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# AFANOS

**SÍ**  
a la  
responsabilidad

**SÍ**  
a una  
economía justa

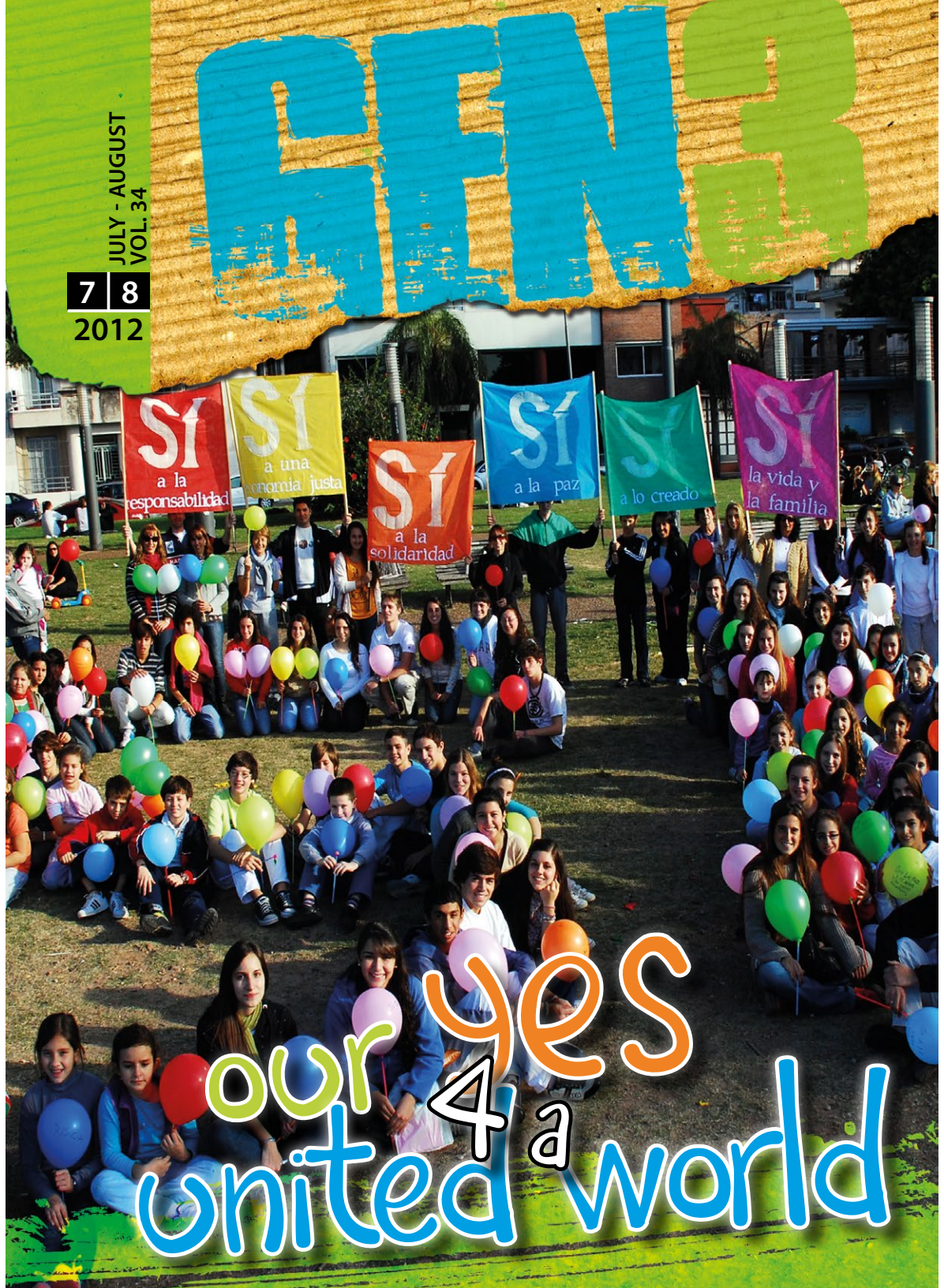
**SÍ**  
a la  
solidaridad

**SÍ**  
a la paz

**SÍ**  
a lo creado

**SÍ**  
la vida y  
la familia

our **YES**  
4 a  
united world





# Aim High

THE POPE TO US YOUNG PEOPLE!

Here are some excerpts of what Pope Benedict XVI told 70,000 young people in Milan, Italy, as they prepared themselves to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

## Dear Boys and Girls

« You can say your own personal “Yes” to God, a “Yes” that is free and intelligent. You will receive his wonderful gifts that help you to journey through life and become courageous and faithful witnesses to Jesus.

These gifts are: **wisdom** that shows you how good and great the Lord is; **understanding**, so that you can really comprehend the Word of God and the truths of our faith; **counsel**, that will guide you so that you will know the plan of God for your life; **fortitude**, which gives you the courage to overcome all temptations and do

good, even if it requires a sacrifice; **knowledge**, which helps you see the signs of God’s presence in nature, and understand how God speaks to all people of all times, including you; **piety**, that helps us not to forget the most important thing in life which is that God exists and that God knows me and is waiting for me to respond to his plan for me; and finally, **fear of the Lord**, which doesn’t mean we are afraid of God, but that we respect the will of God which is the true reason for our life.

God calls us to great things every day. Be open to what he suggests to you! Jesus will fill your hearts for the rest of your lives!

And remember to Aim High! Be saints! We will always have the light and strength of the Holy Spirit if we keep our arms and our hearts wide open! »

Benedictus PP XVI



# Living gospels

*Chiara had a dream with her first companions and it was to re-write the Gospel with their lives! They used to say that if all the Gospels were destroyed in the war, people should be able to look at how they live and re-write all the words of Jesus. They were certain that this was the way to build a world where everyone lives together in peace, like brothers and sisters in one family.*



« **W**e understood that the world needs to be healed with the Gospel! Because only the Good News can give it back the life it is missing. That's why we live the Word of Life. We make it our own flesh and blood to the point of **being** that particular Word.

*It would be enough for us to live one Word of Life to become saints, to be another Jesus.*

Over time we live many Words from the Holy Scriptures, so that they remain as an indelible patrimony in our souls.

So our task is to live the Word of Life in the present moment of our lives. **And everyone can do it**, people of every age and every vocation, male and female, people at every level of society, because Jesus is Light for every person in the world.

With this simple method, we can transform ourselves with the Gospel and then do the same with the whole world...



*Chiara*

Send us your **Click!**  
[redazione.gen3@focolare.org](mailto:redazione.gen3@focolare.org)

# Operation CLICK!

I had promised a friend of mine that I would go and watch him play in the national Judo championship playoffs. But when the day came, it was cold and rainy and very windy, so I didn't really want to take my bike. My parents had gone out, and since I had just gotten my driver's license, I decided to take the car. I thought, **"It's good to get a little practice!"** I had just picked up my friend when I got a call from my mom saying: "What came to your mind to go out like that? Your dad is upset with you, too. You were supposed to do your chores in the house, so you better come right home." **I hung up and could not understand what the problem was!** I was doing this not for myself, but for my friend, and look how they were treating me!

I told my friend I was sorry and let him go on alone. I was tempted to speed on the way home, but I told myself, "Calm down, don't rush!" When I got in the house, I gave the keys to my mom, but I also gave her a piece of my mind. I saw my dad but didn't even look at him.

I just grabbed my bike and took off. **I had only gone a short way when I remembered the Word of Life I had read earlier, which said to "always start over."**

This was my chance! I turned my bike around, went home, told my parents I was sorry, and did my jobs in the house. Then my mom told me I could use her electric bike so I could get there sooner.

When I got to the stadium, another disappointment! The first game was already over! But I thought, **"Just start over - again!"** I enjoyed the next two games. That night I was able to color in two of the boxes on the Word of Life that show how many times we managed to start over!!

**START AGAIN!**  
**START AGAIN!**  
**TJUMEN**  
**HOLLAND**



# TEENS

www.teens4unity.net

## Run4unity 2012 all over the World

### Hi There!

For the third time, after 2002 and 2008, the baton for peace and brotherhood was passed around the globe on May 11, 2012! Tens of thousands of young people and adults were involved in **214 cities and through the internet**. The theme? "Yes" to responsibility, solidarity, creation, a just economy, life and family, and peace.

**Symbols? Math signs: plus for more love, minus for less pain, times for multiplying love, division for sharing, percentage for giving 100%, and equals for being one!**

Following are flashes from how this was accomplished in different countries all over the world!

[www.run4unity.net](http://www.run4unity.net)



# RAU 2012

Countries at war or suffering from natural disasters:

- Nigeria** – amidst a new wave of violence and terrorist attacks, the Run4Unity went ahead in Okuku
- Honduras** - Run4Unity sponsored a March for Peace with “no” to violence as its theme.
- Noumea, **New Caledonia** – we showed that unity is possible between people of different ethnic groups which are often in conflict here. We were even interviewed on the radio!
- Abbruzzo, **Italy** - Run4Unity helped the victims of the terrible earthquake of October 2011

## ...toward peace and brotherhood

Places that symbolize the goal of peace among peoples:

- Sidney, **Australia** - Run4Unity was held at the War Memorial
- Berlin, **Germany** – Brandenburg Bridge.
- Luxembourg**, Schengen, where the pact was made among all the European nations
- Canada**, Montreal - in a neighborhood characterized by many ethnic groups

At government buildings or sites

- Japan**, Tokyo – the Imperial Palace
- Moscow, **Russia** – Red Square
- Florence, **Italy** – a historic and ancient city square
- Pisa, **Italy** – the Leaning Tower
- Rome, **Italy** – federal government square
- Manaus, **Brazil** – the recently built bridge that unites several parts of the Amazon region
- Athens, **Greece** – near the new Olympics Stadium

With government officials:

- Vancouver, **Canada** – the mayor, who had also been present at the first Run4Unity 2002
- Malta** – the President of the Republic, who have the “Go” to the race

With youth of other movements of various kinds:

- Ile of Ischia, **Italy** – more than 20 movements joined in to make a human chain around the island

With youth of other Christian churches:

- Davao in the **Philippines** – various Christian churches
- Cluj in **Romania** – Othodox Church
- Ponta Grossa in **Brazil** – various Christians

With youth of other religions:

- Nagasaki, **Japan** – Christians and Buddhist of the Rissho Koseikai
- Bangkok, **Thailand** – participants included some Buddhist monks
- Jakarta, **Indonesia** – 75 youth and 40 adults, the majority Muslim, had a “Fun Bike”
- Coimbatore, **India** – with the Shanti Ashram Movement of Ghandi’s followers



Ogofa-Nigeria



San Salvador



Berlin



Italy



Tokyo

Karachi, **Pakistan** – Muslim, Hindu and Christian youth

Caesarea, **Holy Land** – Jewish, Muslim and Christian young people

New York, **USA** – Muslim and Christian youth at the mosque in Harlem on the anniversary of the pact between Chiara and Imam W.D. Mohammed

### Coloring our cities with love:

General Rodriguez, **Argentina** – Golden Rule sketches put up at traffic lights in the city

Irati, **Brazil** – visiting an orphanage

Lodi, **Italy** – visiting a hospital, prison, cleaning up the banks of the river

Chicago, **USA** – working with hand-capped adults, visiting the elderly

Brno, **Czech Republic** – meeting with experts in social work

Melbourne, **Australia** – Botanical Gardens with “Yes” to peace, life and family as well as to creation

Wellington in **New Zealand**, Barna in **Bulgaria** and Margarita Island in **Argentina**: “Yes” to nature

### Runs that gave help to others

Mankhaw, **Thailand** – Christian and Buddhist youth worked together and collected bamboo, sand and rocks which they brought to a village where they repaired the huts of the very poor people

Castel d’Aro, **Spain** – collected food products and took them to the Caritas International

Stockholm, **Sweden** – each participant brought school supplies which were donated to the poor

Lugano, **Argentina** – each youth got sponsors for the Run and the money collected helped a boy waiting for a transplant

Rosario, **Argentina** – collected canned food for the poor

Bauru, **Brazil** – made objects from recycled materials which they gave to mothers in a hospital in their city because the Run was held on Mother’s Day.

### Runs that broke records

#### Furthest south!

Trelew, **Argentina** – permission to paint park benches with a positive message

#### Highest!

**Mexico City** – the Run4Unity took place at 7500 feet above sea level

#### First Virtual Run!

**Egypt** – not allowed to run because of the political situation, they followed it all online!



## **JORDAN: CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS TOGETHER**

We held our Run at Anjara about 50 miles from Amman because we thought it was the best place to color with love, because of the great poverty there. The pastor and the school principal encouraged us to show the unity between Christians and Muslims since there is a lot of conflict between them in that area. 150 youth of both religions took part and we proposed that we could all live the Golden Rule together. There were workshops on the mathematical signs and then in the afternoon, while some competed in sports, others painted the wall of the school. At the end of the day we read out the message written by Christian and Muslim youth that day. One girl said: "Today I realized that all of us from all countries and religions need to live the Golden Rule together." One of the boys said, "I got to know a lot of people today and I realized that I'm not alone in wanting to do good – many people want to!"



**Chiang Mai**

## **LITHUANIA: OUR MESSAGE TO THE PARLIAMENT**

"In Lithuania there is a lot of discord and so your mission to bring peace, concord and tolerance is very important!" The Vice President of the Parliament welcomed us with these words. We gave him our written message which was hung up in the Parliament with pictures from the Run4Unity in Vilnius. In fact the Run took place right in Independence Square in front of the Parliament building. After a flashmob, we went by bike, on skates, or on foot all the way to the cathedral where the Papal Nuncio (the Pope's representative) in Lithuania met us – in fact he arrived on his bike!! Those who took part included Catholic and

Orthodox youth, Polish students, Russian immigrants, a group of physically challenged children and our friends from the Jewish School. After the Run, we met to share our experiences and impressions on living the Golden Rule. Then we had some songs, Polish and Jewish dances and one by the Orthodox students. "We completely forgot the barriers that usually divide us in our daily lives. We were just one big, beautiful family," an Orthodox girl told us. One of the physically disabled youth (who are often excluded because they "look" different) said, "It was wonderful to be able to participate in this! We felt real friendship here." A teacher at the Jewish school commented: "We often realize that many youth don't know anything about other cultures and so they can't understand how we Jews live and what we do. Thank you for putting us together with people of other cultures. We really felt united."



**Trelew**



**Karachi**



**Mumbai-India**



## IRELAND : HISTORY IN THE MAKING!

We met at a very symbolic spot for our country – the Stormont Estate in Belfast where all the government buildings are located. It's also where the peace accord was signed between the two warring factions in Northern Ireland, Catholics and Protestants. 400 youth of various Christian churches and also Muslims and Sikhs participated, representing schools, groups and associations from both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Five members of Parliament also came, both Protestant and Catholic, from three of the major parties, as well as the representative for Northern Ireland at the Parliament of the United Kingdom

in London. Both the Catholic Bishop and the Anglican Dean of the Cathedral attended, as well as the leader of the Sikh community.

The captain of the run around the Stormont Estate was Gladys Ganiel, Irish champion of the Cross Country marathon. A member of Parliament from the Presbyterian Church said, "It we start at a young age, like yours, to collaborate with one another, we can generate changes that will influence the lives of very many people!" And a Catholic member of Parliament told us, "I have been to many marathons, but nothing as beautiful as this! We are running on a track that's making history because it leads to a better world!"



Belfast



Florence



Lahore-Pakistan



Ibarra - Ecuador



Ciudad del Messico



Assuncion-Paraguay



Unidad

# Mariapolis Luminosa - USA

## SUMMER CAMP GEN SCHOOL

Camp = we had lots of fun!  
School = we learned a lot about life!

### Gen3 Boys

37 of us came from New York, California, Georgia, Canada, Illinois, Ohio and Texas ranging in age from 9-16. **Ago (Agostino Spolti) even came from the World Gen Center in Rome!**

We really enjoyed a whole week together with sports, discussions, trips and games, and **we built it all in unity**, game by game, activity by activity, prayer by prayer. The Run4unity math symbols were the key points, focusing on a lifestyle of giving, being open to others, being peacemakers, having love for our family. Each point gave us the chance to share ideas, ask questions and learn how to live it. One guy said: "I learned that no matter what, you have to love and respect your family." And another: "I learned you shouldn't judge people by their appearance. You have to get to know them."

One important session was with Fr. Quinn, who lives at Mariapolis Luminosa. The first question for him was, "What do we do when we don't want to confess our sins to someone?" This opened the door for **plenty of helpful tips and suggestions about the sacrament of confession.**

Another great moment was with **the Gen 2** boys who are living at the Gen School there. They shared the impact the Ideal has made on their lives, many of whom had also been Gen 3.

We also traveled down to New York City to see the sites, and especially to visit the mosque where in 1997 Chiara made **the pact of mutual love** with the leader of the African American Muslims,



Imam W.D. Mohammed, a pact that is still lived today by their followers. The leader of that mosque, Imam Pasha, answered our questions about Islam.

Throughout the week **we shared many experiences** – how we try to love at school, helping kids who are made fun of, encouraging classmates, reaching out to autistic children, making friends with others, and so on.

The week concluded with **each Gen making the pact of unity and then signing it.** We took back to our cities the unity we had built and the desire to love everyone we meet.

When we were asked for impressions at the end, one Gen summed it up, **"There are no words to describe it!!"**



# Gen 3 Girls

Mariapolis Luminosa  
August 4, 2012

Dear Emmas,

The Gen from Canada, the United States and the Dominican Republic thank you for your prayers for our Gen School! We had a beautiful time bonding with each other. Every day we listened to talks on the ideal and guest speakers on specific topics, played games and prayed together. Most of all, we shared our precious experiences which have helped us grow. Language barriers and different backgrounds did not hold us back. We laughed together, cried together and grew more united than ever. We all learned to walk along our rays better.

We gained a lot of graces throughout these days which we will bring back home to share with our fellow Gen and our communities, no matter how far away.

We're praying for you always.  
All our unity,

The Gen 3 girls from North America.



The Gen 3 School of 2012... Every time that I think back to that week of this summer, I catch myself with a big ole smile on my face thinking of the memories. Being there with Gen from North America gave me warm, loving vibes that I don't get with my friends at home. In fact, before the Gen School, I had an empty feeling inside... as if I was lacking something. I was feeling quite lonely. Even in a room full of people, I still felt lonely. Whenever I was alone, silence never seemed so loud. It felt like the little person inside of me was screaming something to me, but I was never able to decipher the message. During that week at the School, I discovered what this little person was trying to say... I found how to fill this emptiness inside. God was calling me to be closer to Him. One of the gen leaders told me in our private conversation, "...You have everything to make you happy, yet everything isn't enough. Your life is like a glass of water that you filled to the brim with all the things you're doing. God was calling out to you and the only way He could fit into your life was to empty the cup for you. Now everything will fall back into place. If your relationship with God isn't right, then everything will fall apart. Renew the Pact with Him and watch everything come back together again." Even if these weren't her exact words, those are the thought that spoke to me the most.

It's just so amazing how those seven days out of all the days in the year can make you look at life from such a different perspective. So as I said at the beginning, I get a big smile on my face when I think of it!

Christine Bacuyag, 15 yrs

What is one thing "new" in your soul that you feel wasn't there when you first arrived? How will you try to apply it in your daily life?

The love for **JESUS FORSAKEN**, in every pain, in every suffering, in every hard moment of my life. I will love, love & love Jesus forsaken and offer it to him for all the holy souls in purgatory, for all the souls in the world lost in a dark cellar so that they can truly find the true light of Jesus.

I feel stronger and greater love. I will try my best to try to love everyone, which I definitely did in Luminosa, so I'll try to think of my fellow **Gen's** experiences and live the **Word of Life** and really live with Jesus in the midst. I will have to try, though, since living daily life as a **Gen** is a hard one.

I feel like a newer way of looking at life is upon me, that I can only trust **God**, and if I feel alone I know that **God** is there with me. I'm going to apply this in my daily life is by always trusting **God** for whatever I need.

"Loving others the way we would want them to love us." I'm going to leave Luminosa a whole new better person. If I had never joined **Gen** I would still be my shy, quiet, socially awkward self. But now I'm "loud" (in a good way), happy most of the time, not socially awkward. And last but not least, loving.

Before coming to the gen camp I was really trying to look for Jesus because I really couldn't find or feel him. When I saw and heard everybody's experiences, I could really relate. Also we had some emotional moments because of the death of one **Gen 2** from Santo Domingo, but seeing everybody comforting one another it was so amazing! That's when I really felt Jesus and got the message. I'm going to try to apply it to daily life by comforting everybody in need of it just like all of the gen here do.



I feel like I'm closer to **God** and that now I can love more easily than before and I also feel like **God** is always there behind me to catch me and help me up whenever I fall down.

I feel strength inside that enables me to do anything if **God** is working through me, and I will use that strength to breathe life into our sad world and create a new atmosphere wherever I go.

Right now it feels like I have a fire inside my heart but I know that if I stop loving it will burn out, and like a fire you need to keep adding wood, so I need to add love to keep it burning.

**If you had the opportunity to talk to Chiara after this Gen School, what would you tell her?**

If I met **Chiara** I would tell her that the experience I had at the camp was just amazing and that I am so happy and grateful that Jesus chose **ME** to be a **Gen 3** and it was a beautiful and wonderful experience.

I would tell her that I have always wanted to light up the fire in my heart. This lit it for me.

I would tell her that she is a saint and is the start of something wonderful that will continue to help the world forever. I have learned so much from her no matter how indirect it is. She is an amazing human being and has a way of loving that I will always aspire to achieve.

That I'm a new person and I try to love more.

I would tell her that I feel as if I could take on the whole world and its troubles alongside the other **Gen**, and that I feel I can do anything because **God**, **Mary**, **Chiara Luce** and all of heaven will be working through me and beside me.

