

(English translation)

Marino (Rome) 25 May 2002

Chiara Lubich to the Gen 3 Supercongress:

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We have been living in situations of war for many years. I'm encouraged to know that you discovered the Love of God right in the midst of a situation like ours. Can you tell us what this discovery meant to you? What can we do to tell everyone that God is Love?

Chiara: She would like me to tell the story, the beginnings of the Movement, which you know, you know very well! But there might be someone who doesn't know it yet, so we'll tell the story for that person.

How did it happen? It was during the war, a terrible war, World War II. The bombs were falling, many bombs were falling and destroying everything. I was a little older than you are and my companions were a little older than you too. One of them was 15 years old, so she was young, very young, and each one of us had an ideal, because young people have ideals, thank God. You too have ideals, and this is good. But our ideals were small, rather limited to ourselves. I remember that my ideal was philosophy, studying, studying, studying; it's something beautiful, but compared to God...!

Another of my companions had a beautiful house and she wanted to furnish it with lovely things, with nice furniture, pictures, etc. Still another wanted to get married, but her fiancé never returned from the war; I wasn't able to go ahead with my studies of philosophy because of the barricades of the war; the one who had the beautiful house and wanted to furnish it, saw that it had been damaged by the bombs. We realized that everything was crumbling.

At a certain point an idea came to me. I wondered: is there an ideal that doesn't crumble, that doesn't fall, that no bomb can destroy? Immediately, I understood the answer: yes, there is, it is God. And there I understood who God is: God is Love. I communicated this to my companions, and from that moment, whereas before we felt that God was far away, maybe up in heaven, now we understood that he was guiding everything – each circumstance was guided by his love. We found him everywhere, we found him everywhere. It was an extraordinary discovery.

We began to tell this to others too; I wrote letters to my mother: "Mom, God is Love. Don't worry, this war will pass, you'll see, and something positive will come from it." For example, our Movement was born during the war.

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"What should we do?" Believe in the love of God, believe that even if things seem to be going wrong, wrong, wrong, there is a reason, there is a purpose of love, there is a purpose of love, there is a plan of God for that circumstance. Believe this. And when we have beautiful experiences, we should tell them to all the others so that the Gospel goes out to everyone, so that it gives rise to a revolution, so that it changes people's mentality today which is so human, consumeristic, evil and low. This is what you should do.

(applause)