

14 March 2008 - 14 March 2013
5th anniversary of the demise of Chiara Lubich

Numerous initiatives throughout the world exploring the cultural dimension of her charism.

**An international meeting at the Università' La Sapienza in Rome:
"Chiara Lubich, Charism, History and Culture"**

In this way the Focolare Movement prepares to greet the new Pope

The new page of history that the Church is writing with the resignation of Benedict XVI from his role as Bishop of Rome and the preparations for the election of a new Pope, is being lived by the Focolare Movement all over the world with great interest and expectation. It is with this spirit, that the Movement intends to celebrate the 5th anniversary since the death of Chiara Lubich (22nd January 1920-14th March 2008), the founder and first president of the movement.

There have been numerous initiatives promoted by the Movement all over the world on the occurrence of this anniversary with the aim of exploring the impact of her ideas on culture. The effect of the charism of unity on inter-religious dialogue will be at the centre of the programme of events in Mumbai (India), and in Los Angeles, at the Institute of Catholic Sciences at the University of Southern California; at Avellaneda (Argentina) the theme will be "The charism of unity in dialogue with contemporary culture", in Loreto (Italy) "Social and cultural steps towards universal brotherhood". At Murcia (Spain) and in Frankfurt (Germany) there will be a conference together with a concert. Round table meetings are to be held in Belgrade (Serbia) about the economy, at San Antonio (USA) about communion in the church, at the University of Pretoria (South Africa) on: "Humanity at a crossroads: the challenge of unity in the third millennium". Ecumenical meetings are being held in Geneva (Switzerland), promoted in collaboration with the Ecumenical Centre of the city, and in Oslo (Norway). The charism of unity and youth will be the central theme in events held in Iringa (Tanzania), Seville (Spain) and Puebla (Mexico).

Of particular interest is the international Congress which will be held in Rome with the title "Chiara Lubich. Charism, History, Culture". It will take place on the 14th March at the Aula Magna of the Rectorship of the Università' La Sapienza, and on the 15th March at the Auditorium of the Mariapoli Centre of Castel Gandolfo (Rome).

Recognised amongst the most prominent figures of the twentieth century, Chiara has opened new ways of dialogue which were previously unexplored, with peoples of different cultures and religions, in order to promote peace and universal brotherhood with projects such as the Economy of Communion. The testament of Jesus "That all may be one" (John 17, 21) has been the focal inspiration of Chiara in embracing and addressing the expectations and challenges of the Church and of Humanity.

Her witness and her thoughts can throw light on diverse aspects of human behaviour, offer new cultural paradigms, stimulate reflection in many subjects: such as theology, sociology, economy, politics, education, law, art, history, social communication, and science.

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