

PRESS RELEASE - Rocca di Papa, February 6th 2020

A CHARISM AT THE SERVICE OF THE CHURCH AND HUMANITY

There are 7 Cardinals and 137 Bishops, friends of the Focolare Movement, representing 50 countries, who will participate in the conference "A Charism at the Service of the Church and Humanity" which will take place in two locations: February 8th and 9th, 2020 in Trento, Chiara Lubich's birthplace, and from February 10th to 12th, 2020 in Loppiano, an international Little Town of the Focolare near Florence.

After the visit of the President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella, on January 25th in Trento on the occasion of the ceremony for the hundredth anniversary of Chiara Lubich's birth, another event highlights the figure of the founder of the Focolare Movement: **from February 8th to 12th, 7 Cardinals and 137 Bishops, friends of the Focolare Movement, will gather - first in Trento and then in Loppiano - to reflect on the answers they can draw from Lubich's message for the challenges of the Catholic Church in our time.**

While President Mattarella stressed the importance of translating Chiara Lubich's charism into political categories such as fraternity, the international conference of Bishops wants to deepen the ecclesial categories that can be deduced from Chiara Lubich's spirituality of unity. Card. Francis X. Kriengsak Kovithavanij, Archbishop of Bangkok, coordinator of the conference underlies: "They are categories that can help individual Bishops to live their being builders of bridges, of relationships, of unity, but also elements that highlight the collegial aspect among the Bishops themselves, highlighted by the Second Vatican Council and decisively promoted by Chiara Lubich".

Trento, February 8th - 9th 2020 - The programme will take place at the Mariapolis Centre "Chiara Lubich" in Cadine (TN). There will also be some important events in the city of Trento, open to the public. On Saturday, February 8th the participants will visit the exhibition "Chiara Lubich, City World" in Trento at the Galleria Bianca in Piedicastello. At 5.15 p.m. in the church of Santa Maria Maggiore they will participate in the event "From the Council of Trent to Tridentine Chiara". At 7.15 p.m. in the Mariapolis Centre of Cadine, Holy Mass will be presided over by Monsignor Lauro Tisi, Archbishop of Trento. On Sunday, February 9th at 10:00 a.m. in the Cathedral of Trento, the concelebration of Holy Mass presided over by Cardinal Francis Xavier Kriengsak Kovithavanij, opened by a word of welcome from the Archbishop of Trento. It will be broadcast live by TV2000 and in streaming on the website: www.centenariolubichtrento.it Following this, at the Sala Depero in the Provincial building the Presidents of the Provincial Council, Walter Kaswalder, of the Autonomous Province Maurizio Fugatti, and the Mayor of Trento, Alessandro Andreatta, will welcome them.

Loppiano (Florence), February 10th -12th, 2020 - In collaboration with the "Centro Evangelii Gaudium" of the Sophia University Institute of Loppiano, the conference will address some current issues for the Church and society today through reports, round tables and moments of dialogue. "The focus revolves around the relationship that a charism such as that of unity has with the stage of the new evangelization that Pope Francis points out to the Church," says Mgr. Piero Coda, Dean of the Sophia University Institute, "We are looking for new paradigms capable of interpreting and

transforming the complexity of the situation we live, this ecclesial moment of reform and reaching out, and socio-cultural moment of planetary dimensions”.

Among the themes to be dealt with “The Church and today’s challenges” with the participation of Andrea Riccardi, historian and founder of the Community of Sant'Egidio; "The Church becomes dialogue" with the deepening of four dimensions of Church life: kerygma, communion, dialogue and prophesy. Each day will be enriched by the testimonies of Cardinals and Bishops from various parts of the world.

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