

*OPENING OF THE CENTRE OF SPIRITUALITY "VINEA MEA"*

**DIOCESAN PRIESTS, DEACONS AND SEMINARIANS  
AT THE SCHOOL OF COMMUNION AND DIALOGUE**

Invited guests will be participating in a conference to be held on October 22, 2013 at "Vinea Mea", the Centre for the spirituality of communion at Incisa in Valdarno, Florence. The main speakers at this conference, which starts at 15.30, will be Maria Voce, president of the Focolare Movement, Mons. Mario Meini, Bishop of Fiesole, and Fr. Imre Kiss, head of the Centre. Live streaming starts at 16.00.

Diocesan priests, deacons and seminarians from all over the world will come together to train themselves in a life of communion and dialogue with their bishops, with other priests, with the laity of their respective parishes, with men and women of all beliefs and backgrounds. Formation in the spirituality of communion that flowed from the Second Vatican Council is a priority to train "ministers capable of warming people's hearts, of walking with them in the night, of dialoguing with their hopes and disappointments, of mending their brokenness", (Pope Francis to the Bishops of Brazil, July 27, 2013). And a unified training for priests and seminarians focusing on the fraternity lived in the Church and among people is also important.

These are some of the themes to be dealt with during the conference of October 22 (live streaming from 16.00 to 19.00), which will give the kick off to the course 2013/2014 at "Vinea mea", the Centre for the Spirituality of Communion, which during its 30 years of service has trained more than 4000 priests, deacons and seminarians from about 60 different countries. These came from the Catholic church and also from other different Churches.

Maria Voce, president of the Focolare Movement, Mons. Mario Meini, Bishop of Fiesole, and Fr. Imre Kiss, head of the Centre will address the conference, that will end at 19.15 with a Eucharistic celebration. There will also be the opportunity to visit the ancient building, a XVI century Franciscan convent at Incisa in Valdarno, that has been restored and renovated to be better equipped for the experience of community life and training courses.

Fr. Imre Kiss explains: "*the Centre offers a permanent formation in the light of the spirituality of communion of the Focolare Movement. The school, which lasts for one year, is incorporated in the life and the dynamics of the international small town of Loppiano, and it includes courses in spirituality, theology, anthropology, ecclesiology, as well as workshops on current issues such as youth, family, communication, dialogue with cultures and religions. Through the sharing of life in small communities, it aims to answer to the need expressed by many priests who would like to experience in practice a spirituality based on communion to be able to pass it on to men and women of our time*".

The Centre works in unity with similar centres in other small towns of the Focolare Movement in Poland, Kenya, Brazil, the Philippines, Argentina. For the last five years it has also been promoting courses and annual workshops for educators in seminaries to support and promote a priestly lifestyle based on the communion of the gospel.

Other appointments:

Open house for all those who want to visit the Centre "Vinea mea": Saturday October 19 from 15.00-19.00 and Sunday, October 20, from 10.00 to 12.30 and from 15.00 to 19.00.

Monday October 21 at 21.00 – Piano Concert by Fr. Carlo José Seno (Auditorium Loppiano – FI)

Umberta Fabris (+39) 348 8563347 - Benjamim Ferreira (+39) 348 4754063