



26 november 2002

The Risen One

Five hundred people saw him. And he certainly wasn't a ghost. It was him, really him: "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side" (Jn 20:27), he said to Thomas. He ate with his disciples, he spoke with them, he stayed with them for as long as forty days.

He had renounced his infinite greatness out of love for us and he had made himself small, a man among men, like one of us, so small are we that we can't even be seen from a plane.

In rising from the dead, he broke, he surpassed all the laws of nature, of the entire cosmos, and by doing so, he showed that he is greater than all that exists, greater than all that he created, greater than all that can be imagined. Consequently, at the mere intuition of this truth, we cannot help but see him as God, we cannot help but do as Thomas did. Kneeling down in adoration before him, we confess in all sincerity: "My Lord and my God".

Even though I will never be able to describe it adequately, this is the effect that the light of the risen Lord had on me.

Certainly, I already knew this; undoubtedly, I believed it with all my heart!

But in this experience, it was almost as if I had seen it.

My faith became clarity, certainty, reasonable, I would say.

And I saw with new eyes what he did during those fabulous new days on earth.

[...]A providential circumstance led me to examining in depth the reality of Jesus who, after his abandonment and death on the cross, rose from the dead.

Not only, but I had the opportunity to meditate intensely with my mind and heart on many details of Jesus' resurrection and on his life after the resurrection. I was amazed (this is the exact word) by the majesty, by the magnificence that emanated from this divine event: by the uniqueness of the risen Lord, by this supernatural fact which, as far as I know, is unique in the world.

For this reason, I cannot help but highlight it again this time.

The resurrection is what most characterizes Christianity, what distinguishes Jesus, its founder: his resurrection. The fact is that he is risen! Risen from the dead! Not in the way that others rose, like Lazarus, for instance, who then, when his time came, died. Jesus is risen never to die again. He continues to live also as man in heaven, in the heart of the Trinity.

[...] And because he is risen, also the words he said to us before his death acquire unique brilliance and express indisputable truths. First and foremost, the words announcing our resurrection as well.

I knew it and believed it before too because I am a Christian. But now I am doubly sure: I will rise, we will rise.

So to my many friends, to our friends who have already left for the next life and whom we might unconsciously think of as being lost, I cannot say: "good-bye", but "UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN", nevermore to be separated.

This is how great God's love is for us. [...]

Chiara

From the spiritual thought of the Collegamento CH of 14 november 2002, published in *In unità verso il Padre, Città Nuova, Rome, august 2004*

Chiara Lubich Current events reading one's own times

50 years of history through her articles. Chiara, with a supernatural and prophetic glance, reads the facts of our times

For Chiara current events were the preferred way of reading the «signs of the times», open to eternity, paying attention to each individual person, small or great protagonists of History. The numerous articles and interviews published in «Città Nuova» from 1956, the year of its foundation, up to 2005, the date of her last contribution, bear witness to this.

Among these, around thirty articles were chosen – from the Olympics of Rome (1960) to the assassination of R. Kennedy (1963), from the attack on the Twin Towers up to the election of the new Pontiff Benedict XVI – from which an initial intuition that has never left Chiara

emerges: to follow current events means discovering the hand of God in History.

«Hers was a glance that even in writing her articles or in giving interviews, never forgot the love for the person, every single person and for humanity

in its entirety. The day after the fall of the Berlin Wall for example, she wrote an article that invited everyone not to criticize those (the communists) who were apparently defeated: they too had made their contribution». (from the preface of Michele Zanzucchi)



Page after page of historical moments of the XX and XXI centuries flow before the reader's eyes, great witnesses of our times narrated with the clear and at the same time prophetic gaze of Chiara.

Writing that gives us a way of interpreting facts and news, so that we can give our contribution to history, just as she did.

Pope Francis

«Make more noise»

A brief profile coming from Argentina, so as to get to know more about the new Bishop of Rome. Emmaus too, immediately shared her joy; below is the complete interview she gave after the First Mass to mark the beginning of his Pontificate, which she attended



Our Archbishop of Buenos Aires, primate of Argentina, is therefore the new Pope. Silent and humble. A man totally of God, faithful to the Gospel. The day after he was elected, in a telephone call to someone in Buenos Aires, he said: «*Please, just call me Father Bergoglio*».

Capable of a great and unexpected sense of humor and of taking care, for months and years on end, of marginalized people in very difficult material and moral situations, often in one of the many *villas* (poor or marginalized areas) of Buenos Aires.

With regard to the charisms, he had a deep respect for each one's identity. As soon as he was nominated Archbishop of Buenos Aires, we met with him as a Movement to share with him our annual program. He met us with a smile and with that affection which the world now knows. He encouraged us saying: «you have to be that which you ought to be», meaning to say that we must be faithful to the charisma that God gave us through Chiara. And one thing more, he added: «*Make more noise!*», encouraging us to be with a more active presence in the midst of society. Whenever he met members of the Opera working in the frontlines in the different pastoral works at the service of the Church, he always expressed his appreciation.

In April 1998, on the occasion of Chiara's visit to Argentina, he presided in the Mass at the Palasport «Luna Park». Soon after, the persons responsible for the Movement in the zone of Buenos Aires wrote to Chiara: «[...] as soon as our Archbishop, Mons. Bergoglio, saw us, he exclaimed: "I met five Jewish people who have been transformed by Chiara, but truly transformed!" Afterwards, our Jewish friends shared with us: "He welcomed us formally, but as soon as we said that Chiara had just come to see us, our relationship changed immediately, a family atmosphere was immediately created and he gave us the use of the Cathedral as the venue for the Night of Crystals celebration (to held there for the very first time) [...]».

In 2008, he presided in the Mass held at the Cathedral on the occasion of Chiara's passing away, and with a great gesture of humility, he allowed Archbishop Agustin Radrizzani, a long-time friend of the Focolare, to give the homily, knowing what this meant for him. Last 2012, during the World Day for Peace (which was preceded by the 4th International Hebrew-Christian symposium) held at the Mariapolis Lia, he expressed his regret at not being able to attend through a particularly affectionate letter which was full of encourage-



ment: «[...] I wholeheartedly thank you for your kindness, which I greatly appreciate, and at the same time I would like to underline and acclaim the praiseworthy work t the Movement is doing with the members of the Jewish community, "our elder brothers", all over the world, especially in our country. [...] I encourage you to go ahead in this commitment, and rest assured that I will accompany you spiritually, wishing you a fruitful outcome in the development of this event [...] and please, I ask you to pray for me [...]».

Silvia Escandell, Francisco Canzani

Service and regality

Interview of Emmaus after the Mass to mark the beginning of the petrine ministry of Pope Francis

Pope Francis said some strong words during the Mass at the beginning of his petrine ministry: One of them was the word «service». How did this sound to you?

It sounded exactly the way it should, as the way in which we should live our responsibility, whatever it may be, all of us who are part of the Focolare Movement. A true service, but a service of love. One who serves «out of love», as Chiara Lubich recalled, can also be said to

reign. It does not mean a service that lowers or humiliates, rather, it means an attitude of one who gives himself completely out of love. Whoever acts in this way puts the others in their proper place and places in them the conditions of being what they ought to be. It is in this way that «service» and «regality» attract one another reciprocally.

Another phrase of Pope Francis in which he raised his voice, was «take care of the poor». Is there something that must be reviewed in the Focolare Movement?

I feel that we cannot just stand and watch Pope Francis; we must look within ourselves, make an examination of conscience so as to use, with moderation, only that which is truly necessary, and placing at the disposition of others that which we can share, all that we can give. At the same time I seemed to perceive in the words of Pope Francis, the echo of a poverty that is not only material, but which also includes those who are alone, those who feel misunderstood, those who are abandoned, those who don't know God but who need him and don't know it. In front of this poverty I believe that each one of us must ask ourself: what can I do?

The Focolare Movement is undergoing an examination of conscience, trying to con-

vert itself towards a new measure of love, of giving, of service. There is always the possibility of growing in this sense. Such a commitment will have, as a consequence, the growth of the Movement, which wil not come from the desire develop it more, but from the growth in loving.



At times you said, as in the various interviews you gave before the election of the new Pope, that «they are always the same concepts, but since this is what I think, it is good to express them». I was able to verify that instead you are always adding something new ...

What I say is usually not just coming from my reflections, but it is the fruit of a journey that we as a Movement are taking together. I thus find myself gathering, not only from the questions, but also from the attitudes or from the answers of one or the other, the journey that is in progress, the process that we are living. What I say therefore, is not an abstract dream but that something that I gather and that expresses the direction in which we are already going.

Victoria Gómez

To look in the Gospel

Last march 21 Justin Welby was installed as Archbishop of Canterbury. What is his relationship with the Movement in England?

«Carissimi Amici, grazie per la vostra premura nello scrivermi in occasione dell'annuncio della mia nomina a 105° Arcivescovo di Canterbury. [...] Succedere all'Arcivescovo Rowan è un compito davvero impegnativo. Spero che continuerete a sostenere la Chiesa d'Inghilterra e me con le vostre preghiere nei mesi e negli anni che verranno».

Walking towards Pentecoste

In the Year of Faith Pope Francis meets with the Movements and the lay associations in St. Peter's Square

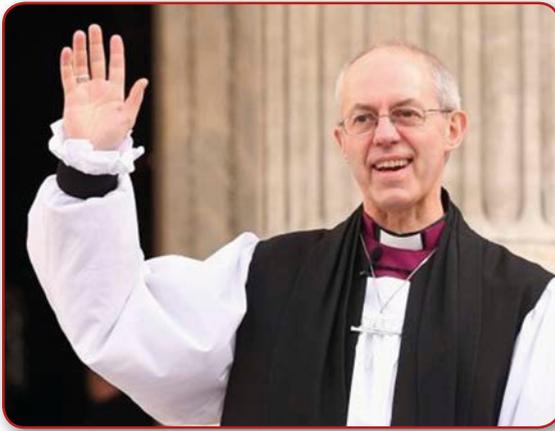
«Dearest friends, I ask you to be, even more, much more, collaborators in the universal apostolic ministry of the Pope, opening the doors to Christ». These were the words of Pope Benedict XVI to the Movements, during the vigil of the Pentecost of 2006. Seven years have passed from that moment, and now it will be Pope Francis who will meet the Movements and the Ecclesial Communities at Pentecost. A very much-awaited appointment promoted by the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization, that will see us as the protagonists in St. Peter's Square this coming 18 and 19 of May. The Focolare Movement was called upon to be part of the preparatory commission for the event.

Emmaus, in answering to the question: «What are you expecting from this appointment?», said among other things:

«Rather than expecting something we would like to offer something. What is important to us is that the Pope will find in front of him, thousands of people with only one desire, that of bearing witness to the vitality of faith, the richness of the gifts of God, the ability of answering to the most important challenges of the present moment through the different charisms that the Movements and Associations bring with them.

As Focolare Movement, in particular, we would like the Pope to feel our complete availability to being instruments of unity among the different components of the Church, starting with the children of the old and new charisms, at the service of the Church-communion which is what humanity today hopes to see».

Costanza Tan, Jorge Lionello Esteban



«Dearest Friends, thank you for your attention in writing me on the occasion of the announcement of my nomination as 105th Archbishop of Canterbury. [...] To succeed archbishop Rowan is truly a demanding task. I hope that you will continue to support the Church of England and me with your prayers in the months and in the years to come».

This is what Justin Welby - then Bishop of Durham and now, after his installation on the 21st of March 2013, Archbishop of Canterbury, and therefore primate of the Church of England and its focal point, even if he has no juridical powers over the 85 million Anglicans all over the world - wrote in reply to a letter sent to him by the members of the Church of England who belong to the Focolare Movement. The new Archbishop had already met some of the members of the Movement when he was Dean of the Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool.

He inspires a lot of hope in everyone especially in those who are sensitive to the need for unity on all levels. His experience in Africa, his attention towards every person, the fact that, even if he comes from the «evangelical» part of the Church, he is a Benedictine Oblate and his spiritual director is Catholic is impressive. «I like his sense of *humor* – says Paul, an Anglican married focolarino –; he has a very beautiful way of making fun of himself». This quality is not only a national characteristic which is part of the British stereotype, but is also a sign of simplicity rooted in the Gospel, that same simplicity that one finds in his vision

of economic justice, a topic which he is qualified to comment on since he worked for 11 years in the petroleum industry.

Many see the coincidence of his arrival on the throne of St. Augustine of Canterbury and the arrival of Pope Francis in the seat of Peter as almost a sign of the times. This seems to indicate an openness, or rather, an invitation to the Church to take on much more the evangelical poverty and radicalness. The problems will always be there, and they are evident all over the Christian world, but it seems that these two personalities agree that it is necessary to look for the solutions in the Gospel.

The Anglican members of the Movement would certainly like to dedicate themselves to living in this way, giving themselves completely for that unity that Jesus prayed for. Just as those of the Church of England wrote to the Archbishop when he was elected: «We would like to assure you [...] that we hope to be always there, anywhere that unity must be restored or deepened».

Callan Slipper

The greetings of the Pope

Pope Francis, on the 18th of March, sent a congratulatory message to the New Archbishop of Canterbury.

«I thank you for your cordial words contained in the message that you sent me for my election, and I would like to convey to you in return, my greetings and best wishes on the occasion of your installation in the Cathedral of Canterbury. The pastoral ministry is a call to walk in faithfulness to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. I assure you of my prayers as you take on new responsibilities and I ask you to pray for me as I answer to the new call that the Lord has given me. I await with pleasure the occasion to meet you in the near future and to go ahead with the cordial fraternal relationship that our predecessors had».

And ends with his signature *Francis*.

Special Report 5th anniversary

Chiara Lubich: Charism History Culture

**The Abbà School presents the cultural scope of Chiara's thinking
in a Conference held at the «Sapienza» (Rome) and in Castel Gandolfo**

14th March 2013: celebration of the 5th anniversary of Chiara's departure for Heaven.

For the occasion the Abbà School wanted to dedicate to her its first public two day Conference: the 14th of March, at the Great Hall of the «Sapienza» University of Rome, and the 15th at the International Mariapoli Center of Castelgandolfo with the title of: «Chiara Lubich: Charism History Culture».

The Abbà School had been preparing for quite some time for this event by making use of Chiara's writings. The event fell at the time of Pope Francis' election with a festive Rome joyfully greeting the new Pontiff – a perfect setting for the Conference.

More than six hundred professors, scholars and students participated, coming from the five continents, expressions of the most varied disciplines of knowledge, from the specifically theological field to the wide field of human sciences.

It was an event of the Opera, just as Emmaus wished it to be.

The mayor of Rome, the Hon. Alemanno, expressed the desire to be present. With their greeting message, the President of the Italian Republic, the Hon. Giorgio Napolitano and Cardinal Ravasi, President of the Pontifical Council for Culture, graced the Conference.

The reason for the Conference was the great desire to make known to all the participants «Chiara's utopia» also under a cultural profile. A utopia that she herself made it possible to experience through the Abbà School's numerous lessons which she herself animated.

In these lessons, by going over many times the experience of '49, Chiara did not hesitate to define it as «an extraordinary fact, a grace», an experience lived «in a "collective" spirituality, a new spirituality». The Opera was born in this experience: «a new Opera in the Church». From here comes her desire to study in depth the writings of '49 with the Abba School, convinced that in them «we will find and we will be able to highlight both the novelty of the doctrine and the life that



the various contents of “Paradise” bring to Christianity and to humanity today, both the profound link that it has with the Scriptures and the Traditions of the Church».

Five years from Chiara’s departure, the Abbà School wanted through this Conference, to verify the work that has been done and to present itself within the complexities of the disciplines that it expresses, by proposing for each one a working path, that at times is still to be discovered but already having in itself that ray of light that the Charism of unity has allowed us to foresee in each one. At various intervals during the day, short videos on Chiara’s life were shown.

The common thread that linked the various reports, that ranged from the historical-theological sphere to the anthropologi-

cal-social one, to the sciences, economics, law and political science, was therefore the search for those seeds of the Truth hidden in the various human sciences. The search for that «Truth» for which – according to a well-known intuition of Chiara – everything has «a reason of love» for the others. This was the reality that the artistic interludes of the Conference seemed to underline, creating a light and supernatural atmosphere.

There were the discussants from various universities (Venezuela, United States, Brazil, Austria, Italy): their contributions have enriched the sessions, highlighting the power of the Chiara’s Charism and offering, at the same time, important solicitations for further studies.

The second day was focused on deepening multi-disciplinary perspective in the

Emmaus’ greetings

[...] Precisely here, [...] within the walls of this prestigious University that I used to attend, I came in contact for the first time with the Focolare Movement and the spirituality that animates it. I was at the portal of proceeding with my diploma in Law, attracted by the witness of some students of this University, I made a decisive turn with regards to my plans and programs, letting myself follow an ideal of life that, in the ensuing years, brought me beside Chiara as her personal collaborator. [...]

It is therefore, not without emotion that I am here today among you, as President chosen to succeed her at the helm of the Focolare Movement, to celebrate this extraordinary person. Figure of a charismatic woman [...] Figure of a woman culturally aware and attentive in grasping the features of contemporary man’s search: a search that is at times difficult and dark, similar in its entirety to an epochal and collective night [...] but, at the same time, it is a search in which she was able to grasp those promising openings that

allowed us to foresee the dawning of a culture permeated with light that, mysteriously but truly, is born from that passage that goes through death towards Life.[...] My wish is that this Conference, as is its purpose, can offer a taste of how this culture, thanks to the specific boost of the charism of Chiara, may begin to take shape within the context of the multiplicity of knowledge [...].

But my wish goes even beyond this. I hope that the doctrinal elaboration that has started, may enter more and more concretely into a dialogue with the various universes of thought; that it goes in depth and develops in such a way that it energizes in a fruitful way, the cultural experience of our times. And that it may be to the benefit of that irreversible journey of man towards a new civilization of love, the civilization of unity.



writing of Chiara "Look at all the flowers' (6 November 1949), with the intent to introduce the participants in the methodology typical of the Abbà School. The link-up by internet has enabled many centers of the Movement in the world to connect and follow the event live. There were numerous positive echoes, in spite of being fully aware that we are just at the beginning. We would like to share only one, coming from the ecumenical group: «A special thanks for the great effort that we have seen at the "Sapienza": Chiara was revealed to us in all her entirety, and it seemed to us that she herself gave us her "doctrine" in a new and original way through the disciplines presented. Even if we are fully aware that there is room for improvement, it seemed to us that this was a "historic" day for the Abbà School and for the culture of the Resurrection».

That well-known phrase of Chiara was printed on the invitation card: «See, I am a soul passing through this world. I have seen many good and beautiful things and I have always been attracted only by them. One day (an indefinite day) I saw a light. It seemed to me more beautiful than all the other beautiful things and I followed it. I realized that it was the Truth» .

This was the leit motif that guided the two days of the event. We wish that all of us will be able to live a vital experience together on the trail of light that Chiara left us.

Alba Sgariglia

- 1 AA.VV., *The Pact of '49 in the experience of Chiara Lubich. Interdisciplinary Courses*, Città Nuova, Rome 2012, p. 16.
- 2 C. Lubich, *Letters of the early times*, Città Nuova, Rome 2010, pp.104-105.



The Abbà School

CA Center for interdisciplinary studies of the Focolare Movement, was founded by Chiara in 1991 with the aim of studying her writings of the years 1949- 1950, the so-called «Paradise '49», so as to arrive at highlighting and elaborating the doctrine that is contained in the Charism of unity, and the many implications for the various spheres of knowledge.

The School has its «Classroom» at the Center of the Opera, in Rocca di Papa, and is at present made up of 24 scholars called to put the Pact of Unity as the basis of their studies. They meet every fifteen days or once a month for in depth sessions and common research. They are constantly enriched by their regular contacts of a wider group of scholars of the Movement spread all over the world.

There have been numerous publications relative to the individual disciplines. We would like to point out the series published by Città Nuova Publishing House «Studies of the Abbà School» which started in 2012. Its fundamental characteristic is the centrality of the writing of «Paradise '49», from which the articles that make up the volume draw their inspiration. Another peculiarity: every study which is published, even if it is attributed to a single author, is prepared with the contribution of all the members of the study group and is elaborated until each one fully shares in and is satisfied with the result.



Anniversary Chiara five years later

328 documented events. The 14th of March inspires gratitude, memories and, commemorations of Chiara, the foundress of the Focolare Movement.

Initiatives of individuals or of groups, conferences, awards, newspaper articles, blogs, concerts, dedication of schools, of subway stations and artistic exhibitions, the homage to her have multiplied in cultural centres or in the universities. From Taipei to Pretoria, from Bangkok to Pisa, from Buenos Aires to Los Angeles, they went in depth on the cultural dimension of the Charism of unity.

We would like to present to you a brief tour of various horizons, and to direct you to the website of the Mariapolis Newsletter for a more detailed account.

In Tanzania, the one-day meetings for Chiara in Iringa, Kigoma, Dar es Salaam, Singida, Tabora, Songea and Mbeya gave a ray of hope in a country with a consolidated



culture of tolerance and peace, but wherein tensions have recently infiltrated and hatred is slowly penetrating among Christians and Muslims. Following the life of Chiara through love of neighbor, many left with the conviction that living together in fraternity is possible if each one puts into practice the «art of loving». The Secretary of the Bakwata (The



National Muslim Council of Tanzania) of Dar es Salaam said that he was consoled and he would like to come again with other Muslims «because the message of Chiara is not only for Christians but for everyone».

In Venezuela, at the Mariapolis Center La Nuvoletta, the thoughts of Chiara were studied in depth in several fields: education, politics, economy, medicine with the positive influences that it has on the «caraqueña» society. Among the youth, adults, families, a renewed awareness was enkindled that when fraternity is lived, it represents a pathway for peace in the difficult situation that the country is going through today.

In India the evening program entitled «Dialogue and spirituality: The legacy of Chiara Lubich» was a historic step for the zone. It was the first time that an event was prepared together with Hindu friends. The protagonists were precisely the professors of Mumbai – many of whom knew Chiara personally – and Vinu Aram from Coimbatore. Among the 200 present, many had come for the first time to participate in a reflection of the Charism. A gen: «I saw Chiara alive in the eyes of our Hindu brothers and sisters».

In Korea there were nine appointments. In the Cathedral of Seoul more that 700 came together with three Bishops and the Apostolic Nuncio, also present were political and civil personalities and those from lay Movements and associations. There were also artists and a choir made up of gen. A religious,

Sr. Claudia Lee Hae In, quite well-known in the field of Korean literature, dedicated a poem to Chiara.

In Australia the celebrations came one after another in Melbourne, Perth, Sydney, Canberra. A brief video on «Chiara, woman of dialogue» conquered hearts. The Bishop of Perth, Bishop Sproston, indicated her as a model of Christian life. **In New Zealand** in Wellington, Bishop John Dew, underlined the coincidence of the anniversary of Chiara «who was greatly loved by the Popes» with the election of Pope Francis (in New Zealand the moment the white smoke appeared, was already the 14th of March)

In Eastern Europe, in Macedonia a choir of Catholic, Orthodox and Muslim youth accompanied the two-day event entitled «The Challenge of Modern Times» in which the charismatic figure of Chiara was presented as someone who is able to open up new ways in answer to the needs of today.

In Italy, at Loreto there were more than 800 present from all the vocations of the Opera: from the Diocesan Movement, to the families, the younger generations, the volunteers, the friends in dialogue ... many people whom we have never met before, among whom Catholics, a Siro-Orthodox couple, some Lutherans, and various Muslims; there was also a young Sikh teenager. There was the typical atmosphere of the family of Chiara: listening, sharing, fullness of joy. Archbishop Giovanni Tonucci opened the Convention with words that expressed gratitude for this

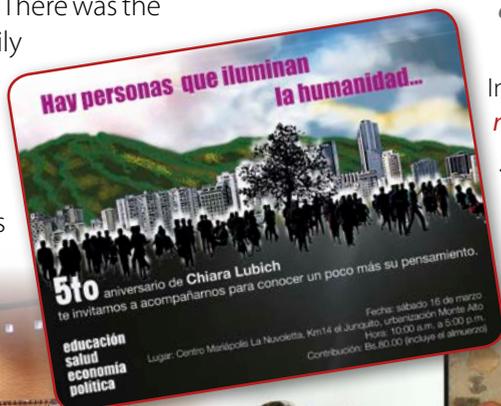
event held in the city of the “Little House of Nazareth”, the cradle of that intuition that revealed itself in time and has reached the ends of the earth. The mayor Paolo Nicoletti was the host and he handed to Eli Folonari, official representative of Emmaus, an award for the Movement.

In Genova, in the Great Council Hall of the Duke’s Palace, the Focolare Movement and other Genovese associations committed to working for all types of social emergencies commemorated the foundress and President through the sharing of various experiences inspired by «her intuition that fraternity is the key that can humanize a globalization that in many places seems to crush us».

At Istanbul, a cultural program commemorated her as «Chiara ambassador of dialogue, fraternity and peace». Among the six experiences shared, four came from Muslims and one from a non-believer. The Guest of Honor was Patriarch Bartholomew I who – putting aside the speech he had prepared in Italian – improvised a beautiful synthesis in Turkish wherein his love for Chiara and her Opera was visible. «Even if he was about to leave to preside in the opening ceremony of the Pontificate of Pope Francis – Carmine and Agape wrote – he wanted to conclude the evening by having dinner with us».

edited by Gianna Sibelli

In www.focolare.org/notiziariomariapoli you will find a more complete report of the events.





Brendan Leahy, bishop of Limerick

On the 14th of April Fr. Brendan Leahy was ordained bishop of the diocese of Limerick (Ireland)

He was the white of the gens for the International College during his studies in Rome, as a focolarino priest he presented his doctoral thesis at the Pontifical Gregorian University which was entitled «The Marian Principle of the Church» in the thoughts of Hans Urs von Balthasar, later published by Città Nuova. A work that attracted also Chiara's interest and which she examined in depth on different occasions, especially after Pentecost 1998 when, following the meeting with John Paul II, the interaction between the marian and the petrine profiles of the Church came into greater evidence. Passionate expert of ecumenism and interreligious dialogue, Fr. Brendan taught Dogmatic Theology first in Dublin and then at the Pontifical University of Maynooth, while at the same time being the pillar of the priests' focolare at the Citadel Lieta. In 2004 Chiara, after her visit to Ireland, called Fr. Brendan to the Abba School where he followed in a particular way the field of ecclesiology and pastoral theology.

In 2012 Fr. Brendan Leahy was among the principal authors of the International Eucharistic Congress in Dublin, an event which, after the great trials experienced by the local Church, was a sign of the beginning of a new spring-time.

d. Hubertus Blaumeiser

The itinerary of the life and thought of Klaus Hemmerle

The complete and widely documented biography of the theologian and bishop Klaus Hemmerle is now available in Italian, prepared according to Chiara's wish, by Fr. Wilfried Hagemann, his friend and close collaborator throughout many years. Translated by Viviana De Marco, the volume reconstructs with far-reaching and great richness the itinerary of the life and thought of Klaus Hemmerle as a philosopher of religion, theologian and pastor. A person on the front-line in the development of the Opera during the '70s -'90s, especially instrumental in the birth of the branch of the Bishop friends of the Focolare and of the Abba School, for which he closely worked with Chiara. The figure of Klaus Hemmerle, almost 20 years after his departure to heaven, has lost none of its freshness and relevance, and is indeed increasingly discovered by the depth and originality of its views and for the simplicity and the courage with which he experienced, witnessed and proclaimed the Gospel.



Ginetta Calliari

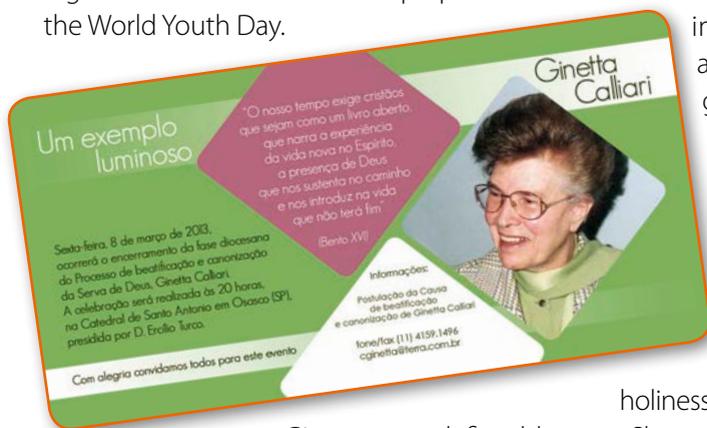
«An open book»

Si è conclusa in Brasile la fase diocesana del Processo di beatificazione

«Our times require that Christians be like an open book that narrates the experience of a new life in the Spirit, the presence of that God who sustains us in our journey and who leads us to a life that will never end». These words of Pope Benedict XVI during the opening of the Year of Faith, were written on the invitation of the event that concluded the diocesan phase of the Process of Beatification of Ginetta Calliari.



On the 8th of March 2013, in the Cathedral of Osasco the book of her life was opened. The new life in the Spirit which she lived appeared even more luminous with the opening of the Year of Faith and the preparation of the World Youth Day.



Ginetta was defined by Bishop Ercílio Turco as a «woman of faith», who answered immediately to the call of Jesus who fascinated her, as did Isaiah: «Here I am, send me». She shared with many her discovery, as can be clearly seen in a letter to the community of Padua she wrote in 1949, which the Bishop read:

«... Look ahead, look at Him from whom an irresistible and fascinating light emanates, essential to be able to run along the ways of God. He is love, support and strength for all. Without Him life is impossible ... Detach yourselves from all the little things that stop you from giving yourselves with generosity to Him. Give yourselves without measure for the good of others».

Ginetta lived this measure of love. «When she shared her life experiences on the Gospel one could an inner urge not to stop in the race towards holiness, but to begin again, without fear». «She overcame difficulties with the strength of Faith which she referred to as «our participation in the omnipotence of God». Norma Curti, a focolarina who lived with Ginetta for more than 30 years, testified with emotion.

“She had a profound faith in the Word which she lived in the simplest and most difficult moments of her life” as the Bishop

The message of Emmaus

«The example of Ginetta, with her tenacious love, her adamant faith, her life steeped in the Gospel, will certainly be a light for many and thus we are happy to hand over to the Church her splendid testimony.

On the occasion of her departure from this earth, Chiara wrote how much Ginetta had genuinely welcomed the charism of unity in a genuine way, “that she lived it in a radical way and made others do the same”. “From here – she continued – came the authenticity of her life, the secret, the concreteness and the completeness of all her works”.

And for us of the Focolare Movement, who knew her personally and also the Brazilian people who loved her and whom she loved very much, we now turn to God to thank Him for having given her to us as a model of a generous vocation to that call of universal holiness.

From Heaven Ginetta will continue to follow us with love and to help us in our commitment to live together for unity and universal brotherhood.”

Archbishop of San Paolo Odilo Scherer

In his letter among other things wrote: «I remain united with all of you of the Focolare Movement Mons. Ercilio Turco, bishop of the diocese of Osasco, praying God that the holiness of Ginetta’s life be recognized as soon as possible for the good of the Church».

said. And her secret? «She saw the face of the suffering and abandoned Jesus, contemplated as her spouse, in all brothers and sisters. And this love was authentic, strong, unyielding, exclusive and generated communion and unity». «The Church, Christians of different Churches, need to walk together in diversity, living a faith that humanizes and at the same time unites us to the One who is the sure path of our faith: Jesus. Yes, Ginetta is a reflection of the living Jesus. From her entire life one can make out traces of His face”.

But the testimony of Ginetta goes even beyond that of the Churches, to people of good will, to the followers of other religions, such as the Buddhist friends of the Risho Kosei-kai, and our Jewish friends who underlined this with their very presence at the ceremony. “We are united in her journey” Dr. Carlos Barbour, a Jew and member of the Council of the Christian-Hebrew Fraternity of San Paolo, declared. “I have always believed that we can all be the one for the other, examples and witnesses of the most genuine values, of the greatest thing that we can ever achieve to do: to work for a better world. Ginetta has certainly accomplished her mission”.

Carla Cotignoli



«Open to the focolare» So as to correspond to the plan of God

«...I know that you all want to get to know better the vocation to the focolare, and in a certain way to experience it. You will discover together the beauty and at the same time the challenges that it has to face in today's society, that seems to look downwards instead of upwards towards Heaven...» This is what Emmaus wrote to the gen boys and girls reunited in Loppiano to get to know better the vocation to the focolare.

90 gen arrived in Loppiano to deepen the vocation of the focolarino or to get to know about it

«They were days of strong light for me. I want to follow Jesus», «It was a great moment of God, He calls me to a deeper and more personal relationship with Him through the brother. I understood that my life can be summarized in a triangle – God – Me – the brother», «Thank you for the possibility that you gave me to enter at least a little in the life of the "popi" . It was an encounter in the truth: you have given everything, the beauty and the difficulties. I am very grateful for this».

These are just some of the impressions gathered at the end of the second meeting of those interested in the vocation of the



focolarino that was held in Loppiano from the 28th to the 31st of March. The protagonists were 120, among gen and focolarini, coming from different countries. What characterized the atmosphere of joy and special openness among all was the desire to answer generously to the plan of God and to see together with Jesus in the midst this precious moment of discernment.

There were many moments of intense communion and intimacy with God, that were enhanced by the celebration of the Holy Week within which the program was held. The program, which was planned together, helped to reinforce the personal choice of God and to discover the beauty of the various vocations with a wide, panoramic view that goes beyond the focolare to the whole



Opera and the Church projected towards the «*Ut omnes*».

And in the days before this meeting, there was the first meeting for those who have already felt the call of God to the focolare; they were 31, among whom also a Muslim youth. It was more than just a meeting, we experienced the life of the focolare. It was important to deepen the vocation of the focolarino, with its challenges, doubts and the questions of each one, and the answers were derived from the contribution of everyone with the light of Jesus in our midst.

Ralf Figgener

Vacation, workshop and... a lot of communion for the gen girls and youth who want to deepen the «call» to the focolare

In north-west Argentina, instead, a travelling vacation was held that took place in the midst of a marvellous landscape and scenery all waiting to be discovered. The journey started where the first Mariapolis took place and flourished, in the midst of the pre-Andean mountains, and in the different focolare centres of the zone. The gen girls themselves wanted to have moments of communion and of living together with the focolarinas, an occasion to experience the love of God and all the beauty of this vocation that is put into everyday life.

In Romania the gen 3 said that one of the most beautiful moments of their Congress was when some focolarinas shared their «call» to the focolare.

In Recife (Brazil) the experiences of the more mature focolarinas and also of the younger ones transmitted the radicalism of the vocation.



The meeting in Loppiano during the Holy Week was not the only appointment for the gen and the young girls who want to know more about the vocation to the focolare. In fact, this year there were various initiatives that took place from Romania to Argentina, from Brazil to Kenya. The Mariapolis Piero was the setting of a seven-day workshop for the gen girls and youth coming from Tanzania, Burundi and Kenya. The program unfolded with much sharing, dialogue, private talks. The moments of a «one on one with Jesus», the life with Jesus in the midst and ... the joy that increased day by day were fundamental.

From Nairobi here are two experiences after the week end spent in the focolare by a group of young people: «I understood that this vocation calls for everything and it needs courage to say “yes” to Jesus. I will try to listen to the voice so as to understand the plan of God for me». «I shouldn't worry about my way. The only thing I must do is to love God in the present moment because “to him who loves Me I will manifest Myself” ».

Cécile Marie Brechet

1 A trentine word used to refer to the focolarini in a more familiar way.

2 Jn 14,21

Communicators

Many means, one objective

At Castel Gandolfo a workshop to identify strategies for a coordinated and integrated communication among the different media of the Movement at the Centre and in the Zones, all at the service of the «ut omnes»

June 2000. Speaking to media professionals of communication belonging to the Focolare Movement and beyond, Chiara had indicated a model for the communicator: Jesus Forsaken, «mediator (from medium) between humanity and God», «window through which God could look at humanity and mankind in a certain way to see God».

March 2013. Thirteen years later, during a Convention entitled: «Focolares: strategies for an integrated and coordinated communication» Emmaus reminded the 140 participants, all belonging to the Opera, the «method» of our communication: Jesus in *the midst*. «No one else can communicate the life of the Work of Mary if not the protagonist of the Work of Mary who is Jesus in the midst», she affirmed.

Thus the two cornerstones of communication that will allow the «focolare» art of communication to achieve its goal are: «Many but one body» its function within the Movement, and «That all may be one» its role outside the Movement.

One could not have expected anything different and our experience confirms this. And if the President invites everyone in the Movement, repeatedly, to work as a team, communication – which by nature cannot exist without a relationship between two or more persons – one cannot escape from such a heartfelt appeal. It is but logical then that «*communion*», «*comparison*» and «*collaboration*», were the necessary key words indicated by Emmaus in her talk.

And it was just in this way that the conference was held. A work-shop, a step of a process which began in November 2011 with a similar meeting, and which continued in time through a tight network of exchanges at the Centre, among the various realities working in the various areas of communication – SIF, Focolare.org, Collegamento CH, Mariapolis Newsletter, S. Chiara Centres, Città Nuova



– which, just to follow-up to the findings emerged in 2011, have formed a coordinating committee whose members work together with some regularity; and which have also actively involved all those in the many Zones throughout the world who are involved in various ways in this aspect.

For such a meeting, one had to come prepared, bringing along with him a wealth of experiences, successes and failure, goals

reached or still to be achieved, difficulties, many questions to which answers were sought together, with the consciousness that there are many needs and they cannot all be met immediately.

Looking at the audience that was so heterogeneous, one cannot but notice an aspect that not all organizations in the world have: a wide-spread internationality.

The diverse geographical origins of the participants, from Kenya to the U.S.A., from Brazil to the Philippines, from Germany to Hungary, Italy, show by themselves that the communication that is referred to here, has the characteristics of universality and therefore has the potential ability to influence the world.

With the variety that this entails. So while, for example, in the countries of the West it seems necessary to chase the latest technology, not shirking from dwelling in the network with its social networks, for those

go so far as to say: the focalirinos are means, the branches are means, the dialogues are means because the end is only one: "ut omnes". If we answer to that aim, in whatever way, with whatever language, I am fully convinced that (whatever we do) is blessed. Therefore, with the greatest trust, with the greatest freedom and with the greatest serenity, risking, because we know that when one communicates, one risks. The communication is a risk, certainly, but this is not a reason to avoid it; to communicate is a risk, not to communicate is a defect. So between a risk and a defect I think it is better to risk. What do you say?

Not to communicate means to lack something, to communicate instead is always a way of doing an act of love, an act of love, an act of love which in any case causes reciprocity».

Questions were not lacking, we said. And the President encouraged us: *«Thank goodness that we have this team of people*



coming from other contexts, they reminded everyone of the importance of interpersonal relationships, the need of getting the message across just the same through the use of the internet but not forgetting the oral traditions of some cultures so as not to exclude anyone from the horizons of the *«Ut omnes»*.

Emmaus herself underlined how *«the means of communication serve in fostering communion; they are just means. I would even*

who are looking for solutions: economic solutions, solutions of all kinds». She calls us all to be at the frontline for the *«Ut omnes»*, also through communications. *«You have heard the latest slogans. The latest slogan is: the inverted pyramid But what does the 'inverted pyramid' mean? It means this wide-spread protagonism, it means that each one, personally must be on the frontline to carry out the task that has been entrusted to him or her; it means to do all she*

or he can, because of one's abilities, or because of one's training, or because someone just asked him to do it, so that the Opera goes ahead, so that the Kingdom of God goes ahead. The Opera going ahead means that it is the "Ut omnes" that goes ahead, the design of God on humanity goes ahead which means to make all of humanity into one family. And so because of this, the other slogan that I would like to tell you now is: to sow, to sow, to sow». From here she gives us a kind of mandate: «Communicate externally as much as possible, because if you communicate externally as much as possible, the input will come to you from the outside, also for your formation, for all that is useful internally. Woe to us if we have such a great gift as the Ideal and we take advan-

tage of it only for ourselves instead of generously sharing it with humanity.

Certainly, we have to find ways, we have to find the right language, without a doubt we have to give the right signals, everything; but surely there will be the grace to do this, because if these means of communication serve to fulfil the plan of God which is the "Ut omnes", surely there is the grace to speak to everyone».

The work then continues along this direction, with a document that is still in the developmental stage that will form a sort of common platform that is shared and agreed upon together in all the latitudes, both globally and locally.

Aurora Nicosia

The «communicators» with Pope Francis

Surprise and amazement. This is how the meeting of coordinated communication started. It was above all a great surprise because of the constantly changing program. There could be no better way to start the work than that of participating in Pope Francis' first audience on the 16th of March, just a few days after his election. He had expressed the desire to meet with journalists and all those working in the field of communications.

And so it happened. We too, wanted to get to know the new Pope first hand.

His clear words guided us in the days that followed: «your work requires study, sensitivity and experience, just like in many other professions, but it requires a particular attention with regards to the truth, to goodness and to beauty; and this makes us particularly close to each

other, because the Church exists to communicate precisely this: the Truth, the Goodness and the Beauty "personified".

It must be clear that we are not all called to inform ourselves, but this triad that conforms existential truth, goodness and beauty». A profound message that we all welcomed and now it is to be lived.

Tiziana Nicastro



All protagonists and collaborators

Called to open up new pathways in the Opera and in the Church. More than a thousand committed members at Castel Gandolfo welcome Benedict XVI on the day of his final greeting

From the very first morning of the meeting, Emmaus came to say thank you to the families of the Movement for their «being here» and for the witness of the Ideal that they give to the whole world..

«*The family - the President said – is the first model of every community; in it people of both sexes, adults and youth live together, there you will find people who are healthy and sick, super intelligent and those who have difficulties. Because of this it has a particular role in the Church and therefore also in the Opera ...*». «*To see a family -she continued- that finds the strength to overcome the difficulties, to love even when it is difficult, to give up some comforts out of love for others, to give witness in spite of everything, is like finding a treasure*». *The New Families are an instrument, a means of entering in the world, into humanity and to try «to gather all the areas where love is needed and to satisfy them*». This is their specific characteristic.

Emmaus further underlined once again the «mission» of the Focolare: to make of humanity one family. «*Each one of us must feel that we are the protagonists in this adventure and to put ourselves at the disposition of the brother, of the others, there where God calls us to be ... the families too, if at a certain point they move elsewhere due to work, to help a rel-*



ative who is sick, for normal, material reasons, must feel that they are instruments of the Opera to bring ahead the “ut omnes”.

All the «*Mass Movements - she underlined – are in this moment the Springtime of the Opera*», which means that they are the «*possibility for development, an opening to new things*». Knowing that the families would be present in the Square of Castel Gandolfo on Benedict XVI's arrival, as she greeted them she said: «*... that he may feel the family of the Opera, that it may become family for the Church with him and for humanity*».

The 28th of February was in fact, the last day of the pontificate of Pope Ratzinger, and his greeting would have been his last public greeting as Pope: «*It was a special event, not only because it was historical – as some families commented during the interviews with some journalists from all over the world – but also because it was a special moment of communion with him*».

During the days of the Congress, the 1187 Committed Members, who came together in Castel Gandolfo (28th February – 2nd March 2013) from 17 different countries, went particularly in depth on the theme of the year on the love of neighbour, developed in its application within the family life. «It is so true that this love must be lived first of all in the family – someone said. And precisely because it is a sacrament, matrimony brings with it a special grace, that make us capable of loving».

The program also examined some specific family situations, such as widowhood, which was presented in one session, and was transmitted by internet and fol-

lowed by families outside Europe. Besides this, some particularly contemporary cultural themes, such as artificial fertilization, homosexuality and the theory of gender were tackled. And then they also spoke on economy and solidarity.

Giovanna Pieroni



Religious Yes! We choose the Gospel

Renewed commitment so that the charisms may contribute to making the Church more beautiful. Projects that involve the younger generation

The religious men of the Work of Mary are living a challenge and a new experience. When Fr. Novo (Andrea Balbo, ofm) left this earth on July 2012, the religious men took on as their commitment his

Word of Life: «If you are not born again, you cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven» (cf. Jn. 3,3,5). It is a new phase in the life of the Branch. Some wrote spontaneously after the departure of Fr. Novo: «He gave us the witness; now it is up to us».

One notices a new responsibility, a renewed commitment to make a vital contribution until the charisms in unity may make the Church more beautiful, more family, more Mary. It is not an easy task. Every birth requires the pain of delivery.

When, last January, 180 men Religious met for their annual re-



treat at the Mariapolis Centre of Castel Gandolfo, they received the grace to grow in the life of unity. The light of the Ideal illuminated and reinvigorated their charisms. Each one – as a Dominican, Jesuit, Claretian, Franciscan, Salesian, etc. – felt themselves to be «more Jesus». The men Religious renewed their «Yes» to the call to commit themselves together with the whole Opera for the «Ut omnes».

Many activities were planned in all the zones for the year 2013 - 2014 keeping specially in mind the new generations of Consecrated life.

«Yes! We choose the Gospel» is the title that was proposed as the synthesis of the project that

will unfold according to the situations and the possibilities of each country and continent. A «Vademecum» is already in its advanced stage of development having ideas, possible initiatives, proposals that could be of help for the making of this meeting with young consecrated men and women in the near future.

*The International Secretariat
of the men Religious*

An experience The humour of the Heavenly Father

My name is Alois, I am a missionary of the Most Precious Blood, and I am German. I would like to share with you something about myself starting with a spiritual thought of our founder, St. Gaspar del Bufalo, who told his followers: «Those in agreement are bound to the Congregation not by vows but by “the bond of free charity”. So that the “communion” finds its authentic explanation within the intimate life of the Trinity, where the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are “One”, “One Spirit which is Love”, “only one will”, even the communion finds its foundation and its truth in unity» .

In the past years, having changed the location and type of apostolate several times, I experienced a sort of humour of the Heavenly Father that makes me smile.



For example, after three years spent as a parish priest in Salzburg in Austria, in 2009 I was transferred to Madrid in an international community of my congregation, at the service of migrants.

I faced many challenges not just because of the language but also because of the life style of the community. I was the oldest among five of us and to go out in the evening after ten to go to a movie or go bowling was something new to me. I was used to a religious life style that was more peaceful and regular.

Another challenge I faced was with regards to the liturgy. In our parish in Madrid, where one of us was the parish priest and the other the assistant parish priest, I would have preferred a certain order to be kept in

the sacristy. During the Sunday Mass there was a certain freedom in performing the liturgical celebration that left me quite uncomfortable. In the beginning I couldn't understand it.

My proposal to go on a pilgrimage to a Marian shrine was met with an exchange of smiles and that was it, while participating in the political rallies in the city was normal. I really felt that I was a stranger in their midst.

But to love the brother meant not to stop at my difficulties but to look with openness at their opinions and convictions, sharing with them also the movies and bowling, and the rallies. Thus I was able to understand them more and love grew among us.

I experienced the beauty and the authenticity of our prayers in community in that tiny chapel, that was made from one of the rooms of our house.

After a year, at the end of 2010, the experience in Madrid ended and we were sad to leave one another. Afterwards they themselves asked me to preach in a parish retreat; an evident sign that our relationship and respect that existed among us had grown.

I was then asked to take charge of the vocational apostolate of our province. So since the beginning of last year I live in a small country in the Principality of Liechtenstein, between Austria and Switzerland. I am the youngest of the four missionaries, and it has been a year now that I haven't been to the movies. I have become for everyone the



«technician» of the computer; I pass many hours with my brother parish priest who is not familiar at all with this technology.

The liturgical situation has literally changed with respect to my experience in Madrid. In fact, in the Principality of Liechtenstein there are various priests from Germany who often cel-

brate mass like in the past, before the liturgical reform of Vatican II.

Every week-end we go to a monastery of sisters: we celebrate Mass according to this extraordinary rite and we have lunch with the priest who is their spiritual adviser; with him the challenge is different, his theology is not mine and once again I understood that it is not the differences that should determine a relationship, but love. Also with my brothers in the community similar things happen: sometimes when a brother will tell me that he finds it hard to understand the texts of the Second Vatican Council, I feel hurt, but I try not to judge instead to love. The same brother would ask me to participate in a gathering, and I realize that we will be dealing with themes that I am not familiar with. And here too, I am asked to jump from disappointment to commitment, and so I make mine these themes and we discuss them starting from their point of view. And the opportunities increase.

To my great surprise I realized that it is possible to live love of neighbour in situations that are so different from each other, which are even completely opposite.

I really believe that this is a fruit of the humour of the Heavenly Father.

Meeting of the consecrated women

It is time for co-responsibility

About a hundred, coming from various religious institutes, for the present times of the Opera

The annual meeting of the consecrated at the Mariapolis Center of Castel Gandolfo on the theme of the year «Love of neighbour» was very valuable, above all because of the important message of Emmaus. There was a great openness presented by the people of the Opera called to speak about the dialogue with persons of other non-religious convictions, the projects of fraternity of the AMU, the activities of the Gen for the post Genfest, to which the participants adhered to with awareness and participation. The talk given by Lucia Abignente on «Chiara in the years of the Council» was a special gift for all.

From the start, in a family atmosphere Emmaus, immediately started out by inviting us all to be *«everyone, together, builders of this Opera, of this family of Chiara»* going into depth with clarity on what it means to *«make the structures lighter»*. *«The structure is equally sacred, equally important as the charism – she explained –. But any structure even if it is divine, even if it is sacred, even if it is born from the Holy Spirit, cannot lose sight of the aim for which it was born. So what then is the aim for which the Work of Mary was born? The aim is to arrive at unity, that all may be one, therefore this means the building of the universal human family»*.

As daughters of Founders and Foundresses, we feel ourselves summoned; because even in the history of our Institutes there have been evolutions and we have experienced that adhering to the changes, reading the signs of the times, if lived in unity, always gave new



vitality and a new surge in living the charism, giving it to the Church and to society.

Emmaus made us all protagonists in this Opera with the radicalism of the Gospel put into practice, sharing with others our experiences, loving the brother, living the pure Ideal. On her part she underlined the reciprocal and total trust, not only among the women Religious but among all the members of this most beautiful family of Chiara.

Another point which impressed us a lot was when she invited us to be witness of the presence of Mary in the Church to the new Pope, just as we had strived to bear witness to this also with his predecessors; to bear witness to the presence of Mary that is the Work of Mary.

The meeting ended with an intense moment among the members of the zone secretariats, as they strived to find together the way to reinforce our Centre, by looking for new human resources and looking to the future. It was a moment of grace and a sense of co-responsibility. We can say that the Holy Spirit accompanied us with the abundance of His gifts. We returned to our Institutes with infinite joy and gratitude for the Opera.

la Segreteria internazionale delle consacrate



After the Genfest To live without borders

Create, generate, lead:
**Key words for the animators of
the Youth for a United World**

«We are here to learn and to animate all the more the New Youth Movement, but this is not enough. We are here to learn and to animate the New Youth Movement so that it may truly be the means to approach all the young people around it – let's say, all the young people in the world – but each one there where they are; because if I think of all the young people in the world I get lost and I will never start. Instead, each one wherever he or she is, therefore in that universality, in that sports field, in that gym ... and not only young people, because we have to make everyone one; therefore I must have an open gaze.

To study the strategies, invent projects, everything is good, but also to think that all these are useful to go still further. And this is what is beautiful in what we are living because it is without borders. Therefore it is an Ideal that never ends, it is a horizon that is never closed in front of us».

This was the greeting of Emmaus to the 130 animators of the Youth for a United World coming from various parts of Italy, Portugal, Austria, Hungary, France and a delegation from the continents outside Europe.

Then there follows a lively dialogue with her on the United World Project, launching everyone in building together a positive current to oppose the negative one of the world so that as it gradually gets stronger it will pull also the others to change their way. The life that exploded after the Genfest appears to be precisely this driving force.

They were days of communion, sharing of experiences and of projects, discovering together what is the spirit of an animator of the YFUW.

Then a glance at the Bible to retrace the word «spirit», that is the translation of the Hebrew word «ruach» and which means breath, air, wind, ... something vital, alive, so to speak. In the story of Creation, it is beautiful to catch a glimpse of the presence of God's spirit in the world, the spirit that «floated on the waters». We discover in the sacred text three dynamic verbs: to create, to generate, to lead, that express the function of the spirit of God in the world. The animator is also called to create, to generate, to lead. We opened the floor to let them express all the richness of the meaning of these actions.

It is an «identity-kit» of the spirit of an animator, expressed by many.



To Create

- To give birth to something that did not exist before.
- To be creative: love takes the initiative.
- Create relationships.
- Create spaces of communion.
- Create a group of YFUW.
- Create means creativity.
- Create makes one think of something new, something unexpected.
- Create means to have courage

To Generate

- Give one's life. And so to love Jesus Forsaken.
- One generates physical life but also spiritual life; to bring souls to God.
- To wait with trust, just like a mother.
- To infuse hope and a positive outlook.
- To generate the presence of Jesus among us.

To Lead

- Let yourself be led, therefore the first thing; to be led by God, by Jesus among us.
- To take by the hand.
- Propose the direction to take, but leaving them free.
- To know how to lead.
- To form ourselves with this as our goal.
- To have the charism to know how to lead well.
- To lead a Mass Movement and an action, and so: to move, to rouse.

Let us put it into focus by letting Chiara speak: *«If one looks at the world in a human way one sees divisions, tensions, wars, terrorism, all the evils. If one looks at it with the spirit of Jesus the vision is totally different because one grasps that which the Holy Spirit is doing in the world. And what do you see? One sees that the Holy Spirit, in spite of all these tensions is bringing the world towards unity. We must let another*

spirit enter the young people. And who can bring this to them? The Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit is the spirit of Jesus.

But we must let this new spirit enter into the young people that will allow them to be in the condition of seeing how the world will be. The world of tomorrow will be united ».

With Chiara, let us plunge once more ourselves into our history, into God's plan for the Gen movement:

«Now let us look at the body of that which tomorrow will be the mass movement of the gen. We think that its beauty will consist of simply being a new youth, all risen by the Spirit of God. The gen, you, will be for the Youth Movement, like what the skeleton is for the human body. They (the gen) will be hidden in the mass, with the only task of loving the mass, serving the mass, transmitting to the mass the spirit but not communicating that which concerns themselves, one's own – let us call it in this way – organization. In fact, our external life, all of it, will be only love and we can therefore, without saying it to the others, see it as a service to humanity – especially to the youth – under the various aspects of love »

The words of 1972 are very actual even today. We all agree and we make an appointment to see each other in the Holy Land, in Jerusalem for the conclusion of the extraordinary year of the Genfest.

Maria Guaita, Andrew Camilleri

- 1 Berna, 25.09.198. Chiara agli interni della Svizzera
- 2 Rocca di Papa, 31.12.1972. Chiara all'incontro dei dirigenti gen, pubblicato su *Colloqui con i gen anni 1970-74*, Città Nuova, Roma, pag. 96



At Castelgandolfo

Those of the second generation

A special Holy Week for the 73 gen from Italy and many countries of Europe who participated in the gen school for «whites»

Joy, freedom, passion for «*Ut omnes*», desire to radically live the Ideal: these were the most recurring expressions that echoed during the five days of the school, rich with gifts due to the presence of Eli Folonari, Marco Tecilla, Bruna Tomasi, Peppuccio Zanghì, and the participation in the Way of the Cross at the Colloseum with the Holy Father. The culminating point was lived with Emmaus who «clarified many things», just as a gen said. «Now you can count on me too, to bring ahead the Movement, I too must make resplendent, and bring Paradise here on earth ».

«Dearest gen, - Emmaus told us – *I am really happy to be with you in this special moment of Easter, also with all these beautiful things of the Holy Week. I really wanted to come because I felt the great desire to make an evaluation of the gen Movement, of the young people. And I said: but I must do it with them, I can't do it alone. I'm sure that if what I would like to tell you enters and*

we build it together in this moment, then the whole world will follow later.

[...] What is the gen Movement if not – as Chiara has always said – the second generation of the Focolare Movement? The second generation is not only the gen boys and girls of the units, but the entire youth sector of the Focolare Movement: the gen boys, the gen girls, the units, the pre-units, the Youth for a United World, the genS, the genRe, the Teens for Unity, the young people in the parish groups, all those who in some way were touched by the Ideal and therefore want a united world, because this is what distinguishes a young person of the Ideal from another young person without the Ideal. A young person of the Ideal wants to do something for a united world.

Then there are also those who commit themselves more, that is, those who are ready to do everything, to make whatever sacrifice; which means a more radical commitment, more solid, more important; these are the gen boys and the gen girls.

[...] I went to look at your regulations. In the gen regulations – look how beautiful! – it is written: “The gen 2 girls and the gen 2 boys - article 7 – are the main animators



of the Youth for a United World Movement wherein they find their specific field of action and fully realize their being gen”.

To tell you the truth, I like this very much, because what does principal animators mean? They are the soul; animators comes from the word “anima” (soul), the soul of what? The soul of a body. What is the body? The body is the Youth for a United World Movement. But can you imagine the soul on one side and the body on the other? It does not exist, there is no such thing. The body without a soul becomes a cadaver, it is not even a body. Therefore the soul means this. To be animators means this.

[...] What interests me in this moment is to tell you who you are, what the Youth for a United World Movement is. Are they two distinct realities? Yes, certainly they are two distinct realities with different commitments. One is a mass movement and the other is a movement of people who are truly committed, who give their lives for this movement, so certainly they are different; but in the world they must work together, they must live for the same reality and do it together.

The password is “team work”, or “together”, or “service”, use whatever you like, it doesn’t matter to me, the words are secondary, what is important to me is the reality. This is what I really wanted to tell you.

When Chiara launched it in the beginning and said: “Young people of the world unite”, she didn’t say: “Some of the young people join together to form the gen unit”. She said: “Young people of the world unite”. In the end, when all are united, certainly there will be those who truly did something in particular for this unity, and these are the gen boys and the gen girls, and first of all it was Chiara who did it, therefore with Chiara we go ahe-



New publication

Happy to start again

I go to confession because...

The sacrament of reconciliation as explained to children who are preparing for their first confession.

Written by Annalisa Innocenti, author of other texts written especially for teenagers, and edited by Città Nuova for the series entitled *Viviamo il Vangelo* (We Live the Gospel), this book is a catechetical journey with children and teenagers and draws from the treasures of the spirituality of the «Church as Communion».



ad with confidence knowing that she will help us from Heaven. [...] We must build here on earth this Paradise that Chiara had entrusted in a special way to the gen boys and girls, the earthly Paradise, this Paradise which is the presence of Jesus in the midst and make of the earth this luminous beacon of many stars in the world.

[...] I wish you a very beautiful Easter of the resurrection, with all my heart! Let us continue together just as we said! I count on it, I can count on all of you».

Paula, Joice, Natalia, Nali e Grats del Centro gen

Asia, Africa and the Middle East Some flashes of the journey among Movements

Next appointment: the 18th and 19th of May, the meeting with the Pope in St. Peter's Square

Last September, when the Delegates of the Opera arrived in Rocca di Papa for their annual appointment we came to know about the communion among the various charismatic realities in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Through the reports of the focolarini and focolarine who live in these countries, our eyes opened to the very rich religious and cultural universes, set so far apart and so different from one another. Nevertheless a communion among various ecclesial realities had started and is being lived sometimes in very surprising ways.

Beyond their numbers (four Movements in contact with us in Pakistan, three in Turkey, ten in Congo), one can see an eloquent way on how these movements desire a communion, they look for it making it possible everywhere. Previously, specific meetings, regarding the ecclesial context, allowed us to enter into a broader and more contextual vision of the Church present in those lands, showing us an aspect that is common in all latitudes: the need to grow in communion.

Asia | We discovered that Asia is the continent that is the first to see the dawning of a new day since it has the highest number of martyred Catholics, of which 486 have been canonized. But it is also the youngest continent with a quarter of the world's population below 25 years of age.

It is precisely in Korea, chosen in 2010 to host the Congress of Lay Catholics with the title «*Announcing Jesus Christ in Asia today*», where Cardinal S. Ryko announcing the importance

of bearing witness, said: «We have understood what is the Church that lives in Asia. What it means to be Christians living in Asia. A Church that brings an enormous treasure: a continent full of martyrs. Here the Church faces many challenges. We look at the present and the future of this Church with great hope».

Besides the social and political commitment undertaken by various Movements – such as, for example, activities in favour of the family or in defence of life – the experience of «*Fraternity among ecclesial Movements in Asia*» began in late 2011 after the Convention on the New Evangelization held in that region. Thailand was chosen as the Host for the meetings. There were six Movements who promoted this initiative, three of which were autochthonous.

The growing communion among them, which was nourished by mutual knowledge and practical collaboration, gives us a glimpse of the positive potential that this experience brings to respond to specific challenges, to the Church and to society in those countries.

Middle East | Further west we arrive in the Middle East. Even in countries with a Muslim majority, communion has started almost everywhere. Here the testimony and the efforts to organize meetings of communion contribute effectively to enhancing unity among all members of the Church.

In the Holy Land, a symbolic place for Christianity, many Movements seek to have, albeit small, their own centre. The joint activ-

ities between them are not an exception. But it is mainly the quality of their relationships that bears witness to the primacy of Gospel of love. Everybody is touched by the beauty of the sharing experience and the variety of charismas become truly enriching.

Moving in Lebanon, one can see on the part of the Bishops, a growing appreciation for the Movements and the New Communities. A special openness was recorded in February 2011 after the Assembly of Patriarchs and Catholic Bishops in Lebanon; the larger organism of the Catholic Church in that country. In that office, what is particularly appreciated is the specific contribution and collaboration of the charismatic realities with the local Church, that is made through the contribution of experiences.

Africa | Africa is a continent with immense distances. For this reason, it is not always easy to develop ongoing relationships, nevertheless, here too, one can experience a lively and heartfelt communion among the Movements, even if their life is lived primarily within the parishes.

In some countries like in Burundi, the Movement actively works besides for the New Evangelization, also in the social, political and cultural fields. Lately, their joint commitment, in collaboration with the local Church, focused on the formation of the laity, even to counter the strong pressure of foreign governments to pass certain programs on family planning based on values that are not in line with Christian values.

What did the "journey" in these countries mean for us? A chance to focus on how much God is working to give his Church that expression of communion. And to make it,

New Publications Gli Atti di Bruxelles 2012 e degli eventi locali

A new book has just been published under the series Città Nuova X. It presents the documentation of Together for Europe 2012, Brussels and 152 European cities contemporaneously. «The book has reached its aim, that is to emphasize the extent to which "Together for Europe" has been an extremely important and decisive living experience for the future

of Europe as Chiara has always thought» (Giancarlo Faletti).

«Fraternity and sharing was so perfectly mirrored in this volume, that it helps us to direct our gaze only to the "ut omnes"» (Marylin Barrio).

To receive the publication contact
Insieme per l'Europa :

admin@together4europe.org



there, perhaps more than elsewhere, a sign and a prophecy for the whole of humanity where even the smallest step taken acquires value, consistency and opens the possibility for future projects, indicating the direction to take or to deepen.

Anna Pelli e Pier Giorgio Colonnetti



"Communicate for a united world"

The appointments of NetOne

The NetOne online appointment was held on the 19th of April, an initiative started in Rome in 2001, which continued with monthly appointments where professionals in the sphere of communications with different specializations, started to meet in the evening to listen to a brief spiritual meditation and then to dialogue among themselves. It was not and is not usual for people of these professions to gather to communicate not with the public but not among themselves.

It was Chiara Lubich who suggested this type of meetings which she defined as formative as the various inundations gradually came to life. The NetOne title was: "Communicate for a united world" and a format that foresaw short theoretical reflections, good practices and open dialogue for all.

These appointments online started in January 2008 to allow a wider and more international participation giving start to the bi-monthly online meetings which were open to

the public, to people interested in communication and not by professionals.

The time zone differences did not allow everyone to participate live; which is why excerpts highlights of the meeting are published on the website (<http://www.net-one.org>) and tagged in their face book page. The direct transmission has been up to now in the Italian language but some contributions are uploaded on the website in the original language in which they were delivered.

Since its very beginning NetOne has been structured as a network and has remained as such till today. There are no lists of members and it is difficult to know how many are partakers of this power of fraternity that flows freely and is freely accepted. These meetings are occasions to make the network grow and to share professional experiences and initiatives and anything else one would like to circulate. In addition, for the entire

duration of the program, the chat room is open in the social networks since everyone can contribute to the event.

To spend an hour together every two months seems a small thing in front of the rapid continuous change of communication today, with new social and ethical issues that are added to pre-existing ones. But the spirit of brotherhood which is established and the international vision that opens up, give hope to the heart. Together we resume our pace so as to face with commitment and patience the difficulties of daily life, there where each one of us is called to act.

Maria Rosa Logozzo

Comunicare *per*
un mondo unito



The «new» in the spirituality of Chiara Lubich

The intervention of Eli Folonari
the «Week of spirituality»
of the Teresianum in Rome

In the Great Hall of the Teresianum of Rome, an attentive audience followed with keen interest Eli's contribution on the «spirituality of communion and the exterior castle» delivered during the Week of Spirituality organized by the Pontifical University of the Discalced Carmelites. Every year since 1960, at the beginning of Lent, the Week offers highly topical and important issues in the field of Christian spirituality.

In line with the Year of Faith, the 2013 edition has planned the pathways of a mature and lived faith, with a stimulating theme entitled: «Or mystics, or nothing».

The intervention of Eli presented a form of spirituality suited to our time, to the questions and the demands of Christianity today.

She explained that «the charism of unity which gave birth to a new spiritual current in the Church, proposes both a personal and a collective spirituality. The Carmelite priest Jesús Castellano defined it as that "something more" which characterized it. This means that "the vision and the practice of the communion of ecclesial life, as 'Mystical Body' in which there is the reciprocity of one's own gift and the

dimension of becoming "one", proposed as a life style possible for everyone».

Fr. Castellano for 35 years (1941-2006) the Grand Rector of the Teresianum, perceived in the spiritual path proposed by Chiara Lubich «the solidity of a doctrine that is totally Catholic, that summarizes the most vivid instances of the spirituality of all times, but with a modern and very

current tone, with an openness that is very human».

Eli continued that if Teresa of Avila «speaks of an "interior castle" to indicate the soul in whose centre God lives, (He) who illuminates life and who helps us to overcome various trials,

we can affirm that our vocation is that of building, aside from the "interior castle", also the "exterior castle", which is the living presence of Christ in the community who illuminates everything».

«Exterior castle», therefore, presented and understood as the development of the «interior castle» of the great Carmelite Doctor of the Church. That «something more» that comes from the charism of the Focolare can be expressed as the integration of the «interior castle» of the soul with the «exterior castle» of the Church and coincides with the spirituality of communion proposed by John Paul II to the entire Church in the *Novo millennio ineunte*.

Caterina Ruggiu



1 Jesús Castellano Cervera ocd. Il castello esteriore. Il «nuovo» nella spiritualità di Chiara Lubich. By Fabio Ciardi. Rome, Città Nuova, 2012, p.21..

From Poland Time-out for Syria in Poznań



Foto Jerzy Kot x 2

Touched by the words of Emmaus on the Time-out, with a small group of young people present at the Mariapolis Fiore for the New Year celebrations, we decided to do something. Besides inviting our student friends we also invited other pastoral groups present in our diocese. We

take come to light together. Young people from other groups such as Ruch Czystych Serc (Movement of Pure Hearts), Oaza (Light Life) and the Association of Catholic Families all took part take in our initiative.

There were many ideas, but the same circumstances led us towards the final one ... On the 8th of March we met in the church of the Carmelites for a special Mass and the Way of the Cross with some meditations written by three of our youth on the

We were fully aware that we had to enter into the living wound of Jesus Forsaken: it was precisely Him who gave meaning to everything. We underlined all the positive things, the gestures of solidarity, our experiences which we translated from the website of Città nuova (Diary of Syria). We ended with the prayer of the Our Father in the Aramaic language, the language of the professor and also of Jesus, and in the Polish language.

The next day the professor wrote us an a very moving e-mail to thank us for the beautiful moment spent together even if it was fore a sad occasion. He said that he experienced the atmosphere of the family since felt welcomed as if he were one of us and wished to remain in contact with us. The other participants were also very happy and one of them asked if he could use the write-ups to talk about this action with others.

The youth of Poznan



wrote a letter to everyone, prepared a transmission for the local radio and then we went to present the invitation to the Council of the Movements of Pozna . The idea was to take the initiative in our hands without wanting to impose anything on anyone but to let each one free so that something new would

situation in Syria. After this we met in the Carmelites Hall called «Spiritual Cavern». Our special guest was a professor of Syrian origin who has been living in Pozna for some years. Before this, four of us had gone to see him to explain our idea and to give him an "Ideal" glimpse of what is happening.

In Caracas

Time Out: an exceptional Holy Week

50 youth together in living the words of Chiara «One city is not enough»

«It has been a long time since I dreamt of a different kind of meeting where I can invite new young people. We launched ourselves into this adventure and during the Holy Week we proposed the Time-out».

This is how the adventure began which we, the gen of Caracas, built together step by step. Through the internet and social networks the news of this action reached many youth.

In the beginning only few gave in their names but as we started the count-down to our great joy we saw the numbers rising. As the event neared we were at 50 of which 20 were new, some of them «friends (with no religious convictions)» and then us, the gen boys and girls and the Youth for a United World, all coming from seven cities of Venezuela.

On *Holy Thursday*, after the welcome we received at the Mariapolis Centre «La

Nuvoletta (Little Cloud)», we presented the Movement with Chiara's words «One city is not enough»: which immediately became the meeting's *leit motif*.

Ample space was given to immerse oneself in three different workshops: music, body-percussion and photography/cinema. After dinner we set-up a «country pub» to share what we had lived during the day: we played games, sang and even prayed to-



gether before going to bed.

Good Friday: we answered some questions on the gen vocation. Then the solemn celebration of the Veneration of the Cross presided by an Ethiopian priest who presented the greatness of Jesus «the man of suffering». In the afternoon a forum and round-table discussion on education, art, politics and economics.

Holy Saturday: we dedicated the morning to sports with an introduction to SportMeet and then we divided ourselves in groups of yoga, soccer, and

Austria

Within the ecclesial challenges

Creativity, vitality, enthusiasm in working for the local Church of so many people in the Opera with positions of responsibilities

Seven meetings in seven different cities in seven days. The tour of Austria of the zone and central secretariat of the New Parishes Movement was a unique experience. Not just because of the many kilometres travelled together, five in one car, but for the people met and the communities gathered every night.

dance-therapy. The afternoon was dedicated to the Genfest and the United World Project. Ample time was given to prepare for the Easter Feast: there was a group in-charge of the Mass, songs and the gathering of wood for the big fire. We all dressed our best and at eight in the evening the celebration began full of emotion and joy.

Here are some of the many impressions we collected during Time Out:

«From the beginning I already felt the presence of Jesus in our midst: he was the secret of the success of this programme». «For quite some time now, I was the one in our gen unit who was always criticizing everything and I would say: "why don't we do this or that?". Today what I had been longing for a long time became true. It was a lesson for me since I was always criticizing without doing anything about it. In this moment I don't have anything to criticize, I am totally satisfied and happy for having done this with Jesus in the midst».

«It was an opportunity to overcome the barriers among us, to see that we could achieve something and to understand that God is always on our side. He gives us all the resources we need to be able to go ahead».

The gen boys, gen girls and the youth for a united world of Venezuela



The Opera in Austria is very well integrated in the Church, there are many internal members who are committed in the parishes, some in positions of great responsibility, such as pastoral assistants, official delegates of the Bishop for a parish, etc.

We can see prospects for the New Parishes Movement, a mass movement: creativity, vitality, enthusiasm working for the local Church which is not lacking among the laity and the priests of the Movement whom we met in their different communities. Their work as a team is concrete, capable of creating true relationships.

They have integrated well in the new phase that the Movement is living, to the great joy of everyone!





Through their experiences one can comprehend the many challenges the Church in Austria faces where our members are fully involved by striving to live the Ideal. This has given us hope, for example, to see that the people of the Movement with their perseverance and determination are bringing unity within a new structure launched by the Bishops («pastoral units»).

The exchange between the collaborators of Cardinal Christoph Schönborn who created a process of spiritual renewal, has been very fruitful and encouraging. It was too, with those who form part of this «school of discipleship» where persons of the Movement have committed themselves, together with others in the diocese. «You have already accomplished that which we are still striving to achieve with this process of renewal», the Cardinal recently wrote. «You will be able to do this school because you have the charism of unity, you are already a community».

We are grateful to God for becoming able to contemplate for His glory, the faithfulness to the Ideal of Chiara and to the Church in so many people whom we have met.

d. Rudi Schlogl, Maria e Rudi Rudrupf, Sameiro Freitas e d. Klaus Hosftetter

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ID and password: *notiziariomariapoli*

We would like to present to you the latest inserts – the **Special Report on the fifth anniversary of Chiara** celebrated all over the world, **In Memory of Oreste Basso**, and other interesting news that keeps you up-to-date on the life of the Movement in the world.



In the past few months various focolarinos and focolarinas left us for the Heavenly Mariapolis. Here are the telegrams that Emmaus sent to the zones

Oreste Basso

*«Be imitators of me,
just as I am of Christ»*

Dearest everyone of the Focolare Movement all over the world, as we wait to discover the richness of the person of Oreste through his profile and the many testimonies of his life that are still arriving, I would like to send you, in the meantime, a few samples.

Yesterday night at 12:30 our Oreste, who belonged to Chiaretto's focolare, serenely entered Paradise. His life in the Opera which was lived mostly at the Center, seems to us like a growing and flaming hymn of gratitude to God for the Charism of unity.

Born in Florence on the 1st of January 1922, he was very close to his parents and his two sisters Irene and Maria who closely followed his choice. He met the Ideal in Milan in 1949 through Ginetta Calliari, together with that group of friends who usually met at the the Cardinal Ferrari University canteen: Giorgio Battisti (Cari), Danilo Zanzucchi, Guglielmo Boselli, Alfredo Zironzoli and Piero Pasolini.



Oreste was already working at Breda, a big industry in Milan, as an engineer and tester of train engines. In those difficult years after the war, knowing the Ideal was for him the discovery of a power that would have given peace, progress and hope to the world.

In '51 he, together with Cari and Piero Pasolini, made up the men's focolare in Milan. Years later, while continuing to work in Milan, he went to open the focolare center in Parma with Lionello Bonfanti, Danilo Zanzucchi and Fr. Gino Rocca. At the end of the '50s he was called to the Center of the Movement in Castelli Romani where he took on roles of great responsibility beside Chiara and Fr. Foresi in governing the Opera. He was ordained a priest in '91, and he had always considered the priesthood as a gift, because the Ideal had taught him to live it as a service, a call to a greater love.

The life of Oreste reveals a journey that the first focolarini made with Chiara. He wrote her: «You are and will always be our teacher of sanctity. You give us your life which becomes ours because of the renewed, "regenerated" love for Jesus Forsaken, the only Spouse, the only model, the only goal of our soul».

The living unity with Chiara created in Oreste, from the very beginning, a special relationship with Mary, almost like a progressive transformation of his being which reached its peak on the 7th of December 1972. He confides in Chiara, saying: «This morning,





while listening to you, it seems as if I was participating in a miracle, in a new reality: Mary [...]. As you spoke I felt myself transformed: through an inclined plane, I found myself with you, in the heart of the Trinity, in Mary. Every fibre of my soul, and I would say also of my body, seemed to be transformed into a new being, in Mary. And so it was like passing from night to dawn, to midday, it was like a stone that becomes a heart of flesh and something more. It seemed as if I understood how the Verb became flesh, the incarnatus est! only that in me, in my heart, I found Mary».

Dearest, with a well-founded hope that Mary has already welcomed Oreste into Heaven, and letting ourselves be encouraged by his Word of Life: «Be imitators of me, just as I am of Christ» (1Cor 11,1), together with him and all of the Heavenly Mariapolis, let us remain in this reality of Paradise».

At the beginning of the funeral Mass, which was held at the Center of the Opera on the 15th of April, Emmaus read some of the messages that arrived and of which we will share with you some excerpts.

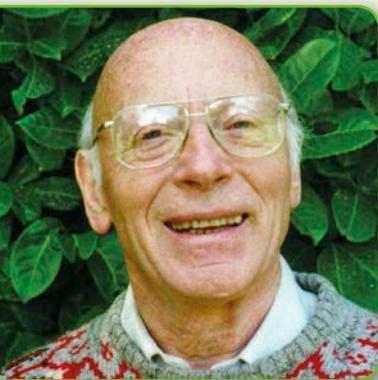
The first is the one that comes from the Vatican Secretary of State, signed by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, through whom Pope Francis: «hopes to convey to the entire Focolare Movement, the expression of the most profound condolences, and while he recalls the generous ecclesial service of such a zealous priest who knew how to work in the joyous announcement of the Gospel and in the solemn witness of charity, raises up fervent prayers of suffrage for his soul, which we entrust to the maternal intercession of the Virgin Mary».

Cardinal Bertone adds a personal remembrance: «[...] Even while in the midst of suffering for the earthly loss, we are comforted by thinking that Oreste is alive now more than ever in the bosom of the Father, and from there he can intercede in favor of the Work of Mary, which he loved and served with profound sensibility and intelligence.

I had the chance to find myself with Oreste Basso in that time in which some passages of the Statutes of the Work of Mary were under scrutiny. I was impressed by his sincere listening to advice and his total availability to collaboration. With him I experienced a great fraternity and in time, even without meeting one another, I have always jept with me this feeling of friendship. I perceived a delicateness of his soul as priest and brother in the Movement without authoritarianism, and for this he has always been a model for me.

With a sense of gratitude I unite my prayers of suffrage, that today finds You gathered together in profound unity around this beloved deceased and I take this opportunity to send You my fraternal greetings».

And from the Pontifical Council of the Laity, Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko: «One of the very first companions of Chiara has arrived in Heaven, he who had been her faithful and untiring collaborator for many years. I had the chance to meet him many times and to get to know him personally. I appreciated the clarity of his ideas and his radicalness as a witness of the Gospel, as well as his amiability. His being a priest according to the heart of Jesus shone through and bore witness to how much the charism of the Movement can make the grace of the sacrament of the Order blossom».



Guido Brini

«Our Guido»

Our Guido, one of the first focolarinos of Turin, reached the home of the Father on the 12th of March,

after having spent the last years of his life at the Roman Mariapolis in the focolare of Villa Achille due to a serious illness that gradually weakened him.

He was born in the province of Modena on the 20th of May 1926 and soon after his family moved to Turin where in 1950 he met the Ideal almost at the same time as his brother Mario, who is also a focolarino.

Guido himself relates: «Since I was a child I had a closed, and rather mental (as opposed to emotional) character and I always looked at reality like a totality of things that are both spiritual and material that I had to control. I felt secure of my intelligence and I dominated the others and all situations without charity. When I was 24 years old the Lord made me meet the focolarinos. As soon as I understood the spirit which guided and moved them, I felt that I had to make a radical conversion and to start a new life no longer centered on myself but on Jesus. For two years it was a continuous struggle between the old man and the new man: I had a thousand attachments of the senses, of my reason When I finally started to truly live instead of judging, then the a true conversion within me took place. I felt the call to live totally for God, for the Church and so at 27 years of age I entered the focolare». In '66 Guido was ordained a priest.

How can we tell you in just a few words the richness and fecundity of his life? He brought the Ideal to many parts of the world, sharing the life of the Gospel with facts, in tune with the Word of Life that Chiara gave him: «We don't love with words nor with the tongue but with works and in the truth» (1 Gv 3, 18).

We remember Guido especially as the delegate of the zone: in England in the '60s with Dori Zamboni; in the '70s in Beirut where, together with Aletta Salizzoni, they saw the birth and the blossoming of the Opera in the Middle East and Maghreb. During the war in Lebanon he support-

ed and encouraged everyone with great courage and great faith in God. In '86 he was transferred to Mexico to follow the zone together with Fiore Ungaro. At the beginning of '99 he came to the Roman Mariapolis

He was «guided», as we can see, by a letter he wrote to Chiara after the theme on the Holy Spirit: «... (He) came to fill up and to satisfy a profound need of the mind and the heart that I was feeling, a need for Light on Him and for ardor for Him».

In January of '99 he told her (Chiara): «It has been years now since I wrote you a personal letter, so as not to give you more work besides that which the Holy Spirit already gives you. Nevertheless I have not known a day without you, without your light, your love (they are from God), and also my humble gratitude».

Aside from his wisdom, Chiara also appreciated his witty remarks and his sense of humor. Guido was always ready to improvise and to risk with his punchlines that amused and generated in everyone an atmosphere of the family and of joy.

Upon hearing of his departure, many people expressed how much of a gift he was for them: «He knew how to make himself one with everyone, adults and youth, rich and poor, cultured and simple, helping each one to bring out their talents and to make them bear fruit».

«He was very serious and profound but with an exceptional sense of humor. It was a joy to be with him and to ask for his thoughts on various political and social realities».

«The Masses that he celebrated were simple, and often one had the impression that a hole in Heaven opened, flooding us with the divine».

We are grateful to God for having given us such a brother.

Jane Frances Maseruka

«She has really left her mark»

Whoever got to meet Jane Frances Maseruka of Fontem remembers her as a joyful and simple person, one who is happy to be a focolarina. She fell in love with the Ideal as soon as she got to know about it in Uganda, her homeland, where her mother and her large family still live.



She left for heaven on Sunday, April 7th, in Yaoundé (Cameroon) where she was brought from Fontem to prepare for a possible brain surgery. From the latest news received the days before, there seemed to have been an improvement. Hence, her departure was unexpected. She was 56 years old.

Jane Frances was brought back to Fontem and she arrived there in the early hours of Monday morning. The community of the Little Town, where she had lived for 18 years from the moment she entered the focolare and to where she returned in 2011, never left her side..

They told us that there have been moments of deep prayer, but also of "crying together", songs and dances, all of which express a welcoming. Fontem lives for her in these days, just as she lived for Fontem with her heart wide open on the entire Movement and the whole world.

The Fon remembered her for her exemplary life in the fullness of love. "We believe that Jane Frances, along with Mafua Ndem Chiara, will continue to intercede for the Bangwa people and for the Focolare Movement."

The period that Jane Frances lived in Bamenda-Akum, as the one responsible for the focolare, was very fruitful. The people remember her as always loving and ready to help, even amidst the many activities of the Mariapolis Center. She knew how to welcome everyone and make them feel at home.

The Fon of Akum writes: "I thank Jane Frances a hundred times over for having introduced me to this Movement that has entered my bones and my very being, and for having supported and encouraged me to work for the New Evangelization that has brought many fruits of new life to my people. She truly has made a great impact."

I have received impressions and experiences from many parts of the world. Doris Ronacher, one of the zone delegates for the Little Town of Fontem, having had her as "a help" for the women focolarine in these last two years, emphasizes her maturity and transparency. And all those



who Jane Frances took care of, speak of her total openness and profound knowledge of the Way of Mary, qualities that she possessed so as to help each focolarina on her journey towards collective holiness.

She wrote many letters to Chiara communicating what was in her soul. We cite one written in 2003: "My first duty, that of which I have to give account to God when I will meet him, is to love my neighbor. This gives meaning to my vocation as a Christian and as a focolarina ..."

Her Word of Life: "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did it for me" (Mt 25:40), emphasizes how she really lived.

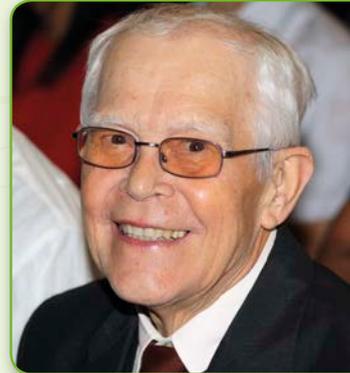
The funeral will be on Saturday and one of her brothers will come from Uganda to represent her family.

... Let us ask her to help us build the Opera especially in Africa which she has greatly loved.

d. Stefano Vagovic

Let us thank God for his life

Fr. Stefano, of the Mariapolis Foco of Montet, reached the Heavenly Mariapolis on the 21st of March. A month ago his health became serious due to a sudden cerebral stroke. It seemed to be his last moments, when unexpectedly he recovered all his mental faculties. From then on he was totally ready to do the Will of God. One day he confided: «It is Jesus Forsaken, but the present moment is a great light.»



Fr. Stefano was born on the 12th April 1927 in Kátlovce in Slovacchia. As a teenager he felt the call to the priesthood. He went on to study at the Diocesan minor seminary of Trnava and then went to Rome for Philosophy and Theology. He was ordained in '52, and was the chaplain of Veneto and for ten years in Abruzzo and in the Marche, a region in central Italy, where he taught philosophy in the diocesan seminaries.

On his return to Rome to study in '56 he, together with his Slovakian friends, met a focolarino who shared with them how the Gospel is lived in the Movement: a new Christian way of life that aroused great interest in the heart and in the mind of the young philosopher priest. After participating in the Mariapolis of Fiera di Primiero in '58 and '59, he found out that there was a focolare in Pescara and some priests of the Movement in that region, and so he went to see them.

In '64, during a meeting of priests, he told Fr. Silvano Cola of his desire to give himself to the Work of Mary «full-time». «And this is how a new vocation and a new life began for me», he said. In September '65, on the invitation of Fr. Foresi, he arrived in Loppiano as a professor and a priest. He expressed his gratitude to Chiara in this way: «I know that this is a work of God and the grace to belong to it, fills me with joy and humility».

Since his Bishop allowed him the freedom to work for the Movement, he was admitted in the branch of the focolarinos and since then has lived in the focolare. After twenty-two years of humble and effective service in Loppiano, he was transferred to Montet in '87.

He accompanied with wisdom and discretion a great number of men and women focolarini during their formation with a simple and pure love, that always knew how to welcome each

one, and with his intuition lend them his support. He was greatly loved by everyone because he was always open to the others and always united with God.

After having participated in a meeting of the externs of the Abba School, he wrote to Chiara: «For me, to come into contact with the pages of Paradise is always to relive them, its light accompanies my daily life and molds my mind ... The commitment to enucleate the doctrine contained in the charism and to create a new culture which corresponds to it is not an utopia, it is a reality, still at the initial stage, but it exists».

And in 2009 he wrote to me: «The Opera is mine and I am the Opera. I contemplate it as a net that envelops the whole world and I would like to take hold of it with all might... The Opera is a living cell of the Church, it is Church, a new flowering tree that will serve the whole Church».

Last year in Montet he celebrated his 60th anniversary of the priesthood. He said: «I am very happy to be part of such a beautiful family». And then: «With humility and gratitude I thank God ... for this divine adventure planned by the infinite love of the Heavenly Father... Ny name is: I am thank you!».

The Word of Life of Fr. Stefano is: «To you who are my friends I say: do not be afraid of those who persecute you» (Lk. 12,4).

Enzo Rossitto

A true « child of the Gospel»

On the 1st of March, Enzo, focolarino of the Roman Mariapolis, concluded his earthly life in all serenity surrounded by the focolarinos of his focolare who were praying with him in Villa Achille. Enzo was born in Florida, a province of Syracuse, on the 2nd of January 1920. In '50 he went to Rome to work as a official of the Ministry of the Treasury. In the same year he married Maria and they had two children, Mimmo e Gaetano.

On the 2nd of August '58 he met the Ideal through Matteo Silvi, his colleague at the Ministry, who had invited him to the Mariapolis of Fiera di Primiero. Since then he started to go to the focolare,

until in '65 he became a married focolarino.

If we could use only one image to describe the life of Enzo Rossitto, we can with reason affirm that he was a true «child of the Gospel».

«I have only one Spouse on earth, Jesus Crucified and Forsaken» is the Word of Life that Chiara gave him and which has always guided him step by

step, in his life of the focolare. He wrote to Chiara: «I have often meditated on Jesus Forsaken and when I learnt how to recognize His face in suffering, I not only felt so much peace and joy within me but the true freedom of being a child of God. I understood how true these words are: "If you ob-



serve my commandments, you will truly be my disciples, you will know the truth and the truth will make you free" (cf Jn 8,31 ndr)».

The departure for Heaven of his wife Maria in August '89 was a very strong loss for him, which followed by making a big step ahead in his spiritual life.

In the days that followed, Enzo wrote to Chiara asking to enter the focolare as a focolarino who lives in community. Chiara immediately welcomed his request. A phase of his life was closing and a new one was opening. «During the first months in the focolare ... life was not easy. But at the same time, the love and the help of the focolarinos was so great and their gentleness too, that even this difficult moment was overcome with a

great enthusiasm. I felt that I had to live the same ideal but in a more totalitarian way ...».

In 2010, following the decline of his health, Enzo moved to Rome in Rocca di Papa, in the focolare of Villa Achille.

For about a month his health gradually worsened. Last Thursday, towards evening, Aldo Baima and Rino Chiapperin, both of the same «green» focolare went to pay him a short visit and then stayed to recite the rosary with him. When they greeted him, Rino said «Have a happy journey», and requested him to greet Mary. Enzo replied «Bye!». Those were his last words. There was a very strong supernatural atmosphere, one could feel «the family» that Enzo continued to build even during the last years of his life

Graziella (Lella) Fumagalli Villa

«I will strive to be a little Mary»

Graziella (Lella) Fumagalli Villa, a married focolarina from Milan, left for heaven on April the 4th following a serious illness; she was accompanied by Jesus in the midst with her family and her focolare.

Born in 1955 in the province of Milan, Lella got a degree in education and taught at the Primary school. She married Francesco Pavarin in 1979 but since they were unable to have children, they enriched their family by adopting Carolina.

In 1993 they discovered the vocation of the "Volunteers of God" in the Movement and both of them adhered to it totally. After a long illness, Francesco reached the Heavenly Mariapolis in the year 2000. Chiara, who at that time was travelling to the USA, on hearing the news, wrote to Lella: "I am certain that Francesco is following you from Above and will continue working for the Movement which he loved so much." In the years that followed, Lella remained faithful to Jesus Forsaken, entrusting him every difficulty.

She later met Cesare Fumagalli, who was also a volunteer of the Movement and widowed with 3 children and together they formed a new



family to which she gave her all.

She and Cesare always sustained the local community in many ways. Lella was entrusted with the gen 4 and opened her home for meetings and also for the gatherings of the Word of Life group. She welcomed anyone and everyone who needed support or a listening ear. She loved in a concrete way thus allowing many people to experience the beauty of the Gospel lived out.

Slowly but surely she felt a call from God to the focolare.

Chiara had given her a Word of life: "In quietness and trust is your strength" (Isiah 30:15) suggesting she add the name Mary to her own with this wish: "It will be Mary to help you to fulfill the plan of God for you and your family." Lella responded immediately, "I will try to be another Mary." And in another letter she wrote to Chiara saying: "With the grace of God I want to be guardian of the Flame with you, so that it may shine forth for eternity to illuminate every 'night' of the world".

Lella's adventure took a turn in a very new encounter with the Love of God in 2011

when she became ill. She tried to catch a glimpse of God's Love behind every confirmation of the advancing illness, passing through very dark moments, consumed in unity with the focolare - ever so close to her through it all. Even though she was in the mystery of suffering, which at times fogged the very meaning of life, Lella tried to offer everything also for the people she met in hospital who had not received the precious gift of the Ideal. She was profoundly grateful to Chiara for having taught her what matters most. Lella wrote, *"My life now is moving from the bed to the armchair. What can I do about this? Nothing! Chiara has taught me what matters is not doing, but being."* When asked if she was at peace she replied with a decided yes and a nice smile.

About a month ago she was overjoyed with the proposal of pronouncing her final 'promises' and receiving the Sacrament of the Sick - both events happened in a very high supernatural atmosphere. Her face, so consumed by illness, was radiant, bearing witness that life does not die. On Holy Thursday, she was already gravely ill but remembered it was the day of mutual love so she asked to renew the Pact all together; it was a sacred moment.



Roy Poole

Un pilastro di Perth con il suo amore e buon umore

Il 30 marzo, Sabato Santo, Roy Poole, sacerdote focolarino anglicano di Perth è partito serenamente per il paradiso, circondato dall'affetto dei familiari e da alcuni membri della comunità di Perth. Roy è stato uno dei pilastri del Focolare a Perth dove col suo amore e il suo buon umore ha fatto conoscere l'Ideale a tante persone.

Nato a Great Baddow, in Inghilterra il 2 maggio 1926, ha conosciuto il periodo difficile

della depressione economica, e attraverso la scoperta della povertà ha sentito il desiderio di servire i poveri e la chiamata al sacerdozio. È stato ordinato nel '55.

Partito poi per l'Australia, ha lavorato come parroco nel West Queensland dal '57 al '59. Tornato in Inghilterra ha lavorato nei quartieri poveri di Manchester e in seguito ha ricoperto alcuni posti di responsabilità nel Christian Aid.

Nel '70, durante un ritiro, conosce il Focolare. Si trattava di un ritiro dedicato al silenzio e Roy amava raccontare come fosse incuriosito da un gruppo piuttosto rumoroso che condivideva la casa dove si trovavano. Scoprì che era un gruppo del Focolare. Nel '83, per approfondire la spiritualità dei Focolari frequenta la Scuola sacerdotale di Frascati e decide di diventare sacerdote focolarino. È stato uno dei primi sacerdoti anglicani a vivere questa esperienza di unità con sacerdoti cattolici. Nell'85, dopo il suo ritorno nella diocesi di Perth, costituisce un gruppo della Parola di vita che continua ad incontrarsi tuttora.

La divisione delle Chiese costituiva per Roy una grande sofferenza. La sua presenza è sempre stata di notevole aiuto per promuovere il dialogo ecumenico in Australia. Una delle sue grandi consolazioni era di sostenere e poter partecipare agli incontri dei sacerdoti di varie Chiese a Perth e valorizzava molto le amicizie costruite con loro. Roy aveva uno stretto rapporto epistolare con Chiara. Quando costruì la sua casa a Stratton (Perth) le chiese un nome. Voleva che essa fosse un luogo dove la comunità del focolare potesse venire a riposare e sentirsi a casa. Chiara la chiamò «Betania» dove Gesù aveva riposato coi suoi amici, Marta, Maria e Lazzaro.

Nel gennaio di quest'anno, Roy avrebbe voluto partecipare alla visita di Emmaus e Giancarlo in Australia ma la salute non glielo permetteva. Ha scritto ad Emmaus dicendo di voler offrire questo dolore e di pregare per la buona riuscita della visita. Emmaus gli ha risposto ringraziandolo del suo «prezioso contributo», dicendo di essergli «grata per l'offerta della sua sofferenza perché l'Ideale si diffonda sempre più in queste terre».

Roy era molto amato per la sua sapienza, il suo amore concreto, e il vivace senso di umore.

Al suo funerale, presente la comunità del Movimento di Perth e l'arcivescovo cattolico emerito Barry James Hickey. c'era un'atmosfera gioiosa e sembrava di toccare con mano le parole del Vangelo: «Siamo passati dalla morte alla vita perché amiamo i fratelli».

Bruno Carrera

P. Jim Rent csb

Tra i primi religiosi dell'Opera in Canada



P. Jim, uno dei primi religiosi di lingua inglese del Canada, ci ha lasciato a 77 anni, il 2 marzo scorso, dopo una lunga malattia diagnosticata dal 2006. Era religioso della Congregazione di San Basilio. Dopo studi in Canada e in Francia, nel '65 è stato ordinato sacerdote, ha insegnato per breve

tempo ed ha svolto il suo ministero in varie città canadesi. L'incontro con il Movimento, che definì «una delle grandi grazie della mia vita», avvenne nel '73, mentre era parroco a Sault-Ste-Marie, nel nord dell'Ontario, dove divenne l'animatore della piccola comunità locale. Ritornato a Toronto, ha ottenuto un diploma universitario per la gestione degli archivi, impegnandosi poi fino ai suoi ultimi giorni a sistemare l'archivio della sua congregazione. Svolgeva il ministero sacerdotale in diverse parrocchie; ha sostenuto con grande disponibilità le manifestazioni dell'Opera, facendosi il grande dono di condividere con noi la sua vita spirituale. Una sua esperienza: «La settimana Santa è piena di grazie, e una di queste è ascoltare nelle confessioni come le persone fanno sforzi meravigliosi per vivere la volontà di Dio, spesso superando terribili difficoltà». Gesù Abbandonato era stato la scoperta fondamentale della sua vita. Scriveva: «Questa settimana le cure e gli effetti negativi saranno un buon modo di ricordarmi ciò che Gesù ha fatto per noi e così celebrare la sua passione, morte e resurrezione».

Ultimamente, p. Jim, nell'ambito della congregazione, aiutava un giovane di Haiti con una borsa di studio universitaria. Nell'ultima visita da lui, abbiamo trattato l'argomento, e mi ha colpito vedere come egli abbia subito voluto affidare questo caso ad un suo confratello, con un amore che durava fino alla fine.

Marc St-Hilaire

Maria Lunazzi

«All of us can become saints»

Mary, one of the first internal members working within the parish together with her husband in the Milan area, passed away on February 5th at the age of 79, after a serious illness. She was surrounded by the love of Peter her husband, her children, grandchildren and by many members of the Opera.



In 1964 she moved with her family from Carrara to a suburb in Milan, where a church was being built. She started attending the parish with Peter and became an active part of it. Through the words of a priest she discovers God Love and remains very much touched. She started participating in some meetings of the Word of life and in 1986 she attended the first Congress of the Parish Movement. "For us it was the light," she wrote. Having known Chiara's life and the first focolarine, made her family change their mentality and lifestyle to a more essential one with a heightened sensitivity towards the needs of others. After 27 years they moved house and parish. It was a hard time, but a new adventure begins in loving and serving the new community. In '93, Chiara writes to her: "This Word of life will help you: "There is more joy in giving than in receiving" Since then Mary becomes increasingly an instrument of God's love, with her profoundly concrete charity. To a focolarina she

writes: "When I come to the focolare I feel a great joy, I feel I am in the heart of the Opera and all this gives me the strength to start again even in the darkest moments." And after a meeting at Castel Gandolfo: "The soul is overflowing with joy and a certainty: we can all become saints." She was ready when the Lord called her. In the hospital, now without any strength left, she had a smile for everyone and a special look. She left us the testimony of a tireless love for God and for neighbour. During the funeral the parish priest said that the presence of Mary in the parish and her belonging to a movement and has been a resource for the whole community since she was a builder of communion and unity.

Donatella Donato Di Paola



Germano Rio Tinto

Being family at all costs

Germano, a volunteer of Lisbon, concluded his "holy journey" on the 13th of September at the age of 69. In his military career, he was wounded in Africa, with consequences for his whole life. He has been a professor of economics in civil and military schools, author and translator of several didactic works. He was married to Margarida, also a volunteer and they had four children.

His meeting with the Ideal, actively contributed to the growth and maturity of the volunteers in Portugal. He faced situations with a radical lifestyle and with courage by loving. He put all his efforts in the activities of the Opera, never saying no. For several years, he was the zone responsible for the volunteers and at week ends he used to travel kilometres on foot to visit the first communities, committed to give the Ideal at work, in the parish and in social activities - even after retirement - and all

this bearing great fruit. On putting the life of the Gospel in the world of education, Germano always had something to tell, sharing the fruits of his rich educational experience. Lately, already ill, he shared his need "to be, until the end of our lives, co-responsible for the sanctity of each other, therefore, to be family at all costs."

His life was marked by suffering and illness, yet many were not capable of noticing it when they saw a serene and joyful face. He wrote in the editorial in one of the first magazines of New City in Portuguese: "By calling everything by its own name, we will repeat until the end of time, the cry of Jesus (on the Cross). At that time, there will be no distinction between Pain and Love". Those who knew Germano can say that his life was a witness to this

Tobé Oliveira

Nolmy Ruiz de Midence

One of the first volunteers of Honduras



She was born in Santa Maria del Real, a small town in Honduras. When at a tender age her father died, she becomes a great help for her mother, assisting her four brothers and those in need. A striking experience marks her life. She worked in a centre for the farmers of the parish in a period of persecution towards them. One day, while she was out shopping, armed groups broke into the city, taking away with them those who were there, among others a priest, two nuns and many friends of hers. After months they were all found in a mass grave. Saved by a miracle, Nolmy decided to change things. She got to know the Movement in 1988, at that time in its beginnings in Honduras. She begins to live the Gospel in her family and her husband Juan becomes a volunteer and their three children, too. In January with great joy she is with the volunteers, asking Chiara for a Word of Life, which becomes her life program: "Not my will be done but Yours" (Lk 22:42). When the focolare



Claude Desmarais

His were words of life

Claude was one of the first Canadian volunteers. She left for heaven at the age of 83, on January 24th, accompanied to the last by Annie, his wife, she too a volunteer. Claude had known the Movement in 1970. Whoever met him was touched by his simplicity and listening, and when he opened his mouth his were "words of life". A civil servant in the field of exports, great was his love for nature and for some time he enthusiastically run a small farm. He had many artistic talents: painting, wood working; he has published several books with stories of his life, and with other writers supported writing workshops with marginalized people.

comes to Honduras, Nolmy and Juan are there present, helping in so many things, from the shopping to the market, to setting the house after the meetings being often the last one to leave.

Great was her generosity and faith in God's love and providence. If she felt he had failed to love, she started once again acknowledging her mistakes or if she seemed to be "out of ray" of the will of God, she communicated this to her nucleus to get back on the right path. She was a mother not only for her family but also for those living around her and for the focolarine. She gave freely the Ideal where every she was: from the diocese's "School of Faith" to the members of the political party to which she belonged, to the parish, always with the aim of having a Honduras inflamed with love.

When she became seriously ill she offered all her suffering. The community was always there by her side, caring for her and doing night shifts at the hospital. On February the 8th, Nolmy concludes her "holy journey" at the age of 57. Her funeral brought together all those whom she knew, with a profound gratitude for her: parishioners, politicians, friends and the great family of the Opera, making this moment truly a heavenly feast.

Martita Blanco

In '83 he writes: "I asked God to give me the grace to always recognize Jesus Forsaken, not to worry about my weaknesses but to concentrate with all my strength to love every one concretely." And in '95: "Since one year, my greatest joy is in my ever-closer relationship with Jesus Forsaken. He has become my partner in the "holy journey", never failing to manifest himself [...]. Changing into love what He gives me, relationships with others become more true and profound. "André Hereen, a focolarino who paid him a visit in hospital, said: "I entrusted him among other things, Emmaus' trip to Indonesia and Oceania, and I reminded him of all those years, lived for our Ideal: unity. Lifting up his thumb to show the sign of "One" he declared in this way, his "yes".

Marc St-Hilaire

Our relatives

They have passed on to the next Life: **the father of Paulo José Melo**, focolarino in Congo; **Alberto, father of Gabriel Zoccola**, focolarino in Florence; **Alfredo, brother of Italo Feresin**, focolarino at the Roman Mariapolis; **Antonietta, mother of Giusi Carlisi, and Ignazio, father of Elisabetta Parisi**, married focolarinas at the zone center of Catania; **Veronica, mother of Franci**, priest focolarino (Slovenia), **of Vera**, married focolarina, **of Milan**, intern religious in the French Guyana, **and of Andreja (Delia) Kadunc**, focolarina in Croazia; **Giovanni, father of Riccardo Bosi**, focolarino in Roma; **Ines, mother of Paola Pepe**, focolarina in Brescia; **Eusebio, father of Emma (Ima) Ampong**, focolarina in Cebu (Philippines); **Nicholas, father of Liduina Atabong Awung**, focolarina at the zone center of Nigeria; **Virgilio, father of Elisabeth (Beth) Piccio**, focolarina at the Roman Mariapolis; **Liliana, mother of Erminia (Emi) Della Monica**, focolarina in Rome; **Raquel Francisca, mother of Raquel Sisterò**, foc.na in Neuquén (Argentina Sud); **Vigilato, father of Geralda Amelia Rezende (Gemma)**, focolarina at the Mariapolis Gloria (Brasile North); **Maria Iride, mother of Stella Bozzarelli**, married focolarina in Trento, **and of Lucia**, volunteer of Veneto East; **Jongsoo, father of Lindi Kyoung Hee Ho**, focolarina at the Mariapolis Center of Castel Gandolfo; **Encarna, mother of Fernando Rico**, focolarino in Madrid; **Raffaella, sister of Ciro Ercolanese**, focolarino at the Mariapolis of Loppiano; **Paolo, father of Alfonso di Giovanni**, married focolarino in Cagliari.

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Ai sensi del D. lgs. N. 196/2003 per la tutela dei dati personali, comunichiamo che gli indirizzi dei nominativi a cui viene inviato Mariapoli fanno parte dell'archivio del Notiziario Mariapoli, gestito da PAFOM, esclusivamente per la finalità dell'invio di tale periodico. I dati possono essere comunicati a terzi incaricati per la spedizione.