

The General Assembly concludes with a live internet link with Focolare members worldwide

The 2014 Assembly has closed its doors and has done so together with the members of the Focolare Movement around the world: a live internet connection, the final act after these 28 days at Castel Gandolfo (Rome).

The process of participation, in fact, which started with the collection of more than 3000 proposals, has continued in recent days with a *planetary communion* on the web. The president Maria Voce herself reported to the Pope speaking of the "continuous and updated information" that involved members of the Focolare Movement throughout the whole world, to the point that "they were able to fully partake in what emerged at the Assembly, becoming a plan of life for everyone".

The challenge that the 2014 General Assembly faced from the beginning was to be able to proceed with the work, considering the many differences between those present, with that unity which is the result of the presence of Jesus among two or more (Mt 18:20). "I think we succeeded," says Maria Voce during the live Internet link, "we were not, however, only 500, but, through your living and lively participation, we were hundreds of thousands of people."

In the concluding session of the Assembly the words of Pope Francis during an audience granted to its participants two days before are strongly echoed. "This Work has sprung up from a gift of the Holy Spirit - without a doubt! -, the charism of unity, that the Father wants to give to the Church and to the world to help realize with incisiveness and prophecy Jesus' prayer: "May they all be one" (Jn 17:21)." And he continued, "Our thoughts turn with great affection and gratitude to Chiara Lubich, extraordinary witness of this gift, who in her fruitful existence has brought the scent of Jesus to many human realities and in many parts of the world." Those "three words" that Pope Francis wanted to deliver to the Focolare Movement: contemplate, go out, and form, accompanied by a strong call to generosity and creativity, were widely recalled.

This message of Pope Bergoglio had a particular resonance. The Assembly, in fact, in recent days had drawn up guidelines that will direct the work of the Movement in the coming years. These guidelines have a title "That all may be one" and are summarized in three words: *go out, together, properly prepared*. A programme in tune with the message of Pope Francis, which at the same time was further broadened through the meeting with him; it is now up to the Focolare communities spread throughout the world to apply this programme according to the needs and requirements of each place.

The 494 delegates and guests left with a mission: to be "*world men and women*," a phrase first used by Chiara Lubich and recalled by Pope Francis: "men and women with the soul, the heart, the mind of Jesus who because of this are able to recognize and interpret the needs, concerns and hopes that dwell in the heart of every man and woman."

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