

Case study Elisabetta

She is Elizabeth.

I got to know her in a prestigious conference organized in Rome by an association for victims support. Angry, aggressive, he demands rigorous imprisonment punishment for those who commit crimes. His 16 year old son was killed, beautiful as the sun. He was a twin. She tattooed his blue eyes on his chest and his name on the neck. Every time that you look at her you would think of Andrea, his eyes look at you from her cleavage.

I was invited to speak about Restorative Justice, I felt an intruder in a table of executioners. Then I decided to invite her to participate in the Project Building Bridges and Elizabeth agreed. He wants to come to the prison to scream at the prisoners face his pain and even his contempt.

Among the victims there was also Pina, a strong and wounded woman. His only son found himself at the wrong place at the wrong time. They killed him with 8 stabbings because the killer ran out of bullets. He bled to death. She You can not think about what he must have suffered. Ten months after her husband died, officially, a fulminating cancer. She says, "He died for grief."

During a session of the Project Pina had said "I'd rather come to visit my son herein prison just to be able to touch him "and in saying it she had placed her hand on the boy's arm, beside her, a murderer. The week later he sits close to her. He was the same that at the first time said that if he could he would give his life to repair. He tried to offer the marrow, a kidney, any organ, also only the blood. He could not donate anything.

He must brought in throughout the week that touch. Towards the end of the meeting he asks the word "I wanted to say it already last week, Pina if you want to touch a child I would like to be that son and if you wanted to come and visit see me, I could ask my parents not to come because you can do it "and while talking he rests his hand timidly, awkwardly on the arm of Pina. The silent smile of Pina is a hymn to life and to a welcoming act. I read it as a decree of adoption.

Elizabeth observes, listens and dries furtively tears.

During the weeks of the project she listened to the stories of prisoners, their stories, how and why they got there. When she came she felt the unluckiest woman in the universe. Now she feels compassion for Pina. She has Cristian remained, the sister of Andrea, and her husband. Pina has noone. She is luckier.

After the second meeting she wrote: "I'm confused, I can not think with affection those men locked up in there. I do not recognize myself. "On the fourth meeting in a new email says "when the gate closes behind us, a piece of my heart is still there." On the fifth preparing sweets and food for them, at sixth it covers them with gifts.

Today Elizabeth is a completely transformed woman, not only serene, but happy, she loves to express her happiness and engage volunteers for Prison Fellowship. She and Pina have become friends, have both an extensive correspondence with inmates and wish both to ask permissions to continue to meet those who participated in the Project. Elizabeth and Pina put among their priorities to search other victims even to be reached by the healing force of the Building Bridges project.