

Press Release – June 15, 2016

## **The Letter “Iuvenescit Ecclesia”**

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith published the Letter "Iuvenescit Ecclesia", which has been approved by Pope Francis and signed by the prefect, Cardinal Ludwig Müller and the secretary, Archbishop Luis Ladaria. This Letter does not only sustain and encourage the whole Church in its missionary “going forth” in this new phase of its history, but also fills with joy and gratitude the new ecclesial realities, amongst them the Focolare Movement.

The relationship between the hierarchical and charismatic gifts, referred to in this document, interprets fully the life experience of the Focolare Movement. The Movement has found itself immersed in a sea with “waves of movements”, aroused by the Holy Spirit and in communion with their Pastors for the renewal of the Church, as stated by Cardinal Ratzinger in May 1998, when the Church was preparing for the Jubilee Year 2000.

Through “Iuvenescit Ecclesia”, the Focolare Movement feels even more impelled to comply authentically to the co-essentiality between the institutional and charismatic gifts, that John Paul II indicated in accordance with Vatican II. Today, this seems to be of utmost importance for the life and mission of the Church, called to serve humanity in its expectations, wounds and situations, while contributing collectively towards the challenging but realistic objective of building the new civilization of love.

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