

03042014

# teens

WORK IN PROGRESS 4 UNITY



## Dear teacher..

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS  
IN DIALOGUE

**HISTORY CLASS**

Blessed Chiara Luce  
Badano, an  
inspiration

NowTeens

The power of a  
book

FilmTeens

**The Lego Movie**

# Present and future



teens  
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 03042014

To keep our eyes open to the world around us, to tell the story from our point of view, without fear. To make people understand our goals and what we think.

## This is what we want to do!

In these months of work, we kept in touch from North to South, building a network that we would like to increase through this magazine and our blog.

Our editorial team is spread across the world: some constitute the central one, and yet many others collaborate on topics that relate to family, school, cinema, books, news, sports, music and social life. In this

project, we have the help of some adults, reporters from *Città Nuova Magazine* and experts in many fields.

The cooperation with them is valuable. **They give us advice, and very often they receive advice from us!** The complete trust that we feel they have in us, is enough to encourage us to take responsibility and help us understand that the world now, is in fact in our hands.

But we know that also for them to work with us is truly inspiring!

In short, we can define this as a permanent laboratory in which the raw materials are creativity, dialogue between generations, desire to work together, and getting our hands dirty to build a better present and design a different future!

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# It's Love that **matters**

*In the words of Chiara Lubich:*

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*“It's love that matters. And above all, mutual love matters. It's the love that Jesus taught us: 'Love one another.'”*

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We need to arrive at the point of being ready to die for one another. **Naturally, we won't always be asked to give our lives.** (...) Yet even now, we need to die a little: by sharing, for example, in another person's sufferings, joys, worries or difficulties ... I would wish today (...) that you **make among you a pact of unity, a pact of mutual love,** so that it will truly make you strong. And it will allow you to leave here (...) convinced of the presence of Christ among you. If you do this in your heart, He will be in your midst now and you will bring Him (...) **wherever you go.**”

Chiara Lubich at the Gen 3 Supercongress 1997, question 14. ■



# THIS teachers

## IS HOW I WANT MY

by Beatrice Cerrino and some Roman high school students

WITH THIS ISSUE WE BEGIN A SECTION DEDICATED TO **OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TEACHER.** WE BEGIN BY LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE. IN FUTURE ISSUES WE WILL INVOLVE ADULTS, EDUCATORS AND TEACHERS AS WELL

**O**n the outskirts of Rome is a high school like many other schools we attend. One morning in a half empty classroom a teacher suggests that we work together to come up with the profile of the ideal professor. Francesca gets things started: ***This is what we think about every morning at the sound of the alarm clock!*** *"The teachers are bloodsuckers who return home and get back into their coffins to await their next victim, though the teachers, unlike vampires, are active in the daytime"* (A. D'Avenia, *"White as milk, red as blood"*, Mondadori, 2010, p. 10). ***"It feels like high school teachers do not remember that adolescence is a complex period, while at the same time it is the most beautiful time in our life and each day has to be lived as if it were our last. Sometimes even we, whose lives are involved, do not remember that."*** *"I wish the teachers would*

*bring us up- to-date on daily life and not just stay with topics from the past,"*

suggests someone else, referring to the lessons - *"which should be light, with*

*teachers stopping more often to explain things and they should listen when we ask them questions."* Another

student suggests that *"teachers should organize lessons that are interesting and engaging,"* but also try to *"make them simple enough for everyone."*

*"We would like professors who have thousands of ideas in their heads, ideas like excursions to interesting places or interesting activities in class"*

*"The ideal teacher -Alexandra and Valentina conclude - is one who knows how to explain things well and who comes to school with lots of joy because he or she likes his/her work."*

**What are your thoughts about this?**  
the dialogue continues on our **Blog!**





Foto: AP

## WHAT IF THE TEACHER TURNS OUT TO BE A BAD ROLE MODEL? TWO READERS SHARE WITH US SOME REFLECTIONS ON A PROFESSOR ACCUSED OF HAVING SEXUAL RELATIONS WITH TWO MINOR STUDENTS

**S**aluzzo, summer of 2013. Those few references are enough to tell us by now about a scandal that shocked our city, our school and, in some way, even our lives. The media assault right out on the streets and the reporters and citizens starved for every morbid detail, the trashy articles and relentless superficial comments were only salt in the wound, which is very deep and has origins elsewhere. On the one hand, the news that the monster we just finished looking at was the person for whom we had years and years of limitless admiration was more depressing than we had ever imagined. On the other hand, to realize that the girls were our classmates and close friends ... was a shock. We feel like we were betrayed twice, first in trust, and then in gullibility. An educator who had earned our trust and esteem, and was instead incapable of managing his own life. We were naïve, not realizing that what we saw was only a mask. It is not only that we were

teens

## AUTHORITY OR AUTHORITATIVENESS?

Yes, authoritativeness is what we often look for in our teachers and educators. This concept is very different from authority. But do we understand what it means?

**Authority** comes with the role that one plays and from the powers attributed to that role. Authority expects to be obeyed not because what it requests is just or right, but because the order comes from a person hierarchically superior.

**Authoritativeness** regards the person. One is not authoritative because he knows more than everyone else, but because he knows his own limits and how to listen to the opinions of others. One is authoritative not through the office he fills, but because people recognize his qualifications, esteem, competence, endowments of integrity and the consistency between what he says and what he does.

disappointed that "he was not what we expected." It is also the agonizing feeling that we were living in a world of deception. And what about us? We have always tried to live "our best," especially in following the norms our parents, teachers and educators taught us. Was everything really simpler? Do we really just do what "turns us on" and then hide it? Honestly, this suggestion – whether strong or trite – puts us in crisis, because the idea of living such a lifestyle in such a world nearly makes us nauseous. Is this what it means to grow up? To discover that everything is relative? We really hope not. We are not happy about this. It is true that it is harder to live by the rules. However, by doing so, it gives the feeling, like in a game, that everything has meaning and in the end, we can even be the winners.

FROM **MARTA, A GEN**  
**FROM ITALY,** LIVING  
 IN THE U.S. AS AN  
 EXCHANGE STUDENT

# HISTORY CLASS

***D**uring history class we had to write a journal entry on “a person who is an example for you, an inspiration.” I thought, “what a great occasion to talk about Chiara Luce Badano, who had totally changed my life with her smile and strength!”*

With extreme joy, I started to write about her. It was the first time that I had no problem finding the right words and facts to talk about! Then our teacher asked us, “who wants to read?”

T h e

eternal question! I hadn't read out loud yet in that class because my English is not very good, and my Italian accent sounds funny. But I said to myself, “Marta, this is not just homework or an essay, is an experience that is worthy to be read to everyone.” That gave me the energy to raise my hand. The

## AN EXPERIENCE WORTHY TO READ TO EVERYONE

teacher was extremely surprised, but she let me read. After I finished, she was so moved by Chiara Luce's beautiful life that she asked me to repeat her name so that everybody could “Google” it. Wow! The next day, I went to Mariapolis Luminosa for a Gen meeting to start off the year. Everything was new, but soon



Blessed Chiara Luce Badano



Chiara Luce Musical presented at World Youth Day 2013

I felt as if I had known the other Gen forever! We had such a great time sharing our experiences, reflecting on the topic of this Ideal year – reciprocal love – but also eating, playing and laughing. I'd brought a script of the musical about Chiara Luce that the Teens for Unity of my province in Italy are performing all around the region– it's such a beautiful musical! I wanted to show it to the other Gen. And our Gen assistant brought an edition of Living City magazine for me. I was

happily surprised when I saw that a very large part of it was dedicated to Chiara Luce herself! It seemed like more than a coincidence after my experience at school the day before. Going back home on the train, I decided to bring that copy of Living City to my history teacher, and when I



did, she said she would give it to a colleague. Chiara Luce had started a new fire!

**Marta Ricciardiello,**  
New York/Italy. ■



During the Beatification Celebration, September 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ON **BLESSED CHIARA  
LUCE BADANO**, VISIT  
[www.chiaraluce.org](http://www.chiaraluce.org)

..at **School**

One day at school a friend of mine invited me to spend the afternoon at his place. At the beginning I did not feel like going with him as the plan seemed boring. Anyhow I thought of doing an act of kindness and told him that I would go with him. We spent the afternoon playing some videogames (FIFA) and playing in the backyard. I enjoyed it and my friend was happy that I spent some time with him.

**Nicky Piazza (12),  
Santa Ana, CA**

## Reaching Out...

At school my music teacher had scheduled an audition for me and my friend for a violin solo. A couple of days before the audition she decided to pick another boy and she cancelled the audition without giving us an explanation. When we learned about her decision my friend got upset and started criticizing the teacher. I realized criticizing the teacher was no good for me or my friend as I knew Jesus is present in the teacher even if she did not treat us very well. In order to bring a little bit of peace to my friend I decided to

change the topic of the discussion between us, and I asked him about what we could do during recess. Once we started talking about recess, he became more calm and, then we played together.

**Vittorio Pastore (11),  
California**



# nowteens

TOWARDS A UNITED WORLD THROUGH  
WORDS, PICTURES, EVENTS AND WITNESS

«Many people see things as they are and wonder why? I see things as they might be and wonder why not?».

Robert Kennedy

«All the revolutions in the world, for good or evil, begin in the schools, especially the universities, because young people have ideas. Revolution changes things and young people are made for change».

Chiara Lubich

## THE POWER OF A BOOK

THE CASE OF **MALALA**, THE PAKISTANI GIRL WHO WAS WOUNDED BY THE TALIBAN AND HER FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION

«The terrorists are afraid of education, [...] because women would become more powerful if they were allowed to go to school», says Malala Youssafzai, a 16-year-old from the Swat region, an area in Pakistan dominated by the Taliban. She grew up in a family which like many others believes in freedom for women, and so she promotes the struggle for their rights, beginning with the right to an education. On October 9, 2012 she received a head wound from a group of Taliban who disagreed with her. She received treatment in Great Britain and on July 12, 2013, her 16th birthday, she told her story to the international youth delegates at the United Nations and to the secretary general, Ban Kimoon. The attack, described in her book "I am Malala" (Garzanti) has increased her determination to get freedom of education for women. Even though she is still physically scarred, Malala continues to spread her revolution in a nonviolent way: «If you do physical injury to a Taliban, then you are no different from him; knowledge is the best weapon»

Cecilia Pietropaolo



by *Andrea Bottacci*  
and *Andrea Cardinali*

# Touch

THIS IS NOT ABOUT A NEW TELEVISION SERIES, OR ABOUT THE LATEST TECHNOLOGICAL INVENTION BY APPLE, BUT ABOUT TOUCH FOOTBALL, THE SPORT OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM



It all began in Australia in 1923 as a noncompetitive sport to be played in the city parks and then as a training method for honing the technical abilities of rugby players. **After 1968 it separated from rugby, and has its own rules, which makes it a sport in every respect.** Today, it is spreading rapidly, even though it is most popular in the countries of the southwest Pacific, it is growing throughout the whole world with real competitions. In New Zealand it is the number one sport in terms of the number of participants. Its popularity

derives from the fact that it can be played without protective gear, because even though it has retained many similarities with rugby, it is not as intensely physical. **A match consists of two 20-minute periods with a five-minute break in between. The team has six attempts to try for a goal.** The oval ball can only be passed to the rear. The opposing team tries to touch the ball carrier's shoulders with two hands, which halts the play, or tries to intercept the ball as it is passed and then head for the opposite goal line. The touch teams, consisting of 14 players, six of them in the field, can be mixed and

that, over the years, has helped to find the right size for this sport, which is based on fairness, participation, entertainment and social interaction. If you are walking through a park in some Australian or New Zealand city, do not be surprised to see a businessman playing touch with a worker, or a father of a family playing touch with his wife and children. In some countries, it is part of their culture.





BY MAGDA & ANNE ROGG  
... with Clarissa Rogg

**S**ometimes young people think they can't make a difference in the world. They aren't expert at anything yet, and so feel they should leave the big jobs to the grown ups, who know what they are doing. Kids can instead get caught up in the here and now, ignoring the bigger issues in life or the needs of others. With this vision, no one has to get upset about anything, but neither does anyone really care about anything outside their own daily life and enjoyment. It is enough to have all the latest fads, go to the coolest restaurants, watch mindless entertainment and be in the in-group, all without ever

making a difference, without really knowing anyone or even without knowing oneself or God.

It is funny how **a movie about a super popular children's toy can shake all these mindsets and help remind us of the bigger picture, of living for something more.**

Living for a United World means going against the current at times, but doing it in a unique way - a way that attracts others, that values others. The Lego Movie brings all these ideas out in a funny, creative, yet touching way. In the film, our not so able, run of the mill lego guy is catapulted out of his me only world, unwittingly launched on a hero's journey, filled with so many turns and choices. Will Emmett face

these challenges without opting to fall into those usual super hero ways of, I'll do it myself solutions, so doomed to fail? In this beautifully animated, gut busting, heart wrenching film, we all might find something of ourselves in Emmett, his friends and even his foes along the way. Not only does Emmett face choices between singlehandedly building the better world or together, with friends and unexpected 'outside' help, face challenges with unknown outcomes yet in ways that respect the value and ideas of each person. It is also a movie with a villain we all might face one day or even be one day to others. There is fantasy and reality in understandable balance, bringing a fresh look on resisting the status quo and living for something more. ■




# From words to action

FROM CEBU, THE AREA MOST AFFECTED BY **TYPHOON HAIYAN** LAST NOVEMBER, THE TEENS4UNITY WRITE

**Y**ou cannot even imagine what the passage of the Typhoon Haiyan has brought to our islands. Perhaps, you have seen some images on TV. It has devastated the land and the lives of many ... and with that, many of the plans made among friends. In fact, precisely that weekend we had scheduled a meeting to talk about the Golden Rule<sup>1</sup>. Then came the typhoon, which turned everything upside down, but it did not stop us from living the Golden Rule **from words to action**. We had to prepare the packs with first aid. We gathered at Bukas Palad,

one of the centers that opened for all the displaced. A guitar, an amplifier, some puppets and a little shyness was what we first had when we decided to go and meet people there. We played with the kids, listened to the stories of the survivors ... Nidj , a boy of Tacloban, the city hardest hit, suggested a moment of prayer. It was nice to see that as we sang, timid smiles began to appear on people's faces. As we were getting ready to leave, we set the next appointment for the next day at the airport of Lapu Lapu where they were seeking volunteers. There, however, the

work was too strenuous. Only the strongest were able to carry the sacks of rice. Everyone else headed to the gym where a lot of food to be packaged covered the floor. In the evening, we were so tired, but we felt expressed in what Maryjoy wrote: "We are delighted to be able to assist those in need. Let us know when we can come again, we want to be here." 

**1 - GOLDEN RULE**  
 «Do unto others as you would have them do to you», that's the Golden Rule. Shared by people of all religions but also by those who do not share a particular faith, it is present in all sacred texts.

