

## MEDITATION

# A spirituality of reconciliation

An extract from an address by **Chiara Lubich** to the Second European Ecumenical Assembly in Graz, Austria in June 1997.

**I**f now at the dawn of the third millennium we Christians take a new look at our two thousand year history and especially that of the second millennium, we cannot but be saddened by the succession of misunderstandings, struggles and confrontations which often ripped apart the seamless robe of Christ, which is his Church.

Who was at fault? Certainly there were historical, cultural, political, geographical and social circumstances... But there was also a deterioration among Christians of their characteristic unifying element: love.

So now, in trying to put right all that was wrong and to find new strength to start again, we must turn our attention to the very source of our common faith, to God Love, the great revelation of the Christian mystery.

In these times it is God Love who, in some way, must reveal himself anew to our hearts as individual Christians and to the Church that we compose. First of all to each one of us. For how could we think of loving others in order to bring about reconciliation, if we do not feel loved profoundly, if we Christians do not have in ourselves the certainty that God loves us?

The fact is that while we know by faith that God is Love, we often do not think of it, and live as if we were alone on this earth, as if there did not exist a Father who looks after us in everything and through everything; who counts even the hairs on our head, who knows everything about us; who wants to make everything work together for our good – the good that we do and



the very evil he permits.

To begin living a spirituality of reconciliation effectively in the Church and the world today, we need to be able to repeat, with full conviction and in truth, the words of John the evangelist: 'We have known and believe the love that God has for us' (1 Jn 4: 16).

But he does not love us only as individual Christians, he also loves us as Church. And he loves the Church when in history it has acted according to God's plan for it. But also – and here is the wonder of God's mercy – he loves it inasmuch as it has not lived up to his plan, in Christians being divided, if however they now seek full communion in his divine will. 🌿