

**Paul VI Institute**

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**Press Release November 3, 2014****Paul VI and Chiara Lubich. The prophecy of a Church in dialogue**

Mariapoli Centre, San G. Battista de la Salle Street, Castelgandolfo (Rome)  
7-8 November 2014

**“Paul VI and Chiara Lubich. The prophecy of a Church in dialogue”** will be the theme for the two study days to be held on 7-8 November 2014 at the Mariapoli Centre, Castelgandolfo. These are being organized by Paul VI Institute (Brescia) and Chiara Lubich Centre of the Focolare Movement (Rocca di Papa, RM).

These study days are meant to illustrate the development of a personal and epistolary relationship between Giovanni Battista Montini - Paul VI and Chiara Lubich, which began in the 1950's and lasted till the end of Montini's pontificate. In the various talks, where reference could be made to many unpublished documents found at the Chiara Lubich Centre, the participants will have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge about the way Paul VI understood the spiritual and ecclesial significance of the Focolare Movement, its progressive legal and institutional configuration, its initiative towards the Churches of Eastern Europe and its commitment in the ecumenical field. One of the talks will be dedicated to Igino Giordani and his relations with Montini.

Although the programme for these two days is mainly dedicated to an analytical study on the relationship between Paul VI and Chiara Lubich and the Focolare Movement, but it also provides space for illustrating Paul VI's judgement on ecclesial movements and their significance in relation to the Church's vision as proposed by Vatican II.

The opening sessions will deal with an aspect of a more general nature, presenting a general historical outline and tracing the development of the social presence of lay Catholics and their organizations in the twentieth century. A theological review of the theme of these study days based on the ecclesiology of Vatican II, of the meditation about the Church proposed by Paul VI in his encyclical *Ecclesiam Suam* and of the ecclesial intuition expressed by Chiara Lubich's charism of unity, is being proposed for the concluding part of the programme for this event.

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