

Foreword

This is a precious little book. It reveals people who have intellectual disabilities in a new way. Over the past forty years, people have begun to discover that those with these disabilities are real people and should not be put into big institutions away from society. They can give talks; some can even become film stars and do beautiful things. In the Special Olympics many win medals. Society is beginning to discover that people with disabilities are important.

This book brings something new and surprising. It tells us, through the experiences of the author, that they can teach us to become more human, and so bring change to our society.

They can teach us about relationships, about spirituality, about fidelity and open hearts, kindness and compassion, all these virtues which are so frequently crushed in our society where people seek more about winning and power.

This book can help each one of us to be more open to people with these disabilities and so discover the real meaning of being human.

So thank you, Luca, for this little book. You learned much by living in L'Arche communities in North America and Europe, part of a huge international family of communities which began in 1964 when I welcomed Raphael and Philippe from a heartless institution in France. They taught me how to become more human, more open to others and more loving. I hope each reader can discover in a new way what it means to become really human.

Jean Vanier