

(English translation)

## THE SPIRIT BLOWS

*Worship, Liturgy and United Community on the Second Vatican Council's anniversary.  
This is an excerpt of Chiara Lubich's diary of May 4, 1968.*

‘So if you are about to offer your gift at the altar and you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar, go at once and make peace with him, and then come back and offer your gift to God’ (Mt. 5:23-24).

Divine worship and love among brothers and sisters, the love which creates and rebuilds unity, are absolutely inseparable. If a community does not 'fulfil' itself in Christ in full communion it is unfitted, according to the Gospel, to offer true worship to God.

In recent years the Second Vatican Council has reawakened this sense of the united community, and the Holy Spirit, blowing in various ways, has removed the dust from the Gospel of charity.

And how we Christians needed this!

That is why we often felt we did not understand the full value of the liturgy. For the most part we are the heirs of an individual religiosity, which is not too concerned about reciprocal charity in the community.

Although the soul retains a certain sense of the mystery surrounding the great liturgical actions, some of them, which have been reduced at times to form without substance, cause incomprehension and a sense of emptiness.

All this because Christianity is often deprived of its true strength: charity. On the other hand, what riches of liturgical experience we can expect from a truly united people of God! The face of the Church would shine beautifully in all its splendour and would attract the world in the same way that Jesus once attracted the crowds.

(published in: *Knowing How to Lose*, New City, London 1981<sup>1</sup>, pp. 91-92.)