".*

*There may be someone who sees dad and mom not getting along and feels abandoned all by himself. Jesus felt abandoned by himself, too. "Courage - tell him - here's the time to show yourself whether I'm a revolutionary or a weakling."*

*And if you happen to get an illness that forces you to stay in bed, immobilized like him, hurray!*

*If the time comes when someone's mom or dad dies - even if this is a huge suffering - if one is gen, one should, even in tears, say to Jesus: "Here I am like you. Because you too felt like an orphan".*

*And when you feel useless, anguished, lost, humiliated, weak, sad, frightened, when you feel hurt anywhere, you always say, "I'm happy to be like you. And he will give you strength.*

*But Jesus forsaken is not only the secret to carry your personal sufferings well and therefore be Jesus' revolutionaries, always ready, always up.*

*Jesus forsaken is also the secret to carrying out the plan that contains the directions of the Gen Revolution. In fact you find Jesus forsaken in the poor who resemble him. He on the cross had nothing left. His mother, he had given to John, and he had even lost the joy of feeling united with the Father. You find him in the sick: he was very ill, dying. You find him in prisoners: he was nailed. In all those to whom you have planned to go when you have measured the size of your city, in all of them you can see him.*

**Do you understand the revolution that brings Jesus forsaken, how can it change your life?** Those who know him, see in his every suffering and in every suffering that is in the people who are close to him, a possibility to love him, to repay him and to respond to his cry of abandonment, to his why.

**But the extraordinary thing that happens if you say yes to Jesus forsaken,** if you embrace him saying: "I am happy to be like you" and then you throw yourself into loving him, **he in turn embraces you, but he is the**

**Risen One, he is God** and you feel the resurrection in that embrace of his. He gives you his light, his joy, his peace, his strength, his Holy Spirit

**He puts love in your heart**, comforts and strengthens you, gives you ideas on how to act and makes you understand how to live that pain that grips you and how to turn it into love..

**It's the experience Chiara made continuously, throughout her whole life.** And it is also for example the experience of Chiara Luce, who could have despaired knowing that she was ill and condemned to die at the age of 18, but who instead made of this great obstacle a launching pad and the instrument through which she grew immeasurably in love and became a true saint, a fulfilled Christian. The secret of her victory was Jesus forsaken!

**It is the experience that we can do too**, to transform every suffering that comes our way into love. It is a challenge, a great challenge, but a Gen is not content with small things because with God he can make them great, as we read at the beginning of our conversation.

**E' l'esperienza che possiamo fare anche noi.** Everyone in the world escapes pain; we, with Jesus forsaken, can make it a powerful means for our revolution of love, a true source of energy of extraordinary power.

**Jesus rose again, passing through the crucible of the cross and abandonment** and from his resurrection the Church was born. If we follow him, denying ourselves and also taking up our cross, we also give life to a new world around us.

**It is a challenge, a great challenge, a high aim**, but a Gen is not happy with small things because with God he can make them great.

**Listen to what more is written in our Manifesto** and this phrase of Chiara's says the deepest experience we can have: transforming pain into a moment of encounter with God:

**Gen girl:** “And if the sorrow grieves you, sing:  
 «Behold my Spouse, my friend, my brother» (cf. Cant 5:16)  
 so at the hour of death  
 the Lord says to your soul:  
 «Rise up, hasty my friend, my dove,  
 my beautiful e come» (Cant 2:10)”.

***Musical break***

## INTERVAL

### *A moment of sharing in small groups*

Now let us have a moment of sharing in small groups and **put in common with our neighbours what was aroused in us by what was said before**. It can be something that we have understood in a new way, a discovery that we have made, an experience that we have remembered, an encounter with Jesus forsaken, a fruit that we have reaped from a suffering that we have embraced and overcome....

**Let's talk among ourselves, in confidence, with open hearts and with great respect for what each one shares with the others.**

### **Moment of sharing in small group with those close by**

### *Experience of a friend*

**We confided in each other**, we told each other experiences, maybe we shared some of our sorrows.

**I'm going to tell you a negative experience** that a friend of mine confided in me. He had just met the Ideal and in his heart he had immediately become a Gen, but he still had little experience of life and was also very naive.

He was still in his final year of high school **when a classmate of his asked him for friendship** and he, who wanted to live the Gospel and was also generous, said yes.

He just did not realize that that **companion had fallen in love with him** and that the friendship he was asking for was not a simple friendship, but something more, that had become in that companion a real attachment.

Some months passed and **both went to university**. They lived together in a house where many students were staying. One night that schoolmate came to visit my friend in his room when he was already in bed and gave him a strange speech.

He told that friend of mine that he had realized that the friendship he had promised him was not true because he felt that he didn't really love him. In fact, he realized he was a burden for him, so he **thought about killing himself**.

**My friend got scared and swore that it wasn't true**, that he loved him and that he was ready to prove it to him. He didn't want him to kill himself and I let you imagine what happened...

**My friend was caught in a trap**, because it was a real blackmail that had been done to him - "If you don't love me, I'll kill myself" - and he remained a slave to this situation for weeks, until **he confided in some gen** older than him and then also in a focolarino who got him out of the trouble he had gotten into, rightly advising him to cut ties with that companion, which he then did..

**I tell you this because loving Jesus forsaken does not mean letting oneself go**, giving in to any old self who passes by, being passive and dependent on others.

**Jesus said to turn the other cheek when we receive a slap**, but when, during his trial, a Roman soldier slapped him, he did not turn the other cheek, but asked him what he had done wrong to slap him, that is, he put him back in his place and spoke to him in truth.

Jesus did not let himself be influenced by anyone, he was a free person who did things before God and if something did not convince him, he said so openly. Even at the age of 12 he did not follow his parents and stayed in the temple in Jerusalem to talk to the doctors of the law because he felt that his Father wanted him there.

To love Jesus forsaken is therefore not weakness, but strength, the ability to be oneself. In fact, it is precisely because Jesus told the truth that he was then criticized and persecuted, as happens when we go against the current, following our conscience. It is Jesus who we must love in our neighbour and loving Jesus in our neighbour also means knowing how to say no to the old self of our neighbour and unmask him.

### *Sharing and dialogue among all*

**Now the mic is open** and those who wish to do so can share with everyone an experience with Jesus forsaken, an impression of Him, anything related to this subject that we look at today and that is pain, suffering.

### *The condemned*

**Let us now listen to the experience of a Gen 1 who, like Chiara Luce, was seriously ill.** He had AIDS, an illness, a disease of which one was certain to die in the nineties, but recognized in this terrible situation which he found himself in the face of Jesus forsaken. He embraced him and then died like a saint.

Video CSC Scartati: The experience of the condemned (5'20)<sup>2</sup>

The doctor's verdict left no doubt and no hope: AIDS, he was HIV-positive. He had contracted the shameful disease and what would happen now? How would he communicate it to his relatives and friends? To the many people who respected him and had placed all their trust in him?

And how had this happened? Who had given it to him? How did he get infected? Could it have been when he was working at that shelter for drug addicts and street people? Or when he'd rushed to pick up that bloodied young man who'd been beaten and called for help? Or...

And how much time was he looking at now? How many days, months, years? Certainly not many. Medicine was still powerless in the face of this deadly virus and he knew how others, friends of his, affected by Kaposi's sarcoma or other terrible infections had died. He got the chills... suddenly his life was completely changed, it got out of hand, it scared him. He went pale. He left the doctor's room and went straight to the hospital chapel. Jesus Forsaken was there.

He could not say how long he had remained there, in front of Him, petrified by the verdict that had just been pronounced. Half an hour, an hour, two...? Time had stopped and it had made way for an intimate and profound conversation with the One who had been calling him for years. He had always felt a chosen one, a beloved, but never, never, never, never would he have thought that this preference would reach this point. He wept. Tears ran down his cheeks, he let them run. They were uncontrollable.

In a flash he saw again his whole life, his years of youth, his enthusiasm, his generosity, his weaknesses, his contradictions, but also his perseverance, despite everything, the love of God, His faithfulness. He wept again. He couldn't help crying. He didn't understand what was happening to him. It was all too big, too strong, too unexpected. And it was also strange, he felt already dead in a certain sense, condemned, even put aside, perhaps looked down upon, and yet an infinite feeling of sweetness invaded him. He felt loved, loved, embraced. He cried again and said yes, he said yes to everything, immediately.

Yes to shame, yes to misunderstandings, yes to guilt, yes to the feeling of having done everything wrong, yes to the impossibility of being able to live much longer and of being able to do much more, infinite things for God. This was what perhaps made him suffer most of all. He had so many talents and was animated by an immense desire to love Him and now life was taken away from him. For a moment he had the impression that he could no longer fulfill this desire of his, which was perhaps his "plan", what he should have

done. A sharp pain wounded his heart. He cried again. He felt he was nothing, nothing at all, stripped of himself and with empty hands before God. How was it possible that He had allowed all this? What had he done to be reduced to nothing? He was terrified. He had nothing to say to defend himself. It was all in the hands of the One who created him and would soon judge him.

He looked up and saw Him there, hanging, crucified, abandoned, alone like no one else. He was like him, one was like the other. He was moved and understood. Just keep your eyes fixed on Him. Don't look either to the right or to the left. Don't worry about anything but loving Him, and He would have made it, He would have won the test, He would have overcome the obstacle.

"It is so difficult to see oneself die slowly," he confided months later to a friend, but he did so, with dignity, with solemnity. He consumed his sacrifice day after day, weeks after weeks, months after months, in the secret of his room, in the secret of his heart.

And there he found joy, fullness, meaning. He fulfilled himself, he fulfilled God's plan for him in the most paradoxical way that one could ever have thought. He became more refined, he purified himself, he grew in love and he became immaculate, taking his sickness from God's hands and clutching to himself the crucified Christ, his "Spouse", in the infinite countenances that he had seen of him from the first moment, but which had then approached him one after the other, in a strong way, asking him each time for a kiss of pure love. He died in this way offering his life for unity and sealing a pact of mutual love with his brothers. "Father, into your hands... may they all be one."

## FOR THE ONE ON ONE WITH GOD MOMENT

This morning we spoke at length about Jesus forsaken and we also exchanged many experiences. We also listened to Chiara talk about him to the Gen 3. At a certain point she said:

**Gen girl:** *And when you feel useless, anguished, lost, humiliated, weak, sad, frightened, when you feel hurt anywhere, you always say, "I'm glad to be like you." And he will give you strength.*

**Gen boy:** *"And fear not, Gen. I know him as Gen 1 and Gen 2 know him. If he feels truly loved, he knows how to reward you: he fills you with so much new joy that you will have to give it to everyone. Not only that, but he will make you saints".*

After hearing Chiara, this morning we recollected and thought on our own about our personal sorrows and those of the people around us

Now, with the bread and wine that the priest will offer to the Father and that will then become at the moment of consecration the body and blood of Jesus, we also want to offer our sorrows to Jesus, everything that hurts us and we say yes to him, tell him that we want to follow him on the way of love that passes from the cross, from pain, and then to the resurrection..

We invite you then to write down your sufferings on a piece of paper. It is enough to write a name like sadness, loneliness, failure, bewilderment, separation, uncertainty, incomprehension... and then you can write something to Jesus, a thank you, a commitment, whatever comes into your heart.

We will then pass round some baskets in which we could put our paper.

Then after communion we will pass other baskets in which there will be crosses and each of us, if we want, can take a cross as a sign of Jesus' love for us and our love for Him.

The Muslim Gen who we have the joy of having with us can, if they wish, go to Fiorella who will place their cards at the foot of the statue of Mary in the chapel. Mary is so loved by Muslims and is very much mentioned in the Quran. She is the woman who most of all has been able to transform suffering into love and Fiorella will give them an image of Mary.

Michel Vandeleene