

FEBRUARY

JANUARY

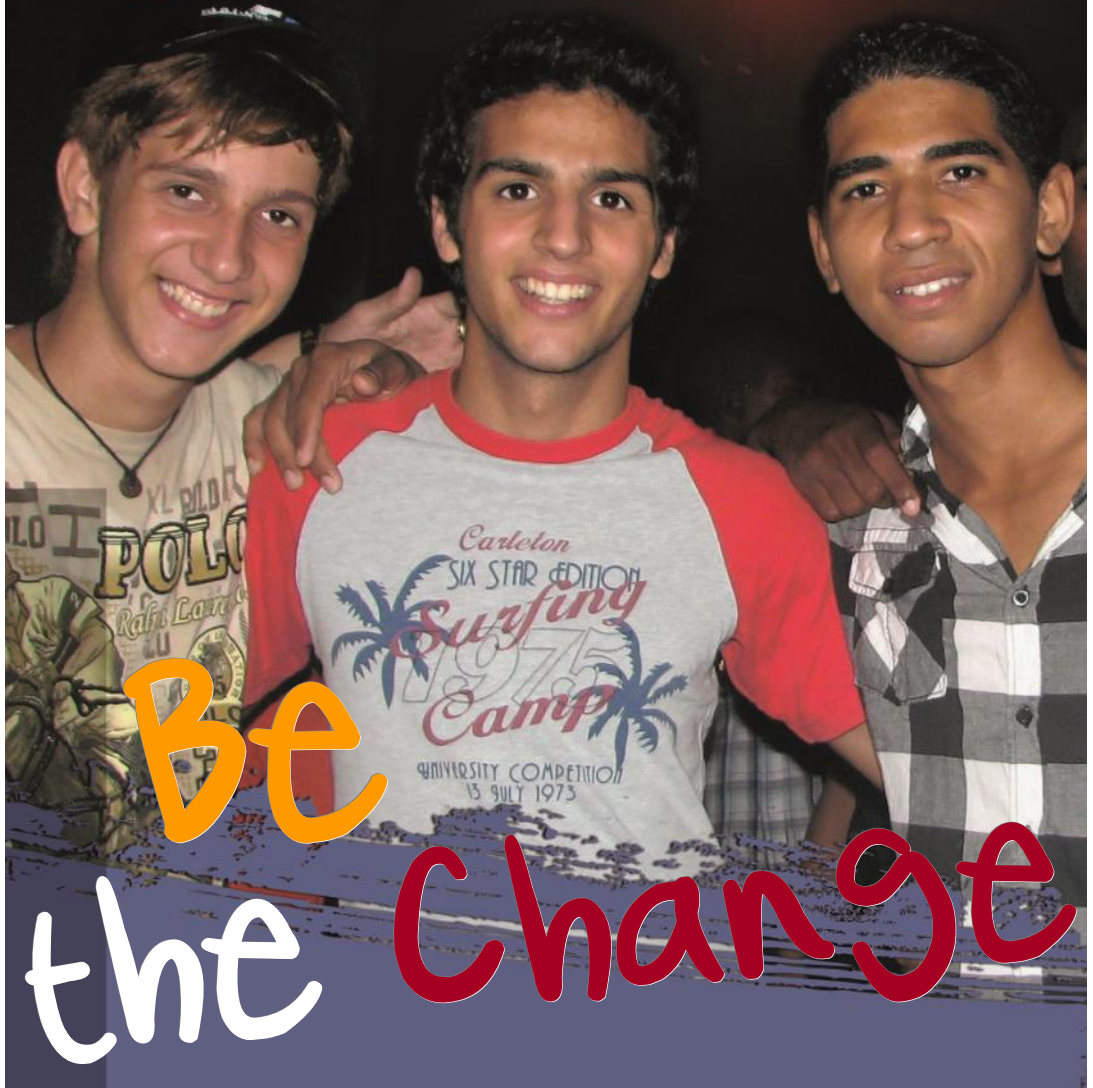
VOL.34

1

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2012

FRANZ





Yes to Responsibility

Let's work so that our cities will become places that welcome people of different races, religions & cultural backgrounds. Let's discover the treasure in each person and let's aim to what already unites us.



Yes to a Just Economy

that benefits each person and all of humanity by spreading a culture of giving and sharing.



Yes to Life and to Family

Let's recognize the value and beauty of life at every stage. Let's cultivate relationships among people of different generations, exchanging the gifts that each age group has to offer. In this way we will strengthen the life of the family, which is the basic unit of a society open to the future.



Yes to Creation

The earth has been given to us as a gift, so let's respect it by protecting the environment and helping others to do the same, so we will pass on to future generations a world that is beautiful & healthy.



Yes to Solidarity

Let's never abandon the poor and those who are rejected by society, whether they are near to us or far away, because they are all our brothers and sisters. Let's also ask our politicians to make a commitment to help the poor and needy.



Yes to Peace

Let's defend peace every day, countering violence with forgiveness, and injecting hope everywhere. That's how we will help all the people in the world to live as one family, in universal brotherhood.



The GOSPEL in our Pocket!

In 1974, Chiara sent a copy of the Gospels and this letter to all the Gen 3 in the world. She wanted them to know how important it is to read the Gospel and try to live it. It can help us, too, as we try to focus on living the Word of God this year.

TREASURE



If you ever have a chance to visit the house where Chiara lived, you will see on a little table in her bedroom the book of the four Gospels. In her last year, Chiara wanted to re-read all of them to see if she had lived all the words in her life, and helped the whole movement to do the same. On the cover page she had written, **“Don’t miss the appointment!”** We don’t know exactly what she meant by that, but in this year when we are trying to live the Gospel really well, we think maybe she meant the appointment we can have every day with Jesus. We can meet him in other people, in the Eucharist, in the poor, but also in his Word. In fact, **every time we live the Word of Life, Jesus lives within us.**



Dear gen 3.

We are mailing the book of the Gospels that I promised you. I hope you will like it, also because it is a small edition and will certainly fit into the pocket of every Gen 3. You will be able to read it whenever you want.

The book contains the four Gospels. In this letter, I would like to give you some advice on how to use them. You will find the story of Jesus – his teachings, parables, miracles, and so on.

A saint used to say that if someone wants to learn something well, they have to study it. However, if they want to learn it even better, they need a teacher to help them. But if someone wants to possess it really well, they have to know it so well that they can teach it to others.

I would like the Gen 3 boys and girls to be people who are able to teach the Gospel to others. That’s why I think it would be good if, in your gen units, you talk about the passages and also prepare talks or skits or even slides with a commentary. If someone knows how, even a film could be made..

You would then be able to communicate the Gospel in big meetings or in your conventions.

The more you communicate the Gospel to others, the more you will absorb it yourself. The Gospel will become the code of your new life as Gen. It will bring about the revolution of the Good News first of all in yourselves, and then in many other people.

The Gospel has been, is, and will always be, the guideline to renew each individual and the whole society. We have to be nourished with it from a young age in order to change the world and reach sanctity.

My wish is that we live the Gospel so well that whoever sees us will say, “There is another little Jesus going through the world.”

I send you my love in the Ideal.

Chiara

CLICK!!



Operation CLICK

Click!

The sound of the light switch turning on is "click"! In fact, in a dark room, you need someone to find the switch and turn on the light! In this article you will find some "clicks," - three experiences that give light in a few "dark cellars." These luminous spots can give light to a whole city!

I never talked much to my dad, but then I realized that if I was going to love him, I had to try to understand well his way of thinking. During the fall break, I took advantage of my time **to find opportunities** to talk with him. We discussed various topics, some were of interest to me, and some not so much, but the important thing was to build a relationship with my dad. **He doesn't believe in God** and his friend doesn't help matters because he mixes him up even more. So while we were talking, I started telling him a little about Jesus, about how he gave his life for us and established the Church... At first, it didn't seem like he was listening

to me, but I kept on. They were really beautiful moments with him because **I really opened my heart to my dad**. I was able to tell him many things, but above all, I loved him by giving him the most beautiful thing I have: Jesus!



HOW CAN I
LOVE MORE?

ANNA - CUBA

DON'T GIVE UP

DAVIDE - ITALY

Since the beginning of the year, during religion class, I felt that **I had to give witness** to what I believe, letting people know I am a Christian. The student who sits next to me is “against” me because he is really against anyone who calls themselves a Christian! I try to love him, but I have to say it’s not always easy. **We are totally on a different wavelength**, so sometimes I just feel like giving up on him. But then I feel God pushing me to start over again, and never give up...and even if he just says, “Thank you,” for something once in a while, **that’s already a victory!**

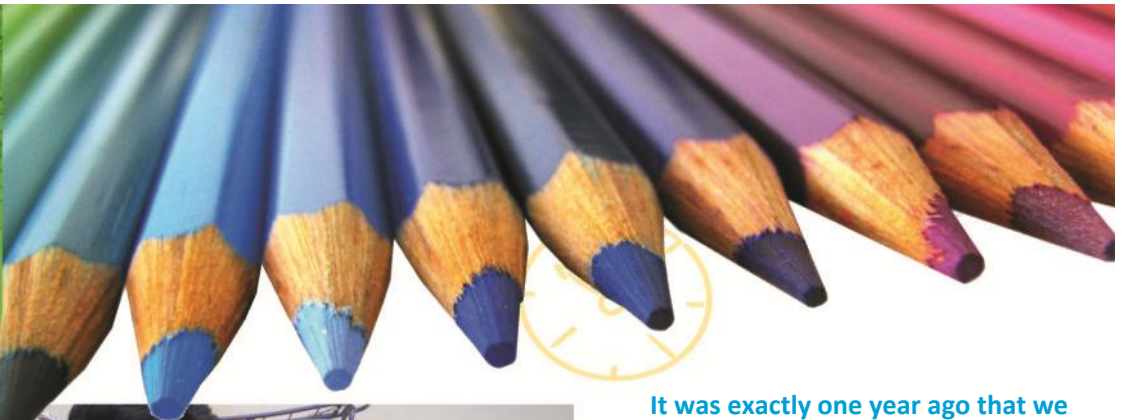


Sometimes we are faced with **situations that pain us deeply**, because they are things that should never happen, and yet they do, with tragic consequences. That’s what it was like when the scandal of pedophilia broke out in the Catholic Church of my country and other countries, too. **Many people are angry** at those who did wrong, but then they condemn the *whole* Church, even those who are not guilty. The way I thought about it was: even though some people in the Church did very wrong things, once these people admitted it and faced the consequences, we need to realize that **we are the Church, here and now**. It’s like in a family, if one family member does wrong, you cannot condemn the whole family, and so the media should not harshly condemn the whole Church, attacking it as a whole, damaging its reputation even more, when the majority of the people in the Church are very good. This is what I was thinking when I happened to hear a radio program on this topic. I said to myself, “Why not call in?” I was put on live and I reminded the listeners that if power is the guiding force in any institution, there will always be the chance that people will be exploited, and that the Catholic Church had been condemned publicly much more than other institutions where the same thing had occurred. I said that the **Church teaches us wonderful values like love, goodness, peace, justice and trust**, and that now we have to support it even more because of these accusations against a few. That’s why we gen 3 and Young for Unity in Ireland want to work as much as possible to prepare the International Eucharistic Congress to be held in Dublin in June of this year. This Eucharistic Congress is a sign of hope that the international community chose Dublin to host such an important event, because religion is an integral part of our Irish culture. In the meantime, our projects like Run4Unity and Schoolmates, have been launched in schools on a national level, inviting many young people to participate.



WHY NOT CALL IN?

NINE - IRELAND



Riiing!!!

It was exactly one year ago that we started our Operation Riiiiiing! Since then there have been so many experiences with our classmates and teachers, which are helping us formulate a **new strategic plan** for being real Gen 3 at school. At the last congress for the rainbow units in Rome, we set down seven points that would sum up everything about our life at school. They are ideas that can be useful and may even develop more as we put them into practice! Operation Riiing certainly won't end now!!!

New ideas to renew and improve society often start in schools. We are living the Golden Rule with everyone, without excluding anyone, and we are joining with all those around us who share our objectives. **Our schools will become a central point to "color our cities with love" and thus help build a more united world.**

1

SHARE OUR TIME, ABILITIES, TALENTS, RESOURCES AND NEEDS – THE CULTURE OF GIVING WILL RENEW THE WHOLE SOCIETY!

We propose to:

- * use the bulletin boards at school or in our classrooms to offer our services to others, for example, offering to help with various subjects;
- * take advantage of school assemblies to share our talents and time, and to speak about our lifestyle;
- * promote after-school classes for students having a hard time with their schoolwork, not necessarily being tutors, but sharing with them what we know;
- * help our classmates who come from other countries to learn the language;
- * study together with those who ask to copy our homework, so that we will really help them learn the material;
- * tell others in our class and our school about Project Schoolmates and see if they want to get involved.

Motto:

SHARE

6

2

SHARE OUR TIME, ABILITIES, TALENTS, RESOURCES AND NEEDS – THE CULTURE OF GIVING WILL RENEW THE WHOLE SOCIETY!

We propose to:

- * break down the barriers between students and teachers, and to do this, we suggest that we could choose one day a week for everyone to be “the first to love,” taking the first step toward someone else, and also to propose extra-curricular activities like the Run4Unity;
- * try to dialogue with our teachers, especially going out towards those who have a hard time relating to the students, going beyond external appearances, starting by listening to them;
- * create true relationships with everyone, without overlooking anyone, helping those who are shy or excluded by others to feel part of the group;
- * circulate more in the classroom so as to get to know everyone better and become friends with those we never paid any attention to, so that everyone will feel our love.

Motto:

GO BEYOND



“Be the Change”

3

REACT AGAINST ANY FORM OF VIOLENCE WITH A LIFESTYLE BASED ON RESPECT AND FORGIVENESS

Motto:

STOP VIOLENT BEHAVIOR

We propose to:

- * refuse to create divisions among students, but rather look for alternatives and offer to discuss topics that are of common interest to everyone;
- * never be indifferent or fail to react when we notice that some behavior is hurting others or leading to bullying, and to speak to the one who provoked this situation to find a solution without resorting to violence, and not to leave alone the person who is being bullied.
- * To sponsor activities or games in our own classes to help increase a sense of friendship among everyone.

4

RECOGNIZE OUR LIMITATIONS WITHOUT GETTING DISCOURAGED, HELPING ONE ANOTHER TO OVERCOME THEM

Motto:

We propose to:

- * offer up the suffering of our failures and our limitations, recognizing Jesus Forsaken in them, and to keep on loving, always with a smile;
- * start over every time we fail, and Operation Riiiiing is useful for this because every time the bell rings, we can remember to start over again!
- * keep our faith alive, without wavering;
- * share our experiences and try to do the best we can according to our ability, accepting our limitations;
- * suggest in our class that we have a mail box in our classroom called “Help Box,” where everyone can write their problems, so that the others can read it and try to help them;
- * share and lighten the sufferings and difficulties of the others.

7

5

COLOR WITH LOVE ANY SAD PLACES IN OUR SCHOOL, BY SHARING OUR EXPERIENCES, BUT ESPECIALLY LET'S LOOK AROUND AND BRING ABOUT A CHANGE WHERE IT'S NEEDED.

motto:

ACTION

We propose to:

- * color with love any dark corners of our school, trying to bring the Risen Jesus wherever there is Jesus Forsaken;
- * love so much those gray spots which are the students excluded by others or who suffer in silence for a variety of reasons, so that they will find in us friends they can open up to, and help them become part of the class;
- * physically paint, or color the walls of our school, or put up "smile" posters, so as to brighten up each area, but what's important is to give a soul to what we are doing;
- * get involved with social activities in our cities, bringing joy where there is no joy, suggesting that our classmates could help us;
- * take advantage of assemblies in our classroom or in the school to choose and deal with topics that are interesting to others, to propose the Run4Unity or other projects of the Young for Unity.

6

LET'S DEVELOP OUR FULL POTENTIAL AND DISCOVER THE REAL, PROFOUND TRUTH IN EVERY SUBJECT WE ARE STUDYING. THEN WITH COURAGE UNDERLINE THIS TRUTH FOR OTHERS.

motto:

GIVE OUR ALL

We propose to:

- * promote activities in our class, perhaps helped by several teachers, to have a continuous dialogue between students and teachers, being the bridge between the two parts;
- * open class meetings to teachers especially when we are dealing with topics for which we need their advice.
- * remember that every effort we make to study well is a proof of our fidelity to Jesus;
- * live well during our religion class, listening to the teacher and giving a positive witness of our life;
- * be faithful to our ideas, even when people make fun of us, just re-charge our spiritual batteries and never give up.

7

FORM A NETWORK AMONG ALL THE SCHOOLS OF THE WORLD. TOGETHER WE CAN BECOME ARCHITECTS OF A NEW SOCIETY IN WHICH WE ARE ALL BROTHERS AND SISTERS, AND IN THIS WAY CONTRIBUTE TO A MORE UNITED WORLD

motto:

UNITY

We propose to:

- * help our classmates and friends get to know the Run4Unity and Project Schoolmates;
- * open a dialogue between different schools in our city and, through Project Schoolmates, put them in contact with schools in other countries;
- * take advantage of the various social networks (Facebook, Twitter, My Space, etc.) to bring people together.

8

TEENS

Toward Run4Unity 2012

HI EVERYONE!

We know that all over the world **everyone is preparing** for the upcoming Run4Unity. We are making contacts, booking halls, asking permission to use venues, making invitations, working with youth of other organization and movements, and so on. And then there are **tons of new ideas** of how to move the baton around the world in 24 hours – the third time we are doing this! We want to put into motion peace and unity.

We are taking the commitment to live and spread the news of the Run4Unity 2012 to all our friends, in our schools and our cities.



Best words 4 Teens!



Beat: like our heart beats constantly, so we have to constantly start again to love. Our life has to be a continuous beating. We have to keep telling ourselves: "I'm starting over, I'm starting over, I'm starting over to love."

Arms: open them up to everyone to make everyone feel like brothers and sisters!

Need: The world is like a huge hospital and the countries are often like sick people who have tremendous need of peacemakers to heal the tense conflicts and the threats of war.

Ideal: the great ideal of the Young for Unity is the unity of the world! So they work to bring peace and harmony everywhere and make the world more united.

Disconnect to connect

By Anna Lisa Innocenti

AN ENDLESS WORLD TO BE DISCOVERED

A “world” full of information, thousands of pages to go through, free access to websites all over the world and...the possibility of endless contacts in real time! Yes, this is what we get on Internet, the net that **unites the whole world, offering us the possibility of widening our knowledge and learning about different places.**

A world that can open us to relationships with others, help us get to know how people live near and far, arouse our imagination and creativity, help us discover what is around us in our own cities so that we can “color” them all with our love.

THE SOCIAL NETWORKS

The nice sensation of connecting to internet and using our own space to introduce ourselves to others, ex-

change ideas, share photos and films, is one of the reasons why the social network has had such huge success. Among other things, it allows us to track down people whom we haven't seen for a

long time or **keep in touch with friends even on the other side of the world.**

The term “social network” comes historically from the idea of identifying a group of people who are united by a common interest or

activity that brings them together, even physically, in the

same place. With the internet, this expression refers to an **electronic structure that permits us to be part of a network, giving us contacts and relationships that are developed especially, or above all, through the web.**



BUILDING *REAL* RELATIONSHIPS

At the basis of the fast diffusion of the social network there is also the desire for real friendships which, as Pope Benedict XVI said, is a gift that God places in our hearts:

“When we feel the need to grow closer to other people, when we want to get to know them better and let them know us, we are answering a call from God, a call that is part of our very nature as beings created in the image and likeness of God, and God is communication and communion (...).”

CONTACTS AND FRIENDSHIPS

The desire for friends has a central place in our hearts. But if we really think about it, not all our virtual friendships are really *true* friendships.

“Friend” is a strong word. It indicates a profound bond with a person with whom we share our life and our values.

Many of the people we call “friends” on Facebook or other social networks are, in reality, **only contacts.**

And so when we make messages or tags we think that not only our real friends read these things, but also all those “contacts” who perhaps aren’t really our friends.

And let’s not forget that we can definitely *start* a friendship online, but a real friendship is made of getting to know one another *in person*.

Pope Benedict also wrote this: **“The concept of friendship has gained new popularity through the use of social networks in the last few years. (...) It’s important to be careful not to trivialize the concept of friendship and the experience of being friends with someone. It would be very sad if our desire to sustain and develop online friendships would be done at the expense of being available for our families or our neighbors, or those we meet every day, at work, school or in our free time.”**



CAREFUL NOT TO GET ADDICTED!

How many times has it happened that we were all concentrated on updating our profile on Facebook or chatting with someone online, and we didn’t hear someone calling us, or notice that someone entered the room where we are on the computer?

Maybe more than once!

These are little signs, but they show us that **if we aren’t careful, the social network isolates us instead of connecting us to the world!** It’s like a virus,

and it’s called “addiction.” It makes us feel drawn constantly to the computer, and urges us to stay glued to the screen all day long (and even during the night!). How can we not get contaminated by this virus? It’s simple.

When you turn on the computer, **try to look at the clock and give yourselves a certain amount of time** – an hour, a half hour – and after that, turn it off. If, when the time is up, we keep connected and it’s hard to turn it off, it means we are starting to get addicted! So let’s practice and try to stop at the appointed time, so that we can **be connected also with the world around us!** Let’s not let the computer screen suck us in. It could help to make a schedule for yourself – **some time on the internet, some outside getting fresh air, some with friends, the evenings with your family.**



SOME ADVICE

The web, like every other thing, has its good points and also **its rules** that you need to know in order to live it well. Some of them are:

* "PERSONAL" MEANS "PERSONAL!"

Keep your personal data private. Never give out your personal information like address, phone number, etc. Be careful even about putting your birthdate out there. It's okay to put the day you were born so your friends can send you Happy Birthday wishes, but not the year. Why does everyone need to know that?

* READ CAREFULLY

When you sign up for a social network, you are often asked to click on "Accept" if you accept the conditions. Be sure you read it carefully – even if it takes a few more minutes of your time. You might discover that it's not all free or that they can use your information to find out what you like to buy, or about your religious beliefs, or what country

you were born in, or your political leanings. All of these can be used in a way that might not be to your benefit!

* PRIVACY

When we create an account or use skype or messaging, there are precise conditions regarding privacy. It's important to know them and use them in a way that private information remains private.

* PASSWORD

Choose passwords that are hard to guess, don't use your birthdate or address. Keep your password a secret and change it often (at least once a year).

* IN CASE OF DANGER

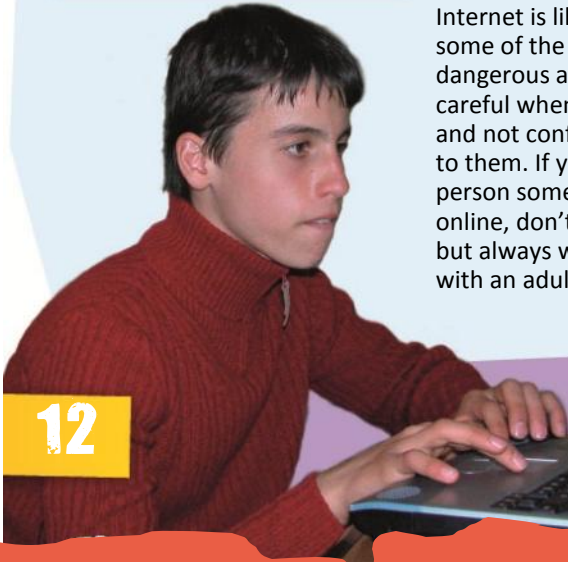
If while you are chatting with someone or surfing the web, it happens that something bothers you or upsets you, block the sender. It would also be very good to tell an adult about it. Internet is like a big city where some of the neighborhoods are dangerous and you have to be careful when you meet strangers, and not confide personal details to them. If you decide to meet in person someone you got to know online, don't ever go by yourself but always with a few friends or with an adult.

"It's up to you, young people, who almost spontaneously find yourself in tune with these new means of communication, to use these means for evangelizing (spreading the Gospel) to this 'digital continent!' Know how to take on this task with enthusiasm - announce the Gospel to all your peers!"

Benedictus PP XVI

* PICTURES

When we publish online our photos or personal news, let's remember that the content, once it is posted, is never cancelled out. Even if the site is closed down, there is no guarantee that someone didn't already download your pictures and send them to others. Be respectful of the pictures of other people too – friends, teachers, family members – and don't post them without their permission.



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