

Chiara Lubich has returned home at Rocca di Papa Further worsening of her medical condition.

For a few days already, Chiara Lubich had expressed her desire to "return home". This decision was taken yesterday evening. She has returned to her home at Rocca di Papa after being discharged from the Gemelli Hospital where she had developed serious respiratory problems.

Professor Salvatore Valente, Head of the Pneumology Department of the University Hospital has declared: *"In accordance with Chiara's expressed desire, she has been discharged home."* He assures: *"She will continue receiving all the necessary medication including the respiratory support. Unfortunately - he adds - her present condition shows no response to the treatment."*

Up until yesterday afternoon, Chiara was able to be informed by her personal secretary, Eli Folonari, on all her incoming correspondence. This morning, Chiara wanted to greet the focolarine and focolarini who had started the Movement with her. She continues to inspire great serenity. Two days ago, she confided that she felt Mary's spiritual presence near her. Chiara has lived all her life in profound communion with Mary. The Opera which she has founded is in fact called Work (Opera) of Mary, the name by which the Focolare Movement has been approved by the Church.

These last few days have been characterized by an intense unity and constant prayer throughout the Movement spread all over the world. Andrea Riccardi and Salvatore Martinez have assured of their respective prayers from the St. Egidio's Community and the Renewal in the Spirit.