

(Text of video 2477Men - duration: 9')

***Love other people's countries as your own*¹**

Caption

30 August 1959 - from a text by Chiara Lubich (Citta' Nuova)

Female voice: At Fiera di Primiero, a small town in the Dolomites, in a fantastic natural setting, twelve thousand people from twenty-seven nations spent time enjoying beautiful days in the clear and sunlit alpine air.

Nine different languages were spoken, but everyone understood [and the words of St. Augustine came true²]:

From one language came many.

Don't be surprised:

Pride did this!

Many languages will become one.

Don't be surprised:

Love will do this."

Caption

From the newsreel of the Mariapolis in 1959

Speaker Graziella De Luca: The magnificent mountain peaks gather round the valley, almost forming a massive ancient cathedral. Nestled within it is a new city, one not yet identifiable on the maps used by the U.N., but a city that has been a hive of activity every day between July and September for ten years now, and is called Mariapolis.

Palmira Frizzera: In 1959, 12,000 people spent time in Fiera. Even then, there were so many different languages and peoples. A number came from Brazil and Argentina; from China too, there was Bishop Yu Pin, and people from all over Europe and other parts of Asia.

Diego Goller: It was shortly after the war, the Second World War. It was amazing to see people from all over the world and know that we were one family, from Italy and many other countries, and that we were truly brothers and sisters.

Giorgio Marchetti - Fede: Chiara immediately wrote a talk on the unity of peoples. She wanted me to learn it by heart and so I went round trying to memorise her talk: "If one day all peoples, or at least some of them, consecrated themselves to Mary". So Chiara thought of consecrating all peoples to Mary; one from each nation would read an act of consecration of their own people to Mary. I represented Italy and read the act of consecration of the Italian people.

Voice of Giorgio Marchetti from the newsreel: "We here present, who speak Italian, wishing to represent all those who have made the Testament of Your Divine Son the ideal of their

¹ A brief video illustrating the consecration of peoples to Mary which took place on 22nd August 1959 during the Mariapolis – produced for the European mariapoli 2019 – by MPPU and Centro Igino Giordani

² Added by the speaker to make the quote explicit

life, renew our consecration to Your Immaculate Heart. Gather all our peoples into one and build the People of God with them.”

Gabri Fallacara: The 22nd of August was chosen because it was the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and therefore of the heart that gathers up all hearts. She is so empty, so pure and immaculate that she can welcome everyone, rejecting no-one. We gave ourselves to Mary so that she could extend this family of brothers and sisters all over the world.

Caption

30 August 1959 - from a text by Chiara Lubich (Citta' Nuova)

Female voice [Chiara]: “If one day all people, not as individuals but as peoples; if one day all peoples learned how to set themselves aside, to set aside the idea they have of their homeland and their kingdoms, ... and if they were to do this for the sake of mutual love among states, which God is asking for just as he asks for mutual love among brothers and sisters, that day will be the beginning of a new era. On that day, just as there is the living presence of Jesus between two people who love each other in Christ, so too Jesus will be alive and present among peoples.”

Anna Maria Zanzucchi: We were there too. We had four children, the youngest was only a few months old and Chiara thought of doing this, that we really should give ourselves to Mary and she felt she should consecrate the world to Mary because there were representatives who wanted to do it.

Caption

30 August 1959 - from a text by Chiara Lubich (Citta' Nuova)

Female voice [Chiara]: "These are times in which all peoples must cross their own borders and look beyond. The time has come when other people's countries should be loved as our own.”

Danilo Zanzucchi: At that time, if you spoke about your country, it meant excluding one side or another. There, instead, we talked about loving other people's countries as our own. But this was a complete reversal of the way of thinking that was common at the time.

And yet we all committed ourselves: a German lady, a man from England, someone from Spain, and another person from Holland.

But this was a very unusual and surprising spectacle! But wasn't that what we expected during the war, that it should all end and there finally be an agreement!

Caption

30 August 1959 - from a text by Chiara Lubich (Citta' Nuova)

Female voice [Chiara] "History is made up only of wars, through which everything is lost, whereas through peace everything is gained. [...] We hope the Lord will have pity on this wayward and divided world, on these peoples closed in their own shell, contemplating their own beauty – that is so special for them - yet limited and unsatisfactory. They cling on with clenched teeth to their own treasures, even to those goods that could help other peoples where many are dying of hunger. We hope the Lord will break down the barriers and let charity circulate continuously between one land and another, in a mighty flow of spiritual and material goods.

[...] This hidden and treasured bond in the heart of every nation is Mary.”

Giorgio Marchetti - Fede: Anyway, it was a beautiful moment and among the people there, who had come with Giordani, were Don Foresi's father, Palmiro Foresi, the Honourable Roselli from Brescia, and some other politicians who took part. These politicians said, "We should do something here on the level of international politics."

Danilo Zanzucchi: Why can't there be an agreement of this kind also in the world of politics? Why don't people of such different abilities, cultures, ethnicities and nations come together to realize this dream that is deep within every person?

Reading of the consecration agreement in various languages

Gabri Fallacara: The deeper meaning of this consecration was precisely to ask all the graces needed to create new peoples, so that every people could understand the others, every people could help the others, and not exploit them. If we love a whole people in the particular person we meet, who might be fleeing from war, or a poor refugee, but someone who in their own country had a home, a school and a city, and who has now got nothing; we are almost afraid of them in this state. I believe this act of consecration calls us to leave fear behind and listen to what other people want to tell us. When this consecration is fully lived, in our bodies, in our bones and in our rushing: stop and listen and I think if we did this nowadays, it would be wonderful.

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