

(text of video 2540M)

CHIARA SPEAKS TO US¹
Loving is important and ... makes us happy!

“I want to be happy!”

*Ciao Chiara, I love you! My name is Armando and I’m a Gen 4 from Naples.
What can we Gen 4 do in the world?²*

Chiara: Armando asks me, “What can we Gen 4 do in the world?” Do you know what you Gen 4 can do? I am older than you, Gen, much older than you, I know, and I have experienced many things. And so I know that the world needs happiness - people search for it here and there and everywhere, they look for happiness by watching television or movies or going to dances... they look for happiness in all the things of this world, even in drugs, yes, even by taking drugs.

You look for happiness too, because you are like everyone else and everyone wants to be happy. And so we have to give true happiness to the world.

Many little things can make us happy. For example, when someone gives you a toy, you’re happy. When someone gives you some candy, you’re happy, but it is a short-lived happiness. It doesn’t last very long.

Do you know what true happiness is? It’s the happiness that a person has when they love and love and love. Try it! When you love, you’re happy. When you love, you’re happy and if you love all the time, you will always be happy.

What can you Gen 4 do in the world? You can give happiness to people – you can teach them how to love. Who can you teach? Your little sisters and brothers, your Mom and your Dad, your friends, all the other children you know. [...]

¹ Selection of Chiara Lubich’s answers to questions of Gen 4, edited by Gen 4 Centers – 2021 edition.

² Castel Gandolfo, June 18, 1988 – To the Gen 4 Congress, question n.4.

*Sometimes I want to have many beautiful things, like pencils and erasers, only because they come in beautiful colors. How can I stop wanting these things?*³

Chiara: Now I'll answer you. (...)

You love colorful things, like different colored pencils and colored erasers. And you're worried because you say: "If I love colored pencils, colored paper and colored erasers, maybe I'm not living the Ideal." This is what you think.

I don't think you should worry about this, because I also like colored erasers very much and colored pencils. I like colorful clips too, you know, those little things that are like this.... I always want colorful clips because I like them very much.

But you are right in saying: "If these colorful things keep me from loving, then I have to throw them away."

For example, your friend at school might tell you: "Give me that colored eraser." Then you have to give it to her, even though you like it, because you always have to love. Do you understand?

So don't worry about these things. Remember that Chiara likes colorful things too! But if they keep you from loving, then no, then no. You have to let go of them and love your friend. (Applause)

*Chiara, you teach us to always give, never keeping things for ourselves. But I don't have many things to give. What can I do? This question is from Gaudia Kim from Korea.*⁴

Doni: It's not true that you don't have many things to give, that you don't have anything to give! You have many, many things to give!

For example, look at all these posters on the walls here. See how many things you have to give? For example, you can lend a pencil - you can do that! You can help your mother in the kitchen - can you do that! You can teach a game to someone who doesn't know it – that's something you can do! You can listen to someone who needs someone to listen to them – like a friend who is sad, who needs you to listen to them or wants to talk to you. Even if you have something else to do, stop and listen to them! Give a kind answer: if they ask you for something, answer with love, nicely. Share your snack to someone who doesn't have any - you can do that! Say "good morning" with love - you can do that! When you get up, instead of being a little grumpy, give a big smile and say "Good morning!" to your little brother, to your mother - you can do that! Forgive those who hurt you.

³ Mexico City, June 8, 1997 – Meeting with the Focolare community of Mexico, question n.2.

⁴ Castel Gandolfo, June 26, 2004 - Doni to the Gen 4 Congress, reads Chiara's answers, question n.18.

So do you see how many things you too have to give? You can give a smile, can't you? You can give a helping hand to the poor - you do that all the time! You can stay with those who are lonely, or sick - if your sister is sick and is bored staying in bed, you can be there and read her a story: you can do that! You can give a hand to someone who's working - you can help them. You can give a gift when it's your mother's birthday or a friend has a birthday - you can do that! You can comfort someone who's crying! You can give joy to those who are sad, can't you? You can give good news, too - you come home from school with a good grade, you can say: "Mom, I got a good grade!" This is good news that you can share at home! So you see how many things you can give, so many! So, it's not true that you have nothing, you have many, many, many things to give!

"Loving is the most important thing in life"

*Is loving Jesus the most important thing in life?*⁵

Chiara: [...] he asks me if loving Jesus is the most important thing in life. It *is* the most important thing because when we get to heaven, to heavenly Mariapolis, Jesus won't ask us, "Did you go hiking, did you play games, did you do this or that, did you eat?" No, not at all. He is going to tell you - and this might surprise you a little – "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." And the Gen 4 will say, "But Jesus, I never even saw you. When did I give you something to eat?" And he will reply, "Every time you gave your little brother something to eat, you did it to me, because I was hiding there in your little brother - so you did it to me!"

Then he will say, "I didn't have any clothes, and you, Gen 4, gave me something to wear." But the Gen 4 won't understand. He'll ask Jesus, "But when did I give you something to wear? I never met you!" "It was that time when you gave some clothes to your little friend who was poor. You actually gave them to me, you gave them to me, so come now into heaven."

This is the only thing Jesus will ask us. He will ask if we loved him in other people, if we visited people who are in prison or people who are sick, like visiting the Gen 4 when they are sick and also grownups who are sick. He will ask us if we did these things. So loving Jesus *is* the most important thing because it is the only thing that he will ask us at the end of our lives.

⁵ Castel Gandolfo, June 18, 1988 – To the Gen 4 Congress, question n. 11.

In this picture, we see a little boy helping his mother wash the dishes. Jesus will tell him, "You washed the dishes for me!" And the Gen 4 will say, "But when did I wash them? I never saw you!" He will say: "That time that you did it for your Mom, you did it for me."

Then there is a slide with a Gen 4 giving some ice cream to another Gen 4, maybe smaller than she is, and below there is a Gen 4, maybe from Africa, who is giving a ball to another little boy who lost his. Then there is another Gen 4 bringing his grandfather's glasses to him.

So seeing all these acts of love for other people, Jesus will say, "You did it to me. You did it to me." [...]

*Chiara, what can I do, because I have a little brother – his name is Daniel – and he always wants something ... to play ...; what can I do?*⁶

Chiara: [...] Well, first of all, I think this Gen 4 is really lucky because if her little brother keeps asking her for things, she always has to give and give and give. And so she can do many acts of love.

But if, for instance, she has to do her homework, she can't do these acts of love, because God wants her to do her homework. So she can tell Daniel, "Danny, be good. Now I have to do my homework. I can't do what you want now, I can't listen to you now. Go and play by yourself. When I finish my homework, I'll come and play with you."

This is what she has to do and her little brother will understand. He will understand because he sees what is important and he also has Jesus in his heart. So he'll understand and let his sister do her homework. Then, of course, when she has finished her homework, she should go and play with him and in this way, she can do many acts of love! (Applause)

Here is a picture of our Gen 4 who is telling Daniel, "Now I have to do my homework, so be good. Go and play by yourself and then I'll come and play with you." [...]

*Chiara, I want to become like Jesus! How can I do this?*⁷

Chiara: She wants to become like Jesus. "How can I do this?" We must do what we have been saying, we must love. But be careful. Let's see if you'll be able to remember what I'm going to tell you now. [...]

⁶ Castel Gandolfo, June 18, 1988 – To the Gen 4 Congress, question n. 15.

⁷ Castel Gandolfo, June 7, 1998 – To the Gen 4 Congress, question n.5.

First: we have to love everyone. For example, when you go home you might say: "I love my mother, I love my little brother, I love my father, but not my aunt." This is not loving. Or you might be at school and say: "I love my teacher, I love my friend, that other friend... but I don't like that other girl." This is not love, it's not true love, you can't become Jesus if you do this. We must love everyone, make ourselves love everyone. This is what we did when we were small, when we were just beginning to live the Ideal. We have to love everyone.

Second: [...]we must be the first to love, that means, not second, but first. We are the ones who have to begin loving. When we go home we might find our sister with a long, sad face because she's bored, fed up, not interested in anything - she doesn't want to play, she doesn't want to study.... Don't wait, don't wait for her to start loving you. You have to begin, you have to love first, and say: "Don't you feel well? How is everything going? Do you have a problem? Do you want to tell me about it? Do you want to go outside? Do you want to play a game?" You have to be the first to love.

So the first point is to love everyone.

Second point: be the first to love.

Third point: we have to see Jesus in everyone, everyone, everyone, everyone, even in someone who is ugly, even in that person who wears torn and raggedy clothes, [...],even in that Italian I don't like, even in that English boy I can't stand.... We must see Jesus in everyone, because Jesus is there in everyone. He said: "Whatever you do to others, you do to me." So Jesus is there in every person.

Now we have three points: love everyone - you have these points on your cube - love everyone; be the first to love; see Jesus, because if we see Jesus, we have to love. You certainly can't hate Jesus, you can't treat Jesus badly, you can't say bad words to Jesus; you have to love him because it's Jesus.

The fourth point, which is also on your cube, is to love others as we love ourselves, as if it were me, as if it were me. I wouldn't be happy if someone threw stones at me. So I can't be happy if someone throws stones at anyone else; I have to love that person as I love myself.

So do what is written on the cube and you'll learn how to love. This is the answer to the question of the Gen 4: "How can I become like Jesus?" By living what is written on the cube; the cube also says that we have to love one another.

That cube is important, remember it. Remember that Chiara, that's me, that I live what is written on that cube. I might not have the cube in my hands, even though I really like it very much, very much. I know that it says: love one another, make yourself one, love Jesus in the other person, love everyone, even an enemy, be the first to love. All this is on the cube - hold on to it; don't let anyone ruin it.

So to be another Jesus we have to live what is written on the cube. [...]