

“Go meet the other people

How many times do they knock on our door? It can be the postman, a neighbour, the friend of a son, or a stranger ... What does he or she want? Would it be wise to open, allow a stranger to come in?

Well THIS MONTH'S IDEA has to do with this.

All communities are invited to overcome the fears, divisions, false assurances to **go and meet other people**. In fact, situations with different "dresses" are presented on a daily basis: the daily sufferings, the difficulties that arise from the coherence itself, the challenges due to the important options of life, but above all in the face of the brother and the sister we meet in the path...

And here we find a personal invitation to silence the rumors to recognize and listen to the voice of love, the only one capable of freeing us of our fears and leading us to open the door of the heart.

And this is how Chiara Lubich referred to her experience: *"It is necessary to silence everything in us in order to discover the voice within. And it is necessary to extract that voice like a diamond from the mud: clean it, show it and offer it at the right moment, because it is Love and Love must be given; It is like the fire that burns when in contact with straw or wood, otherwise it goes out. Love has to grow in us and overflow"*.

The poor or the migrants can knock on our door. Delia, an Italian lady who owns a bar, told the following: *"One hot Sunday afternoon, sitting on the sidewalk were some mothers with their hungry kids. I invited them in and I told them that I would give the children something free to eat. They were embarrassed for not having money, but I insisted and they finally accepted. From that moment, my bar began to be the bar of the immigrants, most of whom are Muslims. People started calling me 'Mother Africa'. My previous clientele little by little was lost, so that the room dedicated to the games of the retired was transformed into that of the children, where they can study and play, with the comfort to be able to change the diapers to the creatures, or It's the class for learning Italian. Mine was not a choice, but was born out of the need not to look the other way. Thanks to them I had contact with people and associations that support me, help me to move forward. If I had to start over, I would do it with pleasure. For me the important thing is to give"*.

We are all invited to love and to go to meet the others so that same love will gain space with love.

THE IDEA OF THE MONTH started in Uruguay in the context of the Fourth Dialogue, an instance of understanding between people of diverse religious and non-religious convictions whose motto is "building dialogue". The purpose of this publication is to make a contribution to the ideal of universal fraternity. Currently THE IDEA OF THE MONTH is translated into seven languages and goes around in 17 countries.