

The 6th Anniversary of Chiara Lubich's passing away commemorated in cities all over the world

Personalities from different religious traditions
meet in Rome on March 20 to reflect on

"Chiara and Religions. Together towards the unity of the human family".

The current debate on women's contribution to the life of the Church is presenting a lot of food for thought. Chiara Lubich, who passed away on March 14, 2008, comes very often into this picture because of her spiritual heritage in thoughts and deeds. Various aspects of her legacy will be highlighted on the 6th anniversary of her death, commemorated in various ways in many cities all over the world.

Her contribution towards promoting ecumenical dialogue will be dealt with in Pretoria (South Africa) with the help of Dr. Kobus Gerber, Secretary General of the Dutch Reformed Church. Melbourne (Australia) and some other places will also be dealing with this aspect. The family, a theme so dear to Lubich's heart and one to be discussed in the Extraordinary Synod at the Vatican in October, will be the focus of events in Luxembourg, Lublin (Poland) and Seville (Spain). A street will be named after her in Porto Alegre (Brazil), while another street in Perugia (Italy), will be named after the Blessed Chiara Luce Badano, a spiritual daughter of Lubich. Ecclesial or cultural events, book presentations and musical concerts will be held in many places. Many focolare communities will gather in small centres or in big capital cities to give thanks to God for having given Chiara Lubich as a gift to humanity. Some of these communities will be joined by their bishops, as Cardinal Pell in Sydney (Australia), Archbishop Dew in Wellington (New Zealand), Archbishop Graubner in Olomouc (Czech Republic), Mons. Moraglia, the Patriarch of Venice in Mestre (Italy) and the Patriarch Mons. Clemente in Lisbon (Portugal). Her contribution to interreligious dialogue will be discussed at Noor Centre, Islamic Centre of Toronto (Canada), at Montevideo (Uruguay) and in many other cities in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

"Chiara and Religions. Together towards the Unity of the Human Family" will be the theme of the conference to be held on Thursday, March 20 at the Aula Magna of the Pontifical Urban University, in Rome. Chiara Lubich's memory will be traced by personalities who profess different religions and who have known Chiara Lubich personally. This conference will be at the conclusion of the three-day interreligious symposium to be held at Castelgandolfo. Christians and followers of other religious traditions, such as Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Shintoism, Sikhism, are expected to participate.

This 6th anniversary marks the unfolding of the preliminary phase of the cause of beatification of Chiara Lubich, after an official petition addressed to Mons. Raffaello Martinelli, the Bishop of Frascati was signed on December 7, 2013 by Maria Voce, the current President of the Focolare Movement. Speaking to the Movement about this official petition, Voce said that this "invites us all to be more holy in our everyday life so as to contribute towards that "people's sanctity", towards which Chiara aimed wholeheartedly". During the past three months, Mgr. Martinelli carried out various procedures, which include the approval of the postulator appointed by the petitioner of the beatification case, and then the approval of two vice-postulators, and the appointments of theological censors, the historical commission and an *ad hoc* tribunal that gathers witness and evidence that might otherwise be lost.

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