

## MESSAGE FOR THE “UNITED WORLD WEEK”

Dear Young People,

You are linked up with many parts of the globe to celebrate your “united world week”, whose development I have followed in its various, significant moments, aimed at promoting unity at every level.

You are very different from one another: you belong to different races, nations, cultures and religions, but you have one intention in common: you aspire to the true values of life, those which express brotherhood, justice, peace, unity.

You propose to imbue with these values your own life and that of the society around you in order to build, on the threshold of the third millennium, a “more united world”.

Therefore, you are pursuing a great goal, you are striving towards a great ideal. Don't you think it would be helpful to have a model in view on which you can pattern your lives and inspire all your actions, so that the bold enterprise you have proposed does not vanish like a utopia, but may truly be successful?

But is there a model, you might wonder, that can measure up and inspire us in this very high aim of ours?

Is there? Oh, yes, my dear young people, there is a model! And it is a perfect one; indeed, one that surpasses all expectations: it is that Man, whose name is Jesus, and those who have faith know that He is also God.

He, sign of contradiction, brought into the world infected with egoism, hatred, racism, hedonism, and division: solidarity, true justice, true freedom, peace, love, and unity.

And in order to assert these values, He not only lived, preached and suffered, but He sacrificed His life, He died on a cross!

For this reason, dear young people, Jesus has become a sign of liberation, salvation, and redemption for all humanity, and His revolution of love is still in act for those who want to follow Him, for those who want to listen to His words and fulfill them without half measures or compromises. In short, for those who embrace His evangelical message and, like Him, are ready to “die for their own people”.

And I am certain that you are among these, you of the: “Youth for a United World”.

Let's go ahead then!

Jesus is not a reality of the past, He is not far away; on the contrary, if you are united in His name, through mutual love, He is present in your midst. It is up to you, then, to listen to His voice, after giving yourselves to Him without reserve, after having offered to Him your youth, your intelligence, your strength. I assure you that there is no greater adventure than that of following Him and of giving our life, as He did, for the achievement of a new world of justice and love, in perfect harmony with ourselves, with creation around us and with our Creator.

Take courage then. May no one surpass you in generosity and determination.

This could be the occasion, par excellence, of your life.

Chiara