

The Cube of Love

The Right Way
to Start Your Day

Compiled by Mauro Camozzi and Gerta Vanderbroek

Edited by Clare Zanzucchi

Preface by Sofia Cavalletti

Living City

Published by Living City, the monthly magazine of the Focolare Movement
202 Comforter Blvd, Hyde Park, NY 12538 - www.livingcitymagazine.com

Fourth revised edition

© 2008, Focolare Movement (New York)

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced
without the written permission of the Focolare Movement.

Living City is a registered trademark of the Focolare Movement (New York)

Cover design by Belen Velasco

Cover photo by Stella Vischer

Illustrations by Christiane Heinsdorff

Photographs: Stella Vischer; Focolare Movement; Città Nuova; Jenny English; Man Louie; Dreamstime;
Jim Milway; courtesy of Chiarelle Paras; Marie Laure Abel; back cover courtesy of Maria Luca.

All photos in this book are used with permission.

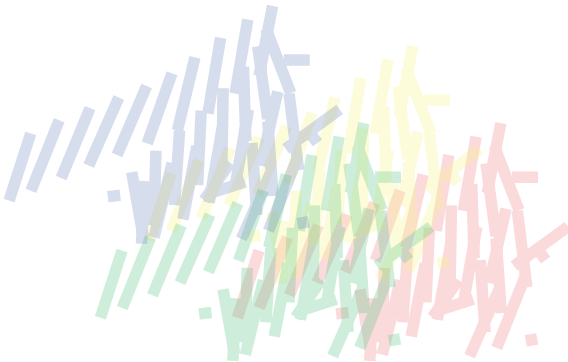
Any connection between photos and children's anecdotes is purely coincidental.

Acknowledgments

This book was made possible thanks to many contributors: Gerta Vanderbroek, Mauro Camozzi,
Christiane Heinsdorff, Matthias Bolkart and everyone at the Focolare's International Gen 4 Center
in Rome, for their original Cube of Love book which served as a building block to this publication,
and all those who generously lent time and energy to this project, especially

Brenda Balli, Emilie Christy, Vera Giannini, Patricia Gildard, Terry Gunn, Jerry Hearne,
Margaret Karam, O.P., Marigen Lohla, Philomena Sheridan, Yvonne Tibbitt,
Belen Velasco, Stella Vischer and Clare Zanzucchi.

The greatest recognition goes to Chiara Lubich who inspired
millions of children around the world with her Cube of Love.



ISBN-13: 978-0-9820723-0-1
(Cube of Love Book)

ISBN-13: 978-0-9820723-2-5
(Cube of Love Teacher's Kit)

Contents

Forward.....	4
Preface	5
How Does It Work?	7
The Cube of Love.....	8
Love Everyone	11
Be the First to Love.....	21
Love Jesus In the Other	29
Share the Other's Joy or Hurt.....	39
Love Your Enemy	51
We Love One Another	63

Forward

This book has compiled experiences of children from all over the world who share how they try to live the Cube of Love, as proposed by the Gospel-based spirituality of unity. Originating in one of the contemporary Catholic ecclesial movements called Focolare, this spirituality came to life in 1943 in Italy, when Chiara Lubich and her young companions decided to put the words of the Gospel into practice in their everyday life.

The anecdotes contained herein exemplify how children live the words of the Gospel with the spontaneity of those beginning to acquire a taste for life and with the enthusiasm of those who accept the challenge of a great ideal. It is their excitement, liveliness and immediacy that make their relationships with God and with others so direct and dynamic that they often challenge the certainties of adults.

The Cube of Love, a program to help children put the Gospel message of love into practice, is an expression of the “art of loving” which summarizes its teachings. A brief message on each face of the cube focuses the child’s efforts at caring for others.

Every chapter opens with a question children posed to Focolare founder Chiara Lubich (1920-2008), who initiated the program. A common denominator connects the following stories: the desire to help build a more peaceful and united world.

The Editors

Preface

This little volume is not about children but by children. It offers a collection of anecdotes in which children are the main characters.

Generosity is one of the most significant characteristics of their behavior. One child peering in a toy store window said, “I might buy these toys when there are no more poor children in the world.”

Noteworthy also is a child’s ability to take serious action to help others. One Brazilian girl, for example, tried to supplement her allowance by doing small chores for her mother in order to help the needy.

A child’s capacity to understand the Christian message of love and pass it on to others is clearly evident. There are many episodes in which a child becomes a real teacher not only to peers, but to adults as well. Children teach through what they say and what they do. Many experiences describe how their actions bring about changes in the lives of those around them.

One might wonder why children are so receptive to the message of love. Could it be that because they find in it such a profound affinity with their being, they embrace it eagerly and joyfully?

This book does not simply describe the way children behave. It raises the question, “Do we know our children?” This is a question adults might well ask themselves as they face the mystery of the human person in its first stage of life, childhood.

Sofia Cavalletti, Montessori educator





How Does It Work?

It's as easy as 1-2-3

1. Build your own cube of love (see insert).*
2. Set a time to roll the cube in the morning.
3. Roll the cube.
4. Read the phrase that comes out on top.
5. Try to live the phrase during the day.
6. Share with classmates, friends and family how you lived it.
7. Ask your teacher or your parent to post your stories online at cubeoflove.org.



You'll see why rolling the cube is the right way to start your day!



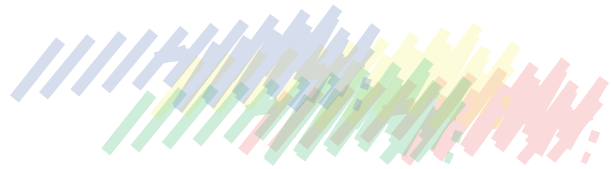
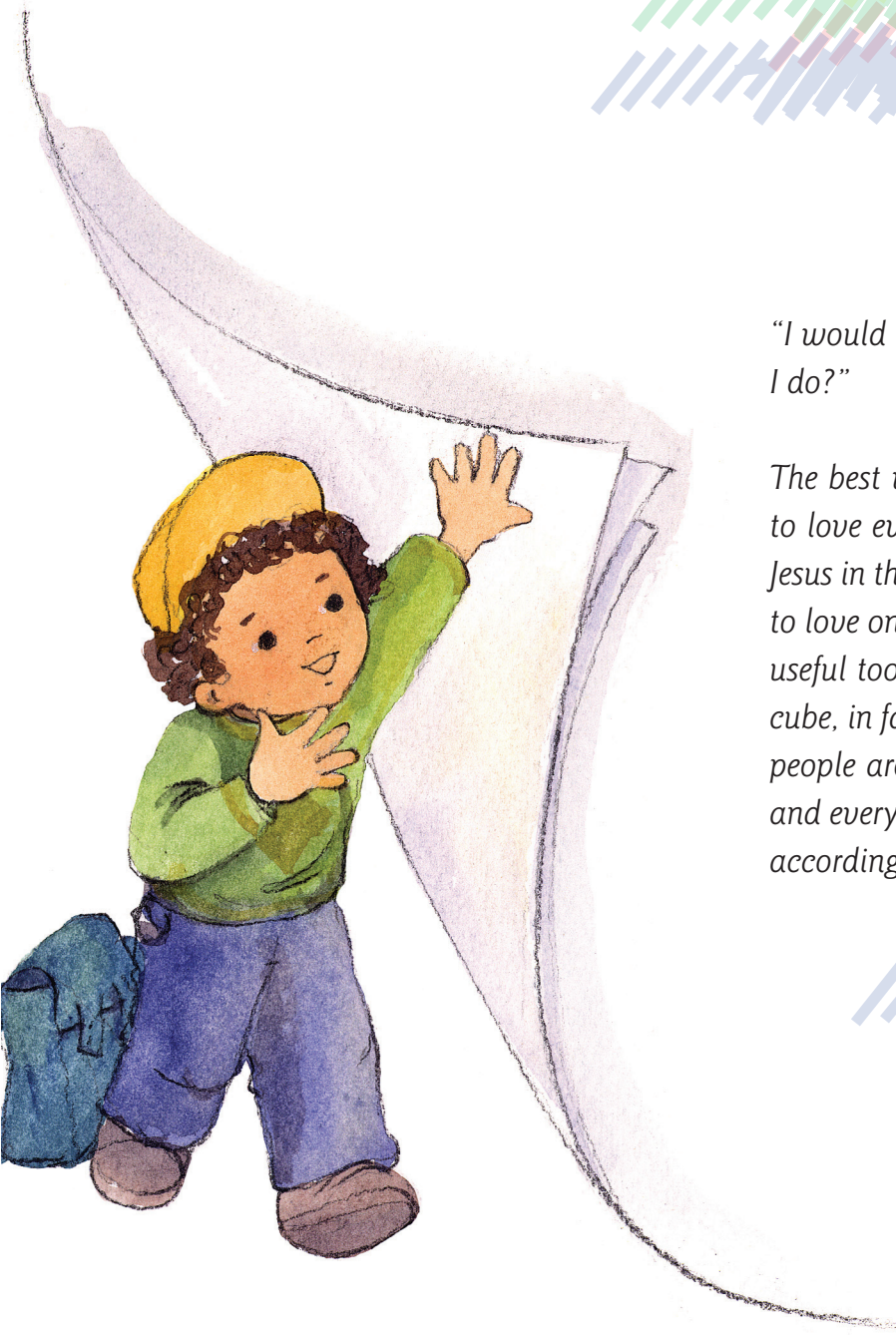
* To purchase a wooden-core cube, see p. 74.

The Cube of Love

"I would like to become like Jesus. What should I do?"

The best way is to practice the "art of loving": to love everyone, to be the first to love, to love Jesus in the other, to share the other's joy or hurt, to love one's enemy, to love one another. A very useful tool is the Cube of Love: each face of the cube, in fact, displays one of these points. Young people around the world have their own cubes and every morning they roll them and try to live according to what comes out on top.

Chiara Lubich



One day three children brought their cubes to school. They gave one cube to their teacher along with the book that tells of the amazing things that happen to children that roll the cube every day. They gave away their cubes and explained how the Cube of Love works.

What is the secret of this cube?

One day Michael asked, "Is loving the most important thing to do in life?" The answer he got was, "Yes it is. You were born to love. Jesus lived to love. He rose from the dead and went to heaven to prepare a place there for us, out of love."

Julia rolls the cube every morning. "That tells me what I have to do that day," she explains. "Yesterday the phrase 'Love everyone' came up and I was able to live it all day long. I shared my lunch with Lisa; I helped my mom set the table." Julia told her friends about her acts of love and they listened with amazement. They got in a long line, one behind the other, to wait for their turn to throw the cube.

The Gospel tells us: one day some mothers with their little children came to see Jesus. They asked him to bless their children and pray for them. His disciples wanted to send them away, but Jesus said to his disciples: "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Mt 19:14).



