

Press Release – October 26, 2014

The “Volunteers of God” at the forefront in the incarnation of the charism of unity

The Assemblies of the men and women volunteers, that were held simultaneously at the Mariapoli Centre of Castelgandolfo (Rome) from 22 – 26 October, 2014, brought to an end the assembly period of the Focolare Movement. The incarnation of the charism of unity, that marks the vocation of these adults committed through their direct involvement in “the things of the world”, is highly evident.

The 415 participants at the Assemblies of these two branches of the Focolare Movement, founded by Chiara Lubich as an answer to the appeal of Pius XII during the Hungarian uprising in October 1956, represented more than 23,000 men and women volunteers present in countries all over the world. “A very concrete and mature reality that is capable of bringing truth, hope, light and concreteness to the world”, said the president, Maria Voce.

These Assemblies had to establish the guidelines for the next six years and elect their respective representatives at the Centre.

The 442 suggestions sent from members worldwide, together with the conclusions of the Movement’s General Assembly, summarized in the three key expressions: going out, together, well prepared, led to two directives; namely, to increase the commitment of “going out” while giving greater importance to all the aspects of daily life and of being witnesses of it; to go deeper into the qualities of this vocation through a holistic, specific and unitary formation.

The Assembly of the men volunteers re-elected Paolo Mottironi for a second term. He is a 50 year old Italian, married with two children and employed as a civil servant. For the first time, the choice of the women volunteers went beyond the borders of Europe; the Assembly of the women volunteers elected Patience Félicité Mollè Lobè, a 57 year old widow from Cameroon, who is a civil engineer.

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