

Editorial



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I wasn't very sporty at school, to put it mildly. I did everything possible to get a note from my parents to get me out of PE and games. This might have also been linked to the fact that I

contracted TB when I was fourteen! I was a sickly child... However, now I love watching sport and I regret not having been sporty as a teen.

Maria Dalgarno's article 'Street motions and emotions' (page 18) demonstrates how sport can break down cultural barriers and is particularly useful in helping young people develop a world view, through making friends with other young people from different nations. This project based on traditional games and sports drew together youth from Scotland, Croatia and Italy. It was obviously a powerful experience for all those taking part and will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

As I write this, the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang, South Korea is taking place. I was very struck by the opening words of the President of the IOC, Thomas Bach when he addressed the athletes:

'You can only really enjoy your Olympic performance if you respect the rules, and stay clean... while you compete with each other, you live peacefully together in the Olympic Village, respecting the same rules, sharing your meals and your emotions with your fellow athletes. This is how you show that in sport we are all equal. This is how you show the unique power of sport to unite people.'

A great example of this unifying power is the joint march here tonight of the two teams from the National Olympic Committees of the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea... We are all touched by this wonderful gesture. We all join and support you in your message of peace. United in our diversity, we are stronger than all the forces that want to divide us.'

I can understand why many might be cynical about North Korea's agenda. However, in this current climate of fear and suspicion between nations – and even the possibility of nuclear confrontation – sport may be able to bring nations together, even if just for a few days.

Paul Gateshill

New City is an expression of the Focolare Movement, which takes as its inspiration Jesus' prayer to the Father "May they all be one" (Jn 17: 21). Over the last seven decades Focolare has grown from a small community of around five hundred in Trent, northern Italy, to a world-wide community of several hundred thousand people of all ages and backgrounds. It has also spread beyond the confines of the Roman Catholic Church, to many other Christian traditions, to other faiths and people of good will.

New City works to promote mutual understanding and respect through dialogue. Together with our readers we want to discover how to 'build bridges' in the different sectors of society and in personal life. We are convinced that dialogue, based on mutual love, is the only way to build a more united world which is based on universal values such as justice, equality, truth and peace.