

PRESS RELEASE - 27 February 2026

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FOCOLARE MOVEMENT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN

320 representatives of the Focolare Movement communities around the world will take part in the fourth General Assembly since the death of the foundress Chiara Lubich, from the 1st to the 21st of March. The Assembly will elect the new members of the governing body and will approve the guidelines for the next five years.

According to Article 1 of the Regulations of the General Assembly of the Focolare Movement, participants will live this event *in profound communion, so as to help unity grow in the entire Movement and guide it toward the fulfilment of its aims*. The Assembly is in fact one of the most important moments for the Focolare Movement and takes place every five years, as established by the Decree of the Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life (2021).

It will be held at the Mariapolis Centre in Castel Gandolfo (Rome), where 320 participants – including about 50 observers – from different countries, cultures and ecclesial and religious contexts are arriving. They are brought together by their adherence to the spirit and values of the Movement founded by Chiara Lubich (1920–2008) and recognised by the Catholic Church as a private, universal association of pontifical right.

The programme

The Assembly will begin with three days of spiritual retreat. On the 5th of March, the current President, Margaret Karram, will present her end-of-term report, accompanied by some reflections from the Co-President, Jesús Morán. The following days the programme will alternate between plenary sessions and work in 30 groups, dedicated to studying in depth the topics raised by the Focolare communities around the world.

The **subjects that will guide the work** will focus on the question of how to implement the charism, or rather how to create relationships of fraternity and unity, in the current global context through a commitment to peace and social justice, dialogue in a polarised world, the responsible use of technology, dialogue as a key instrument between Christian Churches and with people of various faiths and convictions, integral ecology, and participatory governance. One of the topics will also be the transmission of the charism of the Focolare Movement to future generations. There will also be sessions for discussion on the proposed amendments to the General Statutes and to the Regulations of the various branches of the Movement.

Thursday, the 12th of March, will be dedicated to the election of the President and the Co-President, positions which, according to the General Statutes of the Focolare Movement, must be confirmed by the Holy See.

Then, on the 15th of March, the General Assembly will proceed with the election of the general councillors, thus completing the composition of the new governing body of the Movement.

Towards the General Assembly: a worldwide journey

In preparation for this Assembly, communities of the Focolare Movement in 150 countries took part in an extensive process of listening and synodal discernment, offering ideas and priorities for the future. This resulted in hundreds of contributions on key issues as well as challenges that the Movement is facing internally and in the global context. Local communities also expressed their preferences for candidates for the governing body of the Movement.

News and updates on the proceedings of the Assembly will be available on the Focolare website and in subsequent press releases.

Stefania Tanesini

Focolare Movement Spokesperson +39 338 5658244

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