

Lessons from sharing life with people with developmental disabilities

Being transformed in the caring relationship

Raphael Amato

"I and Thou"
Martin Buber

At the heart of our encounter
is the reality of our common
humanity

Some of the key gifts I have received

Combining my competency and my humanity

Core message

Learning from people with disabilities

Core message:

Mutuality

Core message:

I encounter you through my role; I am transformed when I risk encountering you as a person

Core message

Challenging society and organizational structures

Key Elements

Gift of welcome
Gift of spontaneity
Gift of transparency
Gift of relationship
(The relationship is primary and the issue is secondary)
The gift of forgiveness

Key Elements

Power and powerlessness
Reciprocity
More than inclusion
Moving beyond role and status
Acknowledging our need for each other

Key Elements

Common humanity
The myth of objectivity
Witness
Knowing, not knowing
My sense of identity and my expertise
Vulnerability
Transformation through relationship

Key Elements

Changing the world one heart at a time
Responding to the "other"; different religion, culture, world view"
Seeing injustice and responding by entering into relationship

Identity Statement of L'Arche:

We are people with and without developmental disabilities sharing life in communities belonging to an International Federation.

Mutual relationships and trust in God are at the heart of our journey together

We celebrate the unique value of every person and recognize our need of one another.

Our mission is to...

Make known the gifts of people with developmental disabilities, revealed through mutually transforming relationships.

Foster an environment in community that responds to the changing needs of our members, while being faithful to the core values of our founding story.

Engage in our diverse cultures, working together toward a more human society.

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