

"Politics as a calling"

Seventy years since the encounter between government deputy Igino Giordani and Focolare foundress Chiara Lubich at the Italian Parliament, a gathering of people like Stefano Fassina, Beatrice Lorenzin, Edo Parriarca, Steni Di Piazza, Marina Sereni, Rosa Russo Iervolino, Maria Voce.

Rome, September 18, Palazzo San Macuto, from 16:30

"Politics As A Calling" is the title of a conference that will be held on September 18th in Rome, Italy, at the Library of the Chamber of Deputies, in Palazzo San Macuto seventy years after the encounter between the deputy and intellectual **Igino Giordani** and the foundress of the Focolare Movement, Chiara Lubich.

Promoted by the Focolare with the Chiara Lubich Centre, the Igino Giordani Centre and the Political Movement for Unity, the event will memorialize the historic encounter that enriched with significance the prospective new commitment of the Focolare to universal brotherhood, but it will also update its message in response to the challenges of today.

Maria Voce recalls that Giordani was a married man with four children and, for Chiara, he was the person who opened the way for the presence of the laity and married people inside the Movement. Therefore, she considered him a co-founder.

Chiara had said of him: "(...) if all the Gospels in the world were to disappear the Christian should be such that whoever saw him would be able to re-write it again. Well, Giordani was one of those Christians. When he departed from this life (...) the Gospel of the day was the Beatitudes. Well, everybody who knew him deeply agreed that he had lived them all."

In the political environment Giordani distinguished himself as a "peace worker," living out his commitment to the common good as the highest form of Charity. His life is an example of a political culture that values integrity, dialogue and the building of peace. He was among the first young people to accompany Don Sturzo in the Italian People's Party. He faced off against the advances of the Fascist Regime, was a collaborator of Alcide De Gasperi in the construction of the Christian Democracy. He was a parliamentarian, member of the Italian Assembly, writer and journalist. In 1948 he met Chiara Lubich and the nascent Focolare Movement.

Because of his special role at Chiara Lubich's side as a co-founder of the Focolare Movement, the Church has launched his Cause of Canonization.

The meeting at the Refectory Hall will be opened by the Honorable Steni Di Piazza and Stefano Fassina, and moderated by Donato Falmi, co-responsible for the Focolare Movement in Rome.

The event will begin with a reading of a few excerpts from Giordani's *Memorie d'un cristiano ingenuo* by Alberto Lo Presti, Director of the Study Centre named after Giordani, which will promote the message of that September 18, 1948 meeting with Chiara Lubich.

Beatrice Lorenzin, Edo Patriarca, Marina Sereni and Steni Di Piazza. Rosa Russo Iervolino will share memories of Giordani, followed by the testimonies of Patience Lobè and Luca Basile. Adam Biela will talk about the actuality of Giordani's experience in today's world. The conclusion will be given by Letizia De Torre, international coordinator of the Political Movement for Unity.

Photos available at: <http://www.focolare.org/press/en/news/2014/04/16/igino-giordani/>

Press accreditation: complete the [online form](#) before 12.00 on Monday 17 September. The conference is limited, due to the limited number of seats in the hall.

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