

Rocca di Papa, 21 March 2025
PRESS RELEASE

CALLED TO HOPE - KEY PLAYERS OF DIALOGUE

Ecumenical Conference promoted by the Focolare Movement celebrating three anniversaries taking place in 2025

Among the participants: Msgr. Andrea Palmieri (Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity), Martin Illert (WCC), H. E. Khajag Barsamian (Armenian Apostolic Church), Elisabeth Newman (Baptist World Alliance), Margaret Karram (Focolare Movement)

The ecumenical conference *Called to hope - Key players of dialogue*, will take place from the 26th to the 29th of March 2025 at the Mariapolis Centre of Castel Gandolfo (Italy). It is promoted by “*Centro Uno*”, the Focolare Movement’s international secretariat for Christian unity. There will be more than 250 faithful of 20 Christian Churches participating in person, coming from over 40 countries of 4 continents, including the Philippines, Serbia, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Ireland, Venezuela, United States. There will be 15 translations, and the conference will also be broadcast via streaming.

Thursday, the 27th of March, the group will go to Rome to visit the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls (at 4:00pm). An ecumenical prayer of reconciliation and for peace open to all is planned.

The conference [programme](#) will also focus on the three anniversaries that occur this year: in the context of the Jubilee Year “*Pilgrims of Hope*” of the Catholic Church, we will commemorate the **1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea**, the coincidence of the date of the celebration of **Easter for all Churches**, and the **60th anniversary of the abolition of mutual excommunications** between the Church of Rome and the Church of Constantinople.

Among the ecumenical personalities present who will speak: Msgr. Andrea Palmieri, Undersecretary of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity, Msgr. Derio Olivero, President of the Episcopal Commission for ecumenism and dialogue of the Italian Bishops’ Conference, Prof. Dr. Martin Illert, representative of the World Council of Churches (WCC), Archbishop Khajag Barsamian representative of the Armenian Apostolic Church to the Holy See, Dr. Natasha Klukach, Director of Research and Operations of the Global Christian Forum, Dr. William Wilson, President of the Pentecostal World Fellowship (via video message), Dr. Elisabeth Newman of the Baptist World Alliance, Dr. Margaret Karram and Dr. Jesús Morán, President and Co-president of the Focolare Movement.

Why is it urgent to work for ecumenism?

In this time of divisions and great challenges - wars, the increase in refugees around the world, unequal distribution of wealth, almost irreversible damage to the earth's ecosystem - as Christians, we are called together to bear witness to the hope of the Gospel and to be protagonists of dialogue and unity, committing ourselves to live together for peace, to build fraternity, to spread hope. Christian unity is instrumental in bringing peace wherever it is lacking.

To attend the [conference in Castel Gandolfo](#) (Rome) please write to ufficio.comunicazione@focolare.org

Accreditation procedures for the “Ecumenical Prayer of Reconciliation and for Peace” at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls - Journalists and media operators wishing to participate must send a request within 24 hours of the event, through the Holy See Press Office's online accreditation system, to the address: press.vatican.va/accreditation.

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