

Impulse 08 – Violet: Love unites.

Never before have there been **as many possibilities to communicate as today** – and never has **communication been as difficult as today**. Never before have so many messages circulated across the world via Twitter, SMS and Facebook, via email and WhatsApp, via phone calls and blogs – and never before have as many relationships failed as today. Never before has the world been as networked as today and it has been a long time since there were as many wars as today.

But despite all these gloomy and appalling facts and the often unimaginable suffering resulting from disasters and wars, the idea of the **One World** has become manifest. We know more about each other than ever before – all around the globe, and we are aware more than ever before that we belong together as humankind and that we are ultimately entrusted to each other. We are all “one body.”

It takes the power of love to fill this “body of humankind” with life. For love alone leads people to unity, makes them one with each other and creates family. Love cannot tolerate us living isolated from each other, when people are strangers to each other, show indifference and do not care about each other. Love rather always discovers a sister or a brother in another person, created by the same God and Father. Love reminds us of the words of Jesus when he said, “May they all be one.” (John 17:21) and it acknowledges unity as the ultimate destiny of humankind: “So we, being many, are one body in Christ” (Romans 12:5). Therefore, Christians, inspired by the power of Christian love, will make an effort, wherever they are, to bring about community among people, a feeling of familiarity – whether in the houses where they live, within their families or in their professional lives ... This is the essence of the seventh aspect, violet. **It is always about the effort to live not only for ourselves, but for others, and it is about the commitment to share what we ourselves have received.** Genuine love feels an urge to communicate and share what it has been given, what it has discovered and experienced.

This aspect of love, which unites, unfolds both inwardly and outwardly. Referring to her Focolare community, Chiara Lubich wrote the following in 1971: “The brotherly and sisterly love is a strong reality. It is the source – after my personal union with Jesus – from which I take the strength to take up my cross every day. Each of us cares for every single one in the way she needs it right now. That may be anything from spontaneous sharing of spiritual insights to giving practical advice on questions of health, clothing, housing and food, and countless daily instances of giving help and doing minor services that may actually cost something. You can be sure that you are never judged, but always loved, excused, supported. **Life circulates among us the way it does in a family, but a family of heaven.**”

jesus beim
WORT
genommen



It's by communication, that people feel involved, connected and „online“. Below: During a live-stream in Kamen, connected to Europe...



Life in colours

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We also read, **“Things that concern one person should be communicated to the others** to make the brotherly and sisterly community grow. Therefore, let us always seek to help mutual love grow, be it in our verbal or written dialogues. There should be nothing that isn’t shared; however, this should of course be done properly.” Then we will stay as “alive as a body, in which blood circulates all the time.” It goes without saying that such testimony of life does not shut itself off but rather also “radiates out,” because “a unity that is not aimed at **universal brotherhood and sisterhood** is not worthy of the name. Our convent is the world. We should come together, certainly – church means assembly, after all – but to unite everyone!”

In order to reach out to the world and proclaim the Gospel from the rooftops, we need small cells that “burn” from within because life circulates among us. This “circle of life” is spelled out in sincere faith every day. Often it will be (seemingly) minor stories we share with others – stories that result from living the life of the Gospel and contain its incomparable message – that first set us on fire again and then gradually go out into the world. **Every single experience of mine has a social dimension.** If I share it, it will help the family of humankind make progress, if I keep it to myself, I will deprive humankind of a heartbeat God intended to give it through me.

Dear young friends, we are called upon to be **masters of communication** in order to put the things we experience to the benefit of many. It takes courage and determination to share information, news and experiences. This way, we establish connections both in a small and a large scale. More than ever before, we are called upon to use modern means of communication wisely to reach out to humankind with the message of love. Radio, television and the Internet, magazines, social networks, YouTube and live streams – all these communication channels hold the opportunity to become media for the leavening and the light of the Gospel. This requires skill, courage and a burning heart, because we have been entrusted

with no less than humankind in its entirety, which God wants to remodel into His family. **“God must come back in fashion!”** The modern means of communication are thus needed for the word of Jesus to become fulfilled: “Let your light shine before people in such a way that they will see your good actions and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

Heinrich Oest and Meinolf Wacker

Biblical sources

Romans 12:5 John 17:10
John 17:10 Matthew 5:16

Impulses

- Share an experience you made practicing the Gospel via letter / telephone / Facebook / Twitter / YouTube...!
- Ask yourself every night: Have I “spoken” today – have I shared an experience that God has helped me make?
- Can you feel the same joy about things experienced by others as by yourself?
- Be cool, write a personal letter!
- Show courage on the phone! Don’t settle with small talk but share a personal thought!
- If you are familiar with small YouTube clips - have you ever considered sharing small personal stories about practicing the Gospel on a YouTube channel?



Vivid contacts: The band „Psalite“ from Szeklerland, Transylvania, Romania.

Fotos: H. Oest