

YEAR XXXIV N 12 DECEMBER 2017

MARIAPOLI

Newsletter of the Focolare Movement



Lights for society

**A year of
Family Highlights**

Living Peace
Projects for
peace are
growing

**New
publications**
The works of
Chiara Lubich

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To give life to Jesus

**My soul magnifies
the Lord**

(Lk 1,46)

Maria, la Mamma, qui si vede
non tanto chinata verso i fratelli,
i figlioli suoi, quanto protesa verso Dio.
In Lei è il «Mio Dio e mio tutto». Tutte le sue
facoltà spirituali e le sue potenze fisiche
sono attimo per attimo consumate dalla
Fiamma dello Spirito che inabita in Lei. È
come un cero che consumandosi alimenta
la Vita da Dio
in Lei accesa. Vive di Dio, Dio vive
in Lei che tutta s'annienta – attimo
per attimo – per dar vita a Lui.

La Sua Voce che è la Sua Volontà
parla forte in fondo alla Sua anima perché
Lei sempre l'ascolta.
È l'ancella al suo totale servizio:
l'ancella del Signore. Per questo
Lo fa grande perché la Sua vita
Lo mostra tale: tutto. RitirandoSi tutta fa
posto a tutto Lui. Ed Egli La riempie perché
l'amore di Lei Lo chiama.

È creatura d'elezione. Egli si mostra
Tutto a Lei, si manifesta Tutto
ed in modo nuovo: umanamente
e come Figlio perché Lei Lo ha amato così:
con tutta sé: col suo cuore
destinato alla Maternità divina!

Mamma! Se Gesù ti chiamò «mamma!»
come ti posso chiamare anch'io così!

Anch'io posso esser Lei: anche in me parla
la Voce che è Luce. Offro attimo per attimo
il mio essere alla Luce per magnificare il
Signore e glorificarLo.

Essere una piccola Maria, figlia di Maria
come Gesù: il nulla perpetuo, il Silenzio,
il Servizio d'amore all'Amore.

E allora lo Spirito in me dirà
(come eruppe dal cuore della Mamma):
«L'anima mia glorifica il Signore».

Chiara Lubich

New book series

The works of Chiara Lubich



The first volume *Parole di Vita* (Words of Life) inaugurates this new series entitled «The Works of Chiara Lubich». This project was designed by the Chiara Lubich Center and by the Città Nuova Publishing House based on the historical impact of the life and thought of Chiara Lubich, as revealed in the vast literary patrimony that the author left. This spans from autobiographical texts to diaries, from letters on the spirituality (among which is *Paradise '49*), from conversations to formative talks, from the statutes to interviews, etc. A body of work, with many writings that have never been published before, arranged by literary genres. It is a project that begins ten years after the death of Chiara.

Ten years after the death of the foundress of the Focolare Movement, an editorial project is in the works – to be realized in time – which is the publication of 14 volumes that will present the patrimony of the thoughts of Chiara in a systematic way.

The press conference to present this volume took place on November 13 in Rome, at the National Federation of the Italian Press. The presentors included: Mons. Piero Coda, principal of the «Sophia» University Institute and member of the scientific committee, Donato Falmi, director of the series and Fr. Fabio Ciardi, full professor of theology at the «Claretianum», who is also the curator of the volume. The moderator of the event was, Paolo Rodari, journalist of the newspaper *Repubblica*. From their interventions what emerged was the leading role played by Chiara in the XX century and the beginnings of the XXI, as a «shining innovator and warm life-giver of Christianity in a moment of crisis», as the newspapers reported.

Piero Coda recalled the vital energy of Chiara in «planning a new vision of the complex reality in which we were immersed, in order to answer with foresight, relevance and incisiveness the challenges that we were facing». In Chiara this meant to re-think economy, politics, dialogue among religions and even the reform of the Church. He spoke of her as «a very relevant voice today, since there is no Country in the world where the seed that was sown by this charism has not borne fruit».

Nevertheless getting to know the thoughts of the foundress of the Focolare Movement will only be complete when the entire work will have provided a key to interpret the entire collection of her writings.

Donato Falmi explained that «we cannot speak of *Opera omnia* (complete Works) because the literary patrimony of Chiara is enormous and requires much time for it to be elaborated, and even more so, there are sensitive parts that must be conserved, for now». In the volume *Parole di Vita* (Words of Life), Fr. Ciardi explained, that the «already published» is placed side by side with the «originals» of many texts and as the «completion» of others. The aim was to make the life of

Attention from the press

There were many newspapers, Italian and international, who gave importance to the event. Here are some excerpts from the article that was published in the *Osservatore Romano*.

«Chiara in fact was certainly an important charismatic figure, but she was also a prominent Catholic intellectual, who prepared and suggested many of the conciliar novelties, and had sown the seeds of change that are still to be realized. Such as a reform that goes beyond the closing up of a Church that is centered exclusively on the – for this reason it is very close to Pope Francis – or a greater opening towards the role of women. [...]

The thoughts of Chiara therefore deserves to be gathered and read with interest, in order to give back to it that role of shining innovator, of a warm innovator of a Catholicism that is experiencing a moment of crisis. A role which it has had and which it has fulfilled through a series of proposals and of analyses that can be of help to the entire Church today».

Lucetta Scaraffia, *L'Osservatore Romano*,
15/11/2017, pag. 5

<http://www.focolare.org/press/it/news/2017/11/06/opere-di-chiara-lubich>

Lubich, her intuitions, her «sparks of light», the impulses that were transformed into actions, «clear and understandable». All of these were written on humble pieces of paper, in a language that is immediate, incisive, direct and at times anticipating themes».

The *media* commented on the event with observations that emphasized how this series is «much-awaited and now opens up a new channel where one can go to know her thoughts, which up to now have not been greatly discussed in spite of the vastness of her message, her charisma and the many seeds sown in fields that are of the highest relevance today» (*Ansa*). They remarked that «Lubich observed the world, and she linked every segment of life with a teaching of Jesus in the Gospel». For her «the Gospel was the bread with which to nourish oneself daily, as well as the filter through which one should look at his surroundings. Even just one verse, one key-word, one phrase is a help to orient one's day towards that love of God that she tried to make known to thousands of people through the witness of life and through the great work of which she was the foundress, the Focolare Movement» (www.lastampa.it). «But what she perceived was most needed in the last years of her life, was to move from a pioneering experience as a bearer of reform of ecclesial life, to a reasoned intelligence and to a programme on a grand scale». Above all «a new cultural paradigm was born. For Chiara, this could only come from a robust spiritual rebirth; from the ability to aim at and to keep the eyes of the heart and of the mind fixed on the

light of the Word of God that became man, and who took upon himself the cry of humanity» – wrote the international online newspaper *In Terris* quoting from the intervention of Piero Coda (www.interris.it).

*Prepared by the
editorial board*



Family Highlights Lights for society

Throughout this year dedicated to «Chiara Lubich and the family» there have been numerous initiatives all over the world



Sometimes a special meeting can transform a life and renew a family. «My husband and I never spoke about important things – shared a couple from Burkina Faso after participating last spring in an event in Loppiano (FI) “Family Highlights” and in the School for families held immediately after in Castel Gandolfo. Even the slightest contrast would cause him to bang the door and leave the house. But since we returned from Rome, we began a radical change. Our dialogue became constructive and our relationship was reborn».

«Family Highlights» was an international event, not only because there were families from all the continents present in Loppiano on the 11th and the 12th of March, 2017, but also because, during the year in many places around the world these similar appointments were multiplied, going beyond space and time in a single experience that remembered Chiara Lubich. It was the ninth anniversary

of her departure for Heaven, and a testimony of what the Ideal of unity can offer intimately to family life.

From the *meeting* of several days such as the Mariapolises of Australia and of Siberia, this one organized by a family who came back after their one-year stay at the Loreto School, to the schools for families in Egypt and in Angola; to the numerous manifestations in Brazil where the youth were also involved and the theme of education was tackled. In Venezuela, they focused on how to «increase the love and the hope as opposed to the atmosphere of hatred and violence». In Vietnam the *weekend* in Ho Chi Minh City saw the participation of Buddhist families. Other events were also held in Mexico, Argentina, Canada, Texas, New Zealand, Singapore, China, Pakistan, Uganda, Burundi, Tanzania, Kenya. In Lebanon the meeting of the Movement, centered on the family, was organized in collaboration with the University of the Holy Spirit

One heart

At Castel Gandolfo the international meeting of the New Families Secretariats



Realized with the contribution of an *ad hoc* commission made up of some of the couples belonging to the central secretariat and other representatives from various continents, the Congress of the New Families Secretariats held from October 19 to 22 at Castel Gandolfo, sought to underline the experience of «one heart», or rather of the single reality that is composed of the central secretariat and the Zone secretariats, who together are at the service of the families.

It was an important «laboratory» of dialogue on specific topics regarding the family and the occasion to share their lives, experiences and future plans.

They asked themselves how could they answer to the challenges of accompanying families, in various phases and situations wherein they may find themselves. A special *focus* was dedicated to the formation of the animators, committed members and groups, with a specific attention on the programmes that are offered at the Loreto School

of Loppiano and in the other Little Towns.

Another important working session was dedicated to the accompaniment of couples who are passing through critical moments. Here they shared the feedback of some pilot experiences that were realized in Verona and Panama, and moments of deepening regarding the signs of impending crisis in a marriage and the strengthening of the relationship as a couple. They also tackled the aspect of the relationship with the new generations giving ample space to the presentation of the «Up2me» project. The gen also made a very engaging presentation of the Genfest 2018. The reality of the newly set-up Study Center on the family was really taken to heart by all the participants.

They also highlighted the social commitment of New Families through the work of the onlus AFN (AZIONE FAMIGLIE NUOVE), with many experiences from all over the world and the 100 projects for infants and children, active in the various continents.

A final document is being prepared, summarizing the work that has been done and the reflections that have emerged so as to share them with all the Zones, also to all those who were not able to participate. In this way we can be always more «one heart» that beats in unison.



Kaslik, launching a study project on family themes in *partnership* with the faculty of Sociology. Among the last events was that held in September in Germany, where also different families of migrants participated who now are part of the groups of New Families. In Peru the event at Arequipa entitled «The family in a changing society», was held in October in the prestigious San Pablo Catholic University. The diocese declared 2018 to be the «year dedicated to the family», emphasizing how this small institution is important for society.

In the many events held throughout the year, the 50° anniversary of the New Families was also celebrated and they focused once again on the «task of the families», which is - according to Chiara - «to keep love always alive in the homes, thus reviving the values that were given by God to the family, so as to bring them everywhere, generously and continuously in society». Her intuition of the «art of loving», expressed through many experiences, highlighted how it is possible to recompose the fabric of the family, to contain and prevent crisis, to face suffering and difficulties. «Understanding that Jesus Christ also experienced the pain of separation», a young wife



Towards Dublin 2018

From August 21 to 26, it will be the capital of Ireland who will host the IX International Meeting of the Families

This initiative was inaugurated by St. John Paul II in 1994 and since then has been held every three years in different international headquarters. The theme chosen for this edition is «The Gospel and the family: joy for the world». This is a much-awaited event by the families and by those who take care of «family», starting from the two recent Synods on the family (2014-15) and by the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis *Amoris Laetitia* (2016). This meeting will highlight the Christian family and its specific gift of being «joy to the world» and light in the midst of the challenges presented by contemporary society.

Alberto and Anna Friso of the Focolare Movement will also collaborate with the new Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life, who is organizing this event. But the one who is working with great passion in the preparation of this event is the host diocese which has for some time now, already set-up a powerful organizing body for the elaboration of the programme, logistics, the preparatory catechesis, hospitality and lodging. Our Irish New Families are also full of enthusiasm and have made themselves totally available to collaborate with the *ad hoc* organizing committee created by the diocese. In those days they will be happy to welcome the greatest number possible of New Families from all over the world, to live together unforgettable moments of deepening, communion and celebration.

For info and to register www.worldmeeting2018.ie

who was abandoned by her husband said, «has given immense value to all my suffering, that was shared by all the families who knew me. Thank you because the family exists and there are those who never give up».

In Chile

50 years of fraternity

With Jesús Morán to celebrate the arrival of the Focolare Movement in Chilean land

It was in 1967 when the first focolare center was opened in the south of Chile, in Osorno, upon the request of Bishop Francisco Valdés Subercasseaux (now Venerable). He met Chiara Lubich in Rome during

Aside from this there was a strong commitment to support those families in need, to support the formation of engaged couples and the accompaniment of families in crisis, to provide service on all levels in the different areas. All these, together with a concrete initiative of twinning among families from different Countries, made concrete that historical wish of Chiara made in 1967: «I place on your shoulders the most troubled, the most suffering part of humanity», affirmed the foundress of the Focolare Movement, entrusting to the New Families the many sufferings and the challenges that touch the world of the family: separations, widowhood, abandonment, children who spend many years in the orphanages.

Joy was the common characteristic of these events, the certainty that building a united world also passes through the families, who even if they are fragile and imperfect, can be renewed from within, and can offer to the world the light and that love which heals.

Giovanna Pieroni

the Second Vatican Council, and he saw in the spirituality of the Focolare Movement the answer to the needs of his Country.

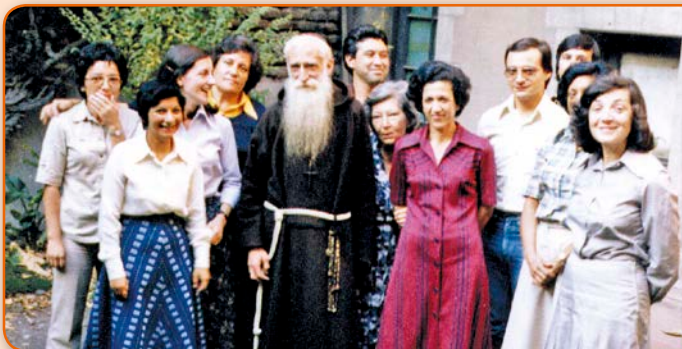
During this year, different celebrations were held to remember those early times, which culminated in the first week of November with three events. Jesús Morán who lived for 23 years in Chile was present and now he was returning as the Co-president of the Focolare Movement. He brought with him the love and unity of the President, Emmaus, and the wealth of the life of the Movement in the world. Also present were Silvia Escandell and José Antonio Polimeni, delegates of the Southern Cone.

Tomar el pulso del tiempo (Feel the pulse of the times)

First event: the presentation of the book of Jesús Morán *Tomar el pulso del tiempo. El desafío de la actualización de un Carisma* (Feel the pulse of the times. The challenge of the actualization of a Charism), the translation of

The Mariapolis Center of Chile, in Cunaco





Bishop Francisco Valdés Subercasseaux with some of the pioneers who started the focolare in Chile

La fedeltà creativa (Creative fidelity). Fr. Tomás Scherz, vice-grand chancellor of the Catholic University, highlighted «its ecclesial repercussion in complete harmony with the magisterium of Pope Francis».

A theologian and a jurist engaged in a dialogue with the author. «Charisms are like the arms and legs that allow us to maintain a Church in movement, dynamic» - affirmed Andrea Musalem, theologian of the Schönstatt Movement. For Patricio Zapata, constitutionalist, the contribution that we are called to give to our culture is that of being «witnesses of a dialogue that is possible without the need to ridicule the other, to humiliate him, degrade him. This is an enormous task».

Jesús Morán, for his part underlined that «the challenge lies in recreating Christian culture, putting into action the dynamics of Jesus which is the meaningful and important encounter with the people». It is above all to see to it that «Jesus "is alive" in the community. [...] If we don't listen to the questions of the world, we run the risk of offering answers to questions that the world doesn't have. This is the drama of the Church today. The enormous task it has is to go back to the radicalness of the Gospel [...]. We must find a suitable language. This is a very exciting and fascinating time...».

A center for dialogue

Jesús Morán lived in Chile during the military regime. During the referendum of 1988 on the continuity of the dictatorship of Pinochet, together with the gen who were studying at the University where he worked, they organized various initiatives as a contribution to dialogue. Morán recalled: «We lived through unforgettable moments, like the time when a young man, the son of a soldier, accepted to have a dialogue with the son of a prisoner who had disappeared (*desaparecido*). It was a dialogue of life; it was not a confrontation of ideas; it was the beginning of a new Chile, people who could speak, who could dialogue. When democracy came later, in the same University we founded the "Center of encounter for dialogue" with persons of different political parties, in order to give rise to a culture of dialogue...».

At the end of the debate it was observed that the thought expressed in the book was able to «bring a Christian message of hope for the future of the Church, tracing pathways for its actualization and therefore to strengthen and revitalize the Church itself».

Cardinals Ricardo Ezzati, archbishop of Santiago, Francisco Javier Errázuriz, archbishop emeritus of Santiago, Bishop Fernando Ramos, auxiliary of Santiago, Bishop emeritus of Temuco, Mons. Camilo Vial, the Apostolic Nuncio, Mons. Ivo Scapolo, some Pastors of the Lutheran, Baptist and Pentecostal Church, and other representatives of the ecumenical Fraternity and of the Judaico-Christian Confraternity also took part in the presentation.

Is Chile a fraternal country?

The second event was more cultural in nature and was entitled «Is Chile a fraternal country? Towards a co-existence with everyone». The programme dealt with a dialectic exchange regarding feasible objectives in managing fraternity in Chile. The protagonists came from the academic, political and social fields, which allowed for a serious deepening of the topic. At the same time, an exhibition made up of 18 stands was set-up, which gave



visibility to various institutions working for the promotion of fraternity.

One of the speakers who declared himself as atheist, communist and a mason spoke strongly to show that Chile is not a fraternal country. With an attitude of dialogic listening Jesús answered: «Chile, according to everything that you have said, is not a fraternal Country, but it has the vocation to fraternity. For this reason we can change it together, with you, we, believers and non-believers

together» adding that «this is the fundamental vocation of the Focolare Movement. We are celebrating 50 years of a programme of fraternity, a dream that we can live together».

The presence of Chiara Lubich «up to the ends of the earth»

The third event gathered together the community of the Focolare Movement at the Mariapolis Center «Amore (Love)». The charisma of unity vibrated in the hearts of everyone as the answer to the present-day challenges of Chile. «These days were a Pentecost - some said. We saw and touched how God has poured out many graces on the Movement in Chile. Now we together can multiply them and give them to others without fear, "to touch the skin of the other" in order to build fraternity with each one». «These were days of re-foundation with a special and maternal presence of Chiara who has reached "the ends of the earth", even up to Chile!». The message of Rabbi Alejandro Bloch was very meaningful: «your celebration is a celebration of life and of dialogue». The encouragement from the Bishops is a big push so that Chilean society can become more and more filled with the life of the charisma of unity. Jesús expressed his wish, that each one goes to live in his or her own environment this stage of actualization: «the incarnation of the Ideal with the characteristics of the Chilean people». Let us thank Mary for this rebirth.

Beatriz Isola, Pablo Herrera



Teens for Unity in Brazil

In Fortaleza the «Olympics» has returned



The fascinating experience shared by one of the protagonists from the focolare center of Fortaleza

Three years after the last edition, many expressed the desire to revive the games which since 1986, brought a difference in the formation of many adolescents who up to today, now as adults, can still remember with gratitude those moments of healthy sportive competition.

This year the «Olympics» was held on October 28 and 29 at the CEU, «*Condomínio Espiritual Uirapuru*». Its realization was done through the collaboration of a group of Movements and Associations, among which was the Focolare. It was organized in favour of the «least» of that region [see box p.12].

The title «Building bridges» chosen together without too much reflection, soon involved everyone, «living it» fully. The most beautiful experience was: to see the youth coming from well-to-do neighborhoods interacting with those from the poorer communities. You could no longer distinguish one from the other. A small piece of a «united world» was there for all to see. The gen3 were leaven in the dough.

The teams were composed of teens boys and girls from the ages of 10 to 18, all in perfect harmony; the older youth took care of the younger ones, the younger ones animated the older ones.



I touched with my hands the suffering of these people, as I listened to the stories of young boys and girls from the «Fazenda da Esperança». And yet, for these «Olympics» it seemed as if the wind was blowing in an altogether different direction.

In the past editions it was possible to use the professional or semi-pro-

fessional sports fields which were excellent; but as the doors were gradually closing in this direction, it began to bring a certain sadness to the organizers, but I instead was happy. I was happy about the difficult and slow change of direction: the only possibility remaining for the venue was the «Condominio Espiritual Uirapuru».

We began to work, but the compasses were still disoriented

The participation of the poor communities did not show in the least any sign of being on welfare or receiving assistance: it was a «trinitarian» style and this kind of interaction benefited everyone.

From the preparation I felt something within telling me about *Condominio Espiritual Uirapuru* (CEU). Maybe because my own story is strongly linked to that place, to that experience. It was the place where I felt that the theme on the «earthly paradise» of Chiara Lubich was a reality: «Living the Gospel is the most concrete thing that we can do to solve the problems of society». It is the place where

The «Condominio Espiritual Uirapuru», which was started by Bro. Hans (founder of the *Fazenda da Esperança*), is a complex of structures built on a vast area of land donated by the businessman Benedito Macedo. Residing there together or giving their concrete contribution are 22 communities born from new and old charisms. They welcome people who are victims of drugs, prostitution, HIV, children in difficult family situations, and take care concretely of their physical and spiritual needs. The communities which belong to the Ceu, a fruitful answer to the journey of communion among Movements that began on Pentecost 1998, commit themselves to living the experience of finding one's specific identity by losing it in the collectivity.



by the old “magnetic fields”. «Shall we go ahead together or should we stop?». They will be less professional «Olympicsi», less refined, but maybe it is precisely the breath of the Holy Spirit that is leading us to do something different, something that «goes out». We decided to go towards the north and then eventually those who were «pulling in the opposite direction» began to synchronize themselves in the same direction.

I recalled a conversation I had with Fede Marchetti, a focolarino of the early times: «To lose an idea, first you must have it and it must be truly yours». During the preparation I felt ready to lose my idea, but very much a «father» of it. With each one of us «losing» our own idea, we all became «parents» of that new idea which gradually was refined and purified.

The person in-charge of a community of the CEU promised to give us the space we needed and also the equipment. All the work was being done based on this availability. Then the cancellation came: we could no longer use that venue. The dynamics of losing and of throwing to God all our worries became so common that after a few seconds of shock we took this adversity as a clear sign from the Holy Spirit.

The most important thing for us was to invite the children of the CEU but time was flying fast. The registration, which was going ahead very slowly, caused us a bit of worry: «will we be able to reach the minimum

number of participants? But we go ahead, it is Him, Jesus Forsaken the doubt ». We trusted in Him.

Here the economy is going through a difficult moment. We opened the registration even to those who would not have been able to participate due to financial difficulties, trusting in Providence. Once the members of the Movement came to know about this, many sponsors appeared and all the expenses would eventually be covered even the unexpected ones.

Among the more than 100 athletes, the participation of the youth of the CEU was our crown jewel, as well as the smiles of the



children, the iconic image of these «Olympics». The joy was evident in everyone and in an extraordinary way: animators, parents who came to assist, players. The young girls of the Lar Santa Monica (a community that welcomes adolescents who are victims of domestic sexual abuse), who were quite surly and who wanted to go home immediately

as soon as they arrived, participated up to the end and we saw them leave transformed. A boy from the community of ANSPA said: «Here I found my father». He was referring to a gen3 who showed him much love.

This and other numerous experiences of unity and reciprocal love with the community of the CEU have confirmed to us that «the more we are not, the more we are».

Renzo Megli

Towards the Genfest

Together to plan for the future

In mid-November around 150 young people representing the various Zones of the world met at Castel Gandolfo (Rome) to lay the foundations for the Genfest of July 2018, and to plan for the future of the youth sector of the Focolare Movement

To give substance and structure to the four-day congress of the gen2 of the Rainbow Units and the Secretariats of the YFU, certain important cultural deepenings were given guided by the experts of the Movement, such as Mons. Vincenzo Zani, secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education and Vincenzo Buonomo, professor of international law. Their presentations were followed with great interest precisely due to the great variety of cultures present and the participation of youth of other religions. These themes were further highlighted and became more meaningful with the moments of spirituality that were proposed at the start of each day, taken from the writings of Chiara Lubich. In particular on Mary, mother of Jesus and our mother, the theme of this year.

On Saturday, the 18th, they were joined by some representatives of the gen-re, gens and the youth of the Parish and Diocesan Movements to assess together the direction and the steps to be



taken. The visit to Castel Gandolfo of Card. Lorenzo Baldisseri, secretary general of the Synod of Bishops, was very much appreciated. He updated us on the progress of the preparatory work for the Synod on the youth (October 2018) underlining the great trust that the Church has on the new generations. From Poland, linked-up by *skype*, Jesús Morán suggested to us to try and extract from the culture that stems

from the charism, those elements that answer to the expectations of our peers, so as to offer them to the ecclesial and civil fields. He hoped that through the collaboration of the gen in the various forms of youth ministry and through the United World Project (UWP) it will be increasingly possible to contribute to giving a new face to the Church and to society.



The talk of mons. Vincenzo Zani



... Did you register already?

During the Collegamento CH, Emmaus didn't let this chance pass to launch the Genfest of July 2018 in Manila, together with the gen boys and girls all over the world gathered in Castel Gandolfo, and to involve the whole Movement in its realization. Here is an excerpt of how the President answered to the question «Did you register already?» that they asked her from Manila where the preparations are in full swing.

Certainly I registered and if all goes well, I really think that I will be there. In the meantime I would like to take this chance to express my gratitude to the young people, because it is really a courageous act to think of bringing 10,000 or maybe more youth to Asia, to the Genfest. For me this is the answer to Chiara's call which she launched since the '60s: «Youth of the world unite». An appeal that resounds today not only for the youth who as promoters make it their own, but for all those who have followed Chiara in a Movement that has as its aim «That all may be one», a united world. An aim that has not yet been achieved. The first generation by itself could not do it, just as the second generation by itself will not be able to do it: we need more generations. The united world is an idea that must be passed on from one generation to the next and the generations together must strive to reach its fulfillment by taking the steps that are possible in that specific moment in history. The Genfest therefore is not something that only concerns the youth, it concerns all of us. That is why I felt that I had to register and I hope that we will be many.

Even if not all of us will be able to go to Manila, all of us will work for the Genfest! I would like to say this seriously to everyone. Someone may say: «I am in a cloistered convent, I am sick ...». Offer, pray. Prayer and offering are very important to ask God for the graces for many young people who will be there and for those all over the world where they will be doing many activities for the Genfest. So let's all get to work: we can help for the hospitality, to prepare the programme, making a contribution for those with financial difficulties, we can look for *sponsors*. Maybe we only have a few coins in our pocket but we know someone who, if made aware of the needs, could make a big contribution. Let's do all we can, everything that we can. The Genfest is mine, it's ours. We will bring everything ahead together and even if only 10,000 can be present physically, all of us together, all over the world will be there too.

see Mariapoli online: <http://www.focolare.org/notiziariomariapoli/it/e-tu-ti-sei-iscritto/>

The culminating point of the congress, during the transmission of the Collegamento CH, was the enthusiastic promotion that Emmaus made for the Genfest. With great enthusiasm she invited the whole Movement to get involved (see box). We took up the

challenge to aim for a numerous participation in Manila and to realize many local Genfests, so that the message of a united world will echo from every corner of the planet.

Leandro Ramirez Brumatti

<http://y4uw.org/events/genfest-2018/>

In the year of Mary

New challenges of incarnation

Walking with the same pace: men Volunteers, women Volunteers, New Humanity



Luca Moser, Fanny Bava Furnò, Patience Lobe, Paolo Mottironi



The arrival of Maria Voce and Jesús Morán

Two meetings, two congresses distinct but not separate: on one side around 300 persons responsible for the men and women Volunteers of the Zone and the Zonetta, on the other side almost 100 persons responsible for New Humanity. They wanted to be close by, from November 9 to 12, in order to learn how to walk side by side. But at the same time they chose to be distinct to allow each reality to form their own identity according to the vision of the foundress, that is suited to the present times.

A big part of the two meetings was held together. There was the historical intervention of Emmaus and Jesús, on Saturday morning, November 11: in a very familiar conversation, they emphasized four key words: Co-responsibility - Communion - Incarnation - Mary. They proposed a path that puts communion at the center, on all levels and with all our strength, in order to give to the world what it needs. This is how Emmaus concluded: «We focolarini we cannot feel that we are Volunteers, and you Volunteers cannot feel

that you are focolarini; but we focolarini and you Volunteers we can feel that we are New Humanity. Since we are one body and soul together. Because it is the vocations that complete each other by integrating themselves one in the other and becoming this humanity which, redeemed, must go back to God as one, totally transformed».

New Humanity: it was a meeting characterized by an intense dialogue on the path taken this year according to the guidelines shared in 2016. What emerged were the various collaborations that have begun on different levels: between the Zone and the Center, encouraged also by an international Secretariat relocated in the territory; collaboration among generations, in synergy with the Youth for a United World for the «United World Project» and the Genfest; collaboration with some of the Inundations, participating in the common activities together.

During the dialogue it was revealed that in the year of Mary what comes to light is the incarnation. The image of a

polyhedron highlighted its thousands of facets. A new awareness was acquired of how New Humanity is a service to the social dimension of the entire Movement and that its task is to put itself at the service of life, by enhancing its value and sharing it to others.

Women and Men Volunteers:

A year ago, Emmaus launched a baffling proposal to the men and women Volunteers: to take responsibility for the Movement since she would be the one to take responsibility for the nuclei. In reality what Emmaus was proposing is the logic of the «new set-up», which puts everyone in the necessary position of being «protagonists-locomotives», as Chiara had said many times, in order to build a united world.

This was the premise that served as the foundation of this meeting. It reached its culmination during the opening of the process of canonization of Domenico Mangano¹, Volunteer of Viterbo (Italy) who died in December 2001. For the occasion, the hall of the Mariapolis Center of Castel Gandolfo was opened to welcome

1 See *Mariapoli* 12/2016 p. 35; *Mariapoli* 3-4/2017 p. 55



The «symbol»

At the conclusion of the hour spent with Emmaus and Jesús the letter of Chiara dated August 15, 1980 was read, which brought into focus the extremely high vocation of the men and women Volunteer of the Work of Mary, represented by Mary Assumed in Heaven. Here is an excerpt:

«To have the soul of Mary in Heaven was not enough for God. [...] Thus [...] God calls you Volunteers, to represent in the Movement the body of Mary. It is the symbol of that human part that God created and which must go back to Him, totally transformed. It is the symbol of all the human expressions of the world, of that incarnation in the social field, in economics, in art, in education, in health, etc. in which you see traced out luminously, your way to reach God and with you also society transformed.

In a human being, the soul without the body would be nonsense. So too the Work of Mary, with the focolarini but without the Volunteers, would not belong to Mary, nor even to the Church».

See: Dio sulle strade del mondo – Storia dei volontari 1956-1996 (God in the streets of the world - Story of the Volunteers), Città Nuova Editrice, Rome 1999



A moment during the opening of the process of canonization of Domenico Mangano, with card. João Braz de Aviz. His wife Pia and the children seated in the front row

first of all the family and relatives of Domenico, but also his friends from all over Italy, his colleagues and civil authorities of his beloved city, of which he was administrator for ten years. Many were able to follow the event through live *streaming*. The timing of this event is not by chance: in Domenico the luminous way of the Volunteers was visible, their passion for the incarnation that multiplies the «great attraction of these modern times»². In a brief video taken during the last month of his life, he spoke seriously to everyone as if he was leaving his last testament, which is still very relevant today: an invitation to give one's life for the realization of Chiara's dream.

This is exactly what was needed! It was needed in order to receive from Emmaus the revelation of Mary's design in Her Work, collectively and personally. It was needed, in order to earn the trust with which she treated us, together with Jesús, taking us into that



2 The attraction of the modern times (Spiritual writings/1) Città Nuova, Rome, 1978



inner vision, into the depths of the Charism, within that polyhedric (multi-faceted) unity to which we are called.

Some impressions: «My heart was inflamed to see that the things we talked about when we were gen twenty years ago, the Holy Spirit is making us realize them today». Evaldo (Brazil)

«I have never in my life felt so close to Mary as now. Chiara showed us the way to relive Mary and to be the Word incarnated. This is our vocation, we must be mothers for everyone». Babette (Filippine)

«I am a father, I am a man, but I must become a mother. It is a great challenge. To be able to remove the shoes, the socks, to dry the sweat, to give a pat on the back. I want to do this». Attilio (Brescia)

«This meeting brought me back to the source. It was a fulfilled return to the vocation to the Opera which... I can bring ahead only by living the Gospel». Dorothy (Cameroun)

«I am very grateful to Emmaus and Jesús for their presence, for not only talking about co-responsibility but living it immediately with us». Andrea (Hungary)

«With Domenico I felt the entire heavenly Mariapolis was there in front of us. Tears of joy: from the *Paradise* of Chiara of '49 I saw a multitude of people with one heart and one soul». Mel (Canada)

«The theme of Jesús helped me to understand that nothing changes even if everything changes.». Paula (Usa)

«To bring ahead the part that has been entrusted to me, in a new unity with the entire Movement, only in this way can I truly contribute to the incarnation». Chiara (Trent)

Paolo Balduzzi, Michela Tasca



A growing process

Living peace

**A congress of formation
for teachers, animators, educators
on the project of peace education
«Living Peace International»**

Five days of work in the relaxing atmosphere of Castel Gandolfo, five days to give space for peace, at least within us. Moreover, «peace begins with us». This is also one of the strong phrases that resounded like a *mantra* in these times. There were about a hundred willing participants, from 25 nations, speaking more than ten languages, of various religious faiths, different ages and professions, majority of whom are working in the field of education. Also present were more than fifty associations and organizations working for peace side by side with *Living Peace* that is developing more and more as the point of unity among many, who in various ways and in different Countries, are working towards this aim.

In the photo: panels made by the teens belonging to partner Organizations of the project "Living Peace"

The congress, promoted by New Humanity, AMU (Azione Mondo Unito) and Teens4unity, hoped to make it a formative moment for teachers, animators and people interested in the project «Living Peace». This is an educational course on peace that involves more than two hundred fifty thousand children and teens from 113 Countries. The launching pad for the project was the city of Cairo, where Carlos Palma, focolarino from Uruguay, who has been living in the Middle East for many years, spread the «dice of peace» through a methodology that is didactic and universal (see box). In these years New Humanity encouraged the spread and awareness of «Living Peace» on various levels, giving rise to synergies with other Associations and Organizations. AMU adopted it as one of the courses for peace that it is promoting. The Teens4unity, aside





Everything started from a cardboard dice

«Five years ago when I was teaching English in an American school in Cairo – Carlos Palma shared – I proposed to 15 children of a class to throw a big “dice of peace” every morning together with their teacher, inspired by the “dice of love” (love always, be the first one to love, love everyone, know how to listen, forgive one another and love one another reciprocally). Then for five minutes everyday, they would share their experiences. At twelve noon, we would say the «Time Out». In just a short time the atmosphere of that class changed: the children helped one another especially the weaker ones, the teachers no longer favoured some students over the others, the level of learning improved. The director then proposed the «dice» to the entire school and soon it also spread to other 20 schools. «Living Peace» was starting to come to life. One day a group of teens had an idea: to write a letter to all the heads of governments in the world to share with them their experience in living peace. I encouraged them to do so, helping them to send 220 letters. After one week the first reply came. It was from Obama, who was then the president of the

USA, who with his wife encouraged us saying: «You are beginning an important journey of education to peace». Then the reply from the King of Spain, from the President of Ireland, from the Ministers of many Countries. But – I asked myself – how could a simple cardboard dice produce this effect? Then I understood that it was the charisma of Chiara that was in action. In 2014 we presented “Living Peace” at the headquarters of the European Parliament in Luxemburg; in 2015 the “Goi Peace Foundation” of Japan invited me to present it in Hiroshima, during the seventieth anniversary of the atomic bomb. The United Nations also proposed to us to present it in New York, last September 21 during the World day for Peace organized by the youth».

Since then different international organizations expressed the desire to collaborate for the diffusion of the project, placing at our disposal the specific work that they are doing for peace with the new generations.

In the photo: Carlos Palma (the first on the left seated) during a moment of the congress

from writing articles in the *Teens* magazine, which then became its official organ with a fixed column, would like to gradually become its principal animators.

From October 25 to 29, they went over the stages of the project and deepened its sociological, psychological, pedagogical and procedural foundations. Through a didactic laboratory, the intervention of experts, reports of the representatives of the Associations, each of the participants was able to get involved and to be drawn in the depths of their heart: what can be my contribution? The workshops on pro-sociality, prevention of violence, on how to grow in cohesion and fraternity or on how to become expert builders of peace, helped in drawing out the answers. What emerged was the educative potentiality of the «Golden Rule». The scientific reports on «love as a category» also legislative, and on «forgiveness», strengthened the theoretical foundations of the practice.

Four of the participants who for many years now have been spending their life as peacemakers, were awarded the recognition as «Ambassadors of Peace». Just like the teens who adhere to «Living Peace» and who live in the world with courage, drive and enthusiasm, we too went back to our homes to be witnesses and promoters of peace; small seeds that must germinate and multiply. If we live peace... life goes ahead!

Luigi Chatel



Come aderire?

The project «Living Peace» presents two instruments (the «Dice of Peace» and the «Time Out») and one methodology [the 6x1: 6 steps (observe, think, involve others, act, reflect, celebrate) to reach an objective]. There are many initiatives for peace proposed by every month to the groups, classes, Associations who have joined. For more information and to register please go to the website www.livingpeaceinternational.org in five languages (italian, english, spanish, french and portuguese), the Facebook page «Living Peace International» or write to info@livingpeaceinternational.org



Bishops in communion

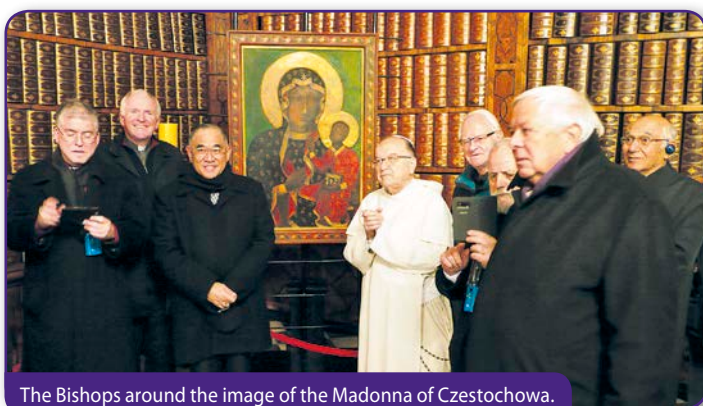
Mary does not divide us, but unites us

The experience of Bishops of various Churches friends of the Focolare Movement reunited in Katowice, Poland

«Mary does not divide us, but unites us». With these words the Lutheran Bishop expressed his joy at the conclusion of the 36° ecumenical meeting of Bishops friends of the Focolare Movement. «We were expecting – the others also affirmed – that the diversity of vision regarding Mary could highlight the division and instead, in listening to each other, we were gifted with an increasing unity».

Those who met together, from November 15 to 18 in the welcoming environment of the Faculty of Theology at the University of Slesia, were 34 Bishops belonging to the Orthodox, Syro-Orthodox, Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist, Roman Catholic and maronite Churches, coming from: Lebanon, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Poland, Lettonia, Romania, Hungary, Brazil, India, Thailand, Austria, Germany, Sweden, England, Ireland. Aside from the Catholic Archbishop, the Lutheran Bishop and the Orthodox episcopal Vicar of the place, the Apostolic Nuncio also came and spoke.

The theme of the meeting expressed very well the sentiments of this group of Bishops: «Together we confess – together we go towards humanity». Particular point of attention: «Mary, the Mother of Jesus».



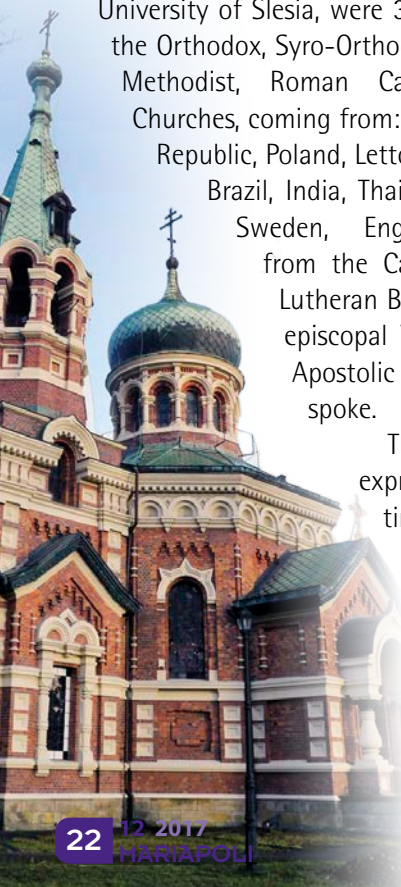
The Bishops around the image of the Madonna of Czestochowa.

It was surprising to see how – as the interventions came one after another – a thread emerged that made us understand that every Church can give a characteristic and important contribution to the understanding of Mary. It was perceived that they were not necessarily contrasting views, but perspectives that open up ways for a further understanding not only through studies but also and above all through experience, of how to «relive Mary».

In this context, the testimonies of the focolarine and focolarini of the Anglican, Orthodox, Lutheran and Catholic faiths were very precious. From these it was seen how through the gaze of Mary one could enter today into the depths of one's faith.

Among the various contributions we would like to mention the highly qualified intervention of Sr. Margareta Gruber, Catholic exegete, on Woman in

© segvies



chapter 12 of the Book of the Apocalypse and that of Sr. Nicole Grochowina, Evangelical, on the Comment of Martin Luther on the *Magnificat*. «Mary – Church – Creation» the Orthodox perspective offered by Metropolitan Serafim Joanta; «Between devotion to Mary and the marian profile of the Church» the Catholic perspective as offered by Mons. Brendan Leahy. Closing the circle was the intervention of the Anglican focolarino priest Callan Slipper, recently nominated as the representative of the Church of England for ecumenism, on the theme «Mary in the Anglican–Catholic dialogue».

Among these contributions the theme on «Mary in the experience and thoughts of Chiara Lubich» prepared by Renata Simon became the unifying horizon that disclosed the reality of Mary as a model and the way for Christian life; a perspective that the Bishops were able to grasp also in the theme of Wilfried Hagemann on «Klaus Hemmerle and Maria».

In three days, through the many contributions, they were able to compose a bigger and more complete picture. This aroused the desire for these themes to be published and so the next issue of the ecclesial life magazine gens will be dedicated to this.

A characteristic of the Meeting was the intense fraternity among the Bishops. What united all of them was the concrete life of the Word, the commitment to live the new commandment, a continuous opening up of oneself to the presence of Jesus in the midst. This was also experienced during the liturgical celebrations of the different Churches where everyone participated.

The so-called «windows» were well-attended: moments in which the Bishops looked



at the ecumenical situation in the different parts of the world, such as in Eastern Europe, and in particular the situation of Christians in the Middle East, where they experience daily the tragedy of war and the martyrdom of Christians.

To gather the fruits not only of the Meeting but also the commitment to ecumenism of the Movement, was Jesús Morán who spoke on «The ecumenical vision of the Focolare Movement and its impact». If on one hand the Charism offers a solid foundation for a «dialogue of life», on the other hand it creates the prerequisites in order to contribute more and more also to the theological dialogue, in view of an «ecumenical Catholicity».

Friday November 16, the seal of the Pact of reciprocal love among the Bishops, in the Great Hall of the Faculty of Theology at Katowice, in the presence of around 120 persons of the Focolare community in Poland, among whom were a rabbi and also some Muslims. It was a moment in which, in a certain way, we saw the portent of a united Church, open to universal fraternity.

There was much gratitude for this experience of «family» among the Bishops and the local community, who put in a lot of work in order to make the Bishops feel «at home», with the help of the members of the Movement coming from the various cities of Poland.

These days made us experience that the Gospel lived opens up frontiers, it makes one become a gift for the other and radiates this to the world. This is how to live Mary and how the plan of God on the Church is realized: to give God, to give Jesus today, there where we are.

Francis Xavier card. Kriengsak Kovithavanij

«Together for Europe»

Towards a promising future

In Vienna, bridge between West and East, so as to look ahead

From November 9 to 11, 130 members of 44 Movements, Communities and Associations, belonging to the ecumenical network «Together for Europe», gathered in the Austrian capital for their annual meeting. They came from Portugal to Russia, from England to Greece. Their common intention: a reconciled unity among the different Churches and cultures, as well as solidarity and integration for Europe. They wanted to reflect on the past, present and future of «Together». «We need a dialogued action» suggested Ilona Tóth of the Focolare Movement, member of the Orientation Committee of Tfe, after the meeting in Rome entitled «(Re)thinking Europe» of the Commission of the Episcopal conferences of the European Community, held last October 29. «We must look at the problem and find the answers together». And this is precisely what happened.

Ecumenical prayer for Europe

For the participants of the Congress, the evening of November 9 saw an appointment at the Cathedral of Vienna, the Stephansdom, presided by Cardinal Christoph Schönborn together with a significant ecumenical group of ecclesiastical authorities, together with around a hundred people. There was a strong cohesion to the solemn prayer for a «Together» of cultures and generations and for peace. The date of the event bore a significant coincidence. After 9.11.1938 (Night of crystals), 9.11.1989 (the fall of the Berlin Wall), 9.11.2017, the day of ecumenical prayer, appears to be an important moment in the journey of «Together» a sign of peace for Europe.

An exchange of ideas and prayers

Interventions and intense exchanges of ideas, with moments of prayer, characterized the programme.

Fr. Heinrich Walter (Schönstatt) presented the eighteen years of history of «Together for Europe». «From deep roots grows a fruitful tree for the unity of Europe» he observed. He also recalled, among other things, the year 1999, when in Augusta, on the occasion of the Joint Declaration on the doctrine of justification, the collaboration for Europe of the Movements, Communities and Associations of various Churches began.

Gérard Testard (Efesia Community, France) presented in a concise and clear manner, the actual context of the crisis and the hopes of Europe.



Following his intervention, Gerhard Pross (CvJM/YMCA Esslingen) spoke about the «challenges for Europe». «Our "Together" is a prophetic message. Our prophetic message is the culture of "Together for Eyrope"», he declared and he aslo recalled: «We say "yes" to a Europe, to whom, in the course of history, God has entrusted a vocation: the togetherness of heaven and earth, the togetherness of faith and a project for the world, because in the Crucifix heaven and earth meet».

Then Pál Toth (Focolare Movement, Hungary) spoke about the future of «Together»: «Culture of encounter and dialogue between Eastern and Western Europe». This was followed by a Round Table discussion which was very much appreciated, with participants coming Ukraine, Slovacchia, Hungary, Slovenia and Russia. Toth, an expert in the science of communication, identified some differences between the Countries of the East and of the West, and courageously launched a challenge at the conclusion: «"Together for Europe" could develop more and more as a platform of dialogue and even as a school of inter-european dialogue». On the premise of «equality and mutual recognition, a new type of "wise discourse" could develop, that reveals miseries and defects seen in the perspective of Redemption and of Resurrection».

How can we go ahead?

With numerous reflections done during the plenary sessions and in the groups, those present were invited to participate actively in the process of concretization, expressing their own opinion and their experiences.

On the last day, the question of Thomas Römer (CvJM/YMCA Monaco) and Sr. Vernita Weiss



(Schönstatt): «How can we go ahead?») was a push to ask together for the Holy Spirit. Among the proposals: to intensify the meetings and the reciprocal visits among the various Movements and Countries so an to reinforce and strenghten the spirit of «Together». Another idea, based on the suggestion of Jeff Fountain (Schuman Center for European Studies, Netherlands) and the group of «Together for Europe» of Rome, is to take advantage of May 9 – a date which in many Countries is already considered as European Day – to spread our message through local actions and activities.

At the conclusion, the renewal of the «pact» – a solemn promise of reciprocal love – sealed in front of God as a common commitment, giving courage and certainty for the near future.

The next meeting of the «Friendsi» of «Together for Europe» will be held in Prague (Czech Republic) on November 15 to 17, 2018, where the East-West dialogue will continue. Together we are walking towards a promising future.

Beatriz Lauenroth

www.together4europe.org
twitter.com/together4europe

In Geneve

A long-standing friendship

The Schools of Montet at the ecumenical Council of Churches and the Institute of Bossey fifty years after the first visit of Chiara

The contacts between the Focolare Movement and the Ecumenical Council of Churches (Ecc), whose headquarters is in Geneve, began more than 50 years ago. It was on November 9, 1967 when Chiara Lubich went there for the first time.

This relationship between the Focolare and the Ecc continues even today under various forms: meetings, collaborations, common projects. Everything done with the awareness and the gratitude for the imprint that Chiara continues to give through her legacy and her words.

The event of 50 years ago was celebrated together with a group of focolarini, students of the Centre de Rencontre et de Formation of Montet (Switzerland) who, went to visit the Ecc and the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey, as they have been doing every year at the conclusion of their course on ecumenism. They were joined by 30 other youth from the gen2 School.

On the 8th of November, they were welcomed by Dr. Marcello Schneider, Lutheran from Porto Alegre (Brazil), who recalled the collaboration offered by the Movement during their General Assembly of 2006. Dr. Ani Ghazaryan Drissi of the Department of «Faith and Constitution», of the Armenian Apostolic Church, explained the document entitled «The

Church: Towards a common vision» - for which they had asked the contribution not only of the 348 member Churches of the Ecc but also from Movements, Universities etc. He said that the reply of the Movement received a very positive response. (see *Nuova Umanità* [New Humanity] n.223).

On the first day, they had the meeting with the ecumenical institute of Bossey. Prof. Martin Robra, Lutheran, introduced them to some relevant topics regarding the ecumenical Movement, while Prof. Ioan Sauca, Rumanian Orthodox, who had invited Chiara in 2002, emphasized the contribution offered by the theology and spirituality of Chiara. The students of Montet and Bossey participated together in one of the lessons with the Biblist Prof. Lawrence Iwuamadi, a Catholic from Nigeria. The interaction was very much appreciated by both groups and they were able to build friendships with the students from their Countries and from the Countries where they would be going, after their period of formation in Montet.

In these two days they learned many things and their commitment to live so «that all may be one» was strengthened.

Joan Patricia Back



Communion and Law

A book on the trail of fraternity

Interest shown in academic circles for a book written by Italian, Spanish and Brazilian professors

The pathways of a jurist on the trail of fraternity. Regulations and comparison, is a book written by Italian, Spanish and Brazilian professors, who undertook a course of in-depth study on the principle of fraternity and law, as members of the international network of jurists - Communion and Law - inspired by the Focolare Movement.

The text which is printed by a Law publishing house, is generating a particular interest in academic environments. It was presented in the Hall of Philosophers of the University



of Parma, last October 26 and in the Circle of Readers of Turin the following day.

In **Parma**, Prof. Lucia Scaffardi, organizer of the Convention, underlined how the principle of fraternity is a novelty that must be recognized and deepened in law, reconnecting the pages of the book to the inspirational spark and citing some of the words of the message of Chiara

Lubich at the 1° Congress of Communion and Law (2005): «Law, since its birth, was seen as a rule of social life, or better still as the order of society itself. I would like to see this regulatory function innervated by the new commandment of reciprocal love for the full realization of persons and the relationships to which they give life». Another speaker, Prof. Rossolini, defined fraternity as «the qualified relationship with the other», emphasizing the novelty that emanates from the text presented.

Vilnius. A challenge for social recovery

The Department of Jurisprudence of the University of Vilnius (Lithuania) invited Communion and Law to make a contribution at the Conventoin entitled «Resocialization without incarceration. The need to reinvest in the correctional system for transgressors». Pedro Vaz Patto, a magistrate from Portugal and Orazio Moscatello, an Italian lawyer, presented two talks that were very much appreciated. The heads of various Law Institutes expressed the desire to deepen the principle of fraternity, which they discovered as something new, challenging and a suitable instrument to solve the problem of social reintegration of ex-convicts.



In Turin a lively and profound dialogue took place between the speakers – the professors Ilenia Massa Pinto and Paolo Heritier – and the audience. Heritier declared that he appreciated the book very much, calling it a courageous and provocative proposal, starting with the title: «the pathway – he said – makes me think about the state and the function of research and of common law, while the concept of fraternity represents a category that should be better recognized by law». He announced that he would be inserting in the programme of a Seminar with his students in Nice (France), one of the themes presented

in the book – relational justice – asking for the collaboration of one of the authors, Antonio Marquez Prieto, professor of labour law at the University of Malaga. There is also the possibility of a joint publication on philosophy and law, as a contribution to this volume, that will be prepared by Prof. Heritier in collaboration with Pierangelo Sequeri, dean of the John Paul II Pontifical Institute.

Prof. Massa Pinto (who like Heritier was a gen3) emphasized the importance of these events so as to keep in contact with the Focolare Movement.

prepared by Adriana Cosseddu

Castel Gandolfo. Public service and the commitment to fraternity

From November 24 to 26 a meeting was held for persons working in public service entitled: «Public service and commitment to fraternity: a challenge of today».

This was an initiative, realized together by New Humanity and Communion and Law, in a synergy that allowed for the harmonizing of doctrinal aspects with experiential ones. The programme focused on corruption and on how personal and collective

commitment can eradicate this *virus*: it was mentioned that the vaccine to overcome it «could be precisely education to a change of mentality: to pass from a consumeristic culture where the only way to find happiness is in having, to a culture of giving ». And still more: «The culture of indifference that is spreading in our society, must be overcome by the culture of relationships like the one we are experiencing here».



In Welwyn Garden City With the oriental Churches

From October 25 to 30, the Centre for Unity in London, hosted the annual meeting of the Oriental Catholic Bishops of Europe

As is well-known, there are particular Churches in the Catholic Church which, in full communion with Rome, practice liturgical rites different from the latin one, and who also have some sacramental and canonical disciplines that are different. This is the case of the oriental Churches of the Byzantine, Armenian, Coptic, etc. rites. In order to encourage an always more vital communion with and among them, the Council of the episcopal Conferences of Europe (Ccee) annually organizes this kind of meeting, choosing a different European venue each time. This year they chose our Center.

There were around eighty Bishops, priests, experts in catechesis present: from England to Ukraine, from Rumania to Greece. Archbishop Cyril Vasil, secretary of the Congregation of Oriental Churches, came from the Vatican as well as His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk, major archbishop of Kyiv-Halyč (Chiesa greco-catholic Church) of Ukraine.

All of us belonging to the team of the Centre for Unity – set-up for the occasion, composed of persons of various vocations of the Movement coming from Liverpool and from Scotland, among whom was a gen girl from Nigeria – we were able to participate in some of the ceremonies and thus acquire a greater awareness of these Churches and the hardships that they had to overcome, especially during the communist regime.



The message of the Pope read during the opening ceremony by the apostolic nuncio Mons. Edward Joseph Adams was very beautiful, as well as the warm welcome message given by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, archbishop of Westminster, which he sent through Bishop Paul McAllenan. The culminating moment was the Divine Liturgy held in the Cathedral of Westminster, with the presence of 25 British Bishops, a historical event for the Church in our Country.

Many of the participants, aside from talking to us about the friendly contacts with the Focolare Movement in their Countries, expressed satisfaction for the choice of the venue, not only because of its excellent geographical location, but also, as the archbishop of Birmingham, Mons. Bernard Longely said, «because of the charisma of Chiara Lubich that one breathes here. It is a charisma which, as the organizer of the event Gerry Kehoe emphasized, in his thank-you letter in the name of the episcopal Conference of England and Wales, that «facilitates the work of the Spirit».

*Mary Gateshill and the team
of the Centre for unity*



Mariapolis in Turkey

In the places of the first christians

In Iskenderun, in the south of the Country along the border of Syria, the much-awaited meeting with the community took place after 20 years.

The theme chosen for the Mariapolis was that of hope, in a time and in a geographical area that is both meaningful and challenging. Just a few kilometers from the border with Syria, there lives a small Christian community, heirs of that community of Antioch (a city not far from Iskenderun), that was evangelized during the apostolic era, and just as the Scriptures said it was there that «for the first time the disciples were called Christians» (Acts 11,26).

«Stay with us as evening is drawing near» these words welcomed the more than eighty people from the region and beyond, from November 3 to 5. A much-awaited Mariapolis, after more than 20 years since the last one was held in that region, a dream that many were hoping for, for such a long time. The local community was full of enthusiasm even from the start of the preparations. Everyone got involved with joy and simplicity in the life of reciprocal love.

The Ideal, a true balm in many situations, was testified to by the many faithful and happy

witnesses. But the happiest person was the local Bishop, mons. Paolo Bizzeti, who welcomed us into his home and in some moments he shared in the life of the Mariapolis, also by giving a catechesis on hope. He was the first one to tell us when we met in the corridor, «I think that it is going well...» and after the last meal he spoke and invited all of us to repeat this experience next year in November.

An explosion of joy during the concluding celebration which expressed the atmosphere of family that was created in such a short time. Everyone had the desire to go ahead together in this journey, whether we are continuing or just starting. A seed of hope and light was planted.

From Mersin, a nearby city, around fifteen Iraqi and Syrian refugees came. On their return they wrote us: «Blessed be all our difficulties which has given us the good fortune of having met you!».

Hope, joy, enthusiasm, gratitude, also for those who in the past had worked a lot for the Mariapolises, like Fr. Umile, a religious who had just recently left us at 91 years old. The appointment is already set for next year.

Umberta (Viledi) Fabris



Cardinal Van Thuan

«Collective» sanctity in the vietnamese land

A testimony of evangelical life according to the spirituality of unity.

On May 4, 2017, Pope Francis declared as Venerable
Cardinal François Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan

The *vietcong* offensive on South Vietnam was advancing and it was foreseen that soon the entire Country would be unified by the government of Hanoi. It was 1973 and the then Bishop of Nha Trang, Nguyen Van Thuan, was asking himself how he could help the Christians to preserve their faith in the face of possible persecutions and difficulties.

He had met the Focolare Movement and he welcomed its spirituality centered on Jesus in the midst and on the life of the Gospel. It seemed to him that this was the anchor of salvation for his beloved people.

In '74 a group of focolarini upon his invitation, came to hold the first Mariapolis in Vietnamese soil, with more than 600 participants. This was followed by two more Mariapolises, of which one was exclusively for priests – they were more than 250 – all centered on Jesus Forsaken. Still today, the participants can recall having lived a strong experience of God.

As the Bishop of Nha Trang, Van Thuan had founded two secular Institutes, one for men and another for women, centered on the spirituality of unity. Immersing themselves among everyone they brought the proclamation of the Gospel throughout the Country.



Vietnam was reunited with the rest of Saigon on April 30, 1975. Van Thuan had just been nominated Archbishop of that city and the new authorities of the Country considered this an act of high treason. He was the nephew of the first President of South Vietnam, an authoritative voice for the people and for the international community. For this reason, on August 14, he was imprisoned and for 13 years he was moved from one prison to

another, at times kept in the harsh environment of solitary confinement. From prison he continued to send messages to help the Christians remain faithful, and he was even able to convert his prison guards.

On November 21, 1988, thanks to the commitment of the Vatican and the international community, Mons. Nguyen was freed, but could still not move around freely.

The focolarini from Bangkok went several times to visit him, maintaining contact with him even during his imprisonment. In '91 the Government of Vietnam asked him to leave the Country. He was welcomed by the Vatican and in '98 John Paul II nominated him as the President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and created him as Cardinal in 2001. In 2000 he was asked to give the spiritual retreats to the Roman Curia. From this was born the book



Chiara Badano

«Light» for the Synod on the youth 2018

Molti gli appuntamenti nel mondo il 29 ottobre

There were many events all over the world on October 29

She was not yet 19 when, on October 7, 1990, Chiara Luce took her flight to Heaven, bearing witness to the world that God-Love is the fullness of life. Twenty years later, on September 25, 2010, in the Roman shrine of Divine Love, she was proclaimed Blessed. She has now

taken her place among the «young witnesses» in the next Synod on the youth 2018¹.

On the occasion of her liturgical anniversary (October 29) there were many events to commemorate her. In **Loppiano**, during the traditional «24 hours of light» (from 12 o'clock of Saturday to 12 o'clock of Sunday) through choreographies, writings, life experiences, hundreds of youth renewed their awareness of having just one life and to want to spend it well.

A celebration presided by the bishop of Aquisgranum (Sassello **(Italy)**), her birthplace, could not be lacking, as well as numerous events in many **Italian cities**. Among all these, special mention goes to the retreat for young priests and deacons in Varazze (Savona), a locality near the places where Chiara Luce lived.

In **India**, to recall how much Chiara Luce had disadvantaged children in her heart, the group «**For you Jesus**» organized a programme for the human and social development of hundreds of children living in poverty. Also during those days, they launched a drive to collect hair to support cancer victims, involving more than 300 young girls.

The young boys and girls of the gen Schools of the Mariapolis Peace of Tagaytay (**Philippines**), spoke about her life during a festival nearby with more than 1,000 youth from the Philippines and Indonesia.

Among the different initiatives in **Brazil**, one that stands out is the one held in the pediatric cancer hospital of Sorocaba, where in the chapel dedicated to Chiara Luce, which is often visited by the young cancer

entitled *Testimony of hope* which is strongly imbued with the spirituality of unity. He died in 2002 with the fame of sanctity. Chiara Lubich was among the last people to meet him. Because of his heroic virtues, in 2010 the process for his canonization was opened and on May 4, 2017 Pope Francis declared him as Venerable. In the decree we read: «This witness of faith, hope and charity of the Servant of God, given generously day after day with humility and discretion, is a constant invitation to collective holiness, which finds its greatest expression in fidelity to God and in his reciprocal help to travel the way of holiness». An example of evangelical life according to the spirituality of unity that Cardinal Van Thuan has left as his legacy for everyone.

Sameiro De Freitas

For those who would like to know more about him we can suggest two books published by Città Nuova: *Testimoni della Speranza* (year 2000) and *Il cammino della speranza. Testimoniare con gioia l'appartenenza a Cristo*, (year 1992)

1 <http://youth.synod2018.va/content/synod2018/it/giovanit-testimoni/beata-chiara-badano.html>

patients, Archbishop J. E. Akamine celebrated the Mass on October 29.

At Sofia (**Bulgaria**), the gen3 presented Chiara Luce during the Sunday Mass. We can recall that in 2015, during the national Meeting of young Catholics, they presented a musical on her life and from that moment on she is greatly loved in Bulgaria.

The celebration organized at the Mariapolis Center of (**Argentina**) had as its title: «A life between Heaven and earth». In the little town El Diamante in **Mexico** a *musical* presented her life and journey towards sainthood to many youth. In **Spain** there were celebrations in Puerto de Santa María and in Bergara in the Convent of the Most Holy Trinity.

In **Cameroun**, too they had a celebration while in **Tanzania** they had a two-day celebration, with the participation of hundreds of young people. Here are some impressions: «I understood that I cannot be sad when I am sick, but like her I want to give happiness to the persons who come to visit me». «I too would like to be like her. She is my big sister: she was able to love everyone even in difficult moments». «I found hope once more even in the midst of difficulties». «I would like to ask that these days dedicated to Chiara Luce can be repeated every year so that many other young people can go back to God and to live a happy life and a life of love. With her we can change the world!».

*prepared by Sameiro De Freitas,
Marco Bartolomei*

To tell us about your initiatives,
events, please go to

infochiaraluce@focolare.org
Facebook: Chiara "Luce" Badano.



Danielle Dejemeppe-Piron

«*When I am weak then I am strong*»
(2Cor 12,10)

At 16 years old Danielle, from Belgium, participated in a concert of Gen Rosso. The Gospel message proposed by those young people touched him profoundly, enkindling in him the desire to answer with all his being to God whom he discovered as Love. A few years later she married Damien, who is also of the Movement. Together they wanted to contribute as a family to that prayer of Jesus: «That all may be one». Thus their house was always open to everyone including the friends of their five children. Danielle became a married focolarina while Damine took care of a group of New Families. She also found the time to work in the parish which was made easier by her natural sense of humour that attracted everyone.

In 1991 she wrote to Chiara: «God in the first place, whether in the family or in the focolare: this is what i want» and in '97 she confided: «I want to lose my humanity in Jesus for an even greater unity with Him and with the brothers». In 2004 she wrote: «During moments of joy or of suffering, in peace or in rebellion, in doubt or in certainty, the Holy Spirit has always inspired my hope in the love of God».

The year 2015 was a very difficult one for her: she felt like she was in a dark tunnel but, «in total aridity - she wrote - I have remained faithful

to prayer; I put everything in the heart of God certain that He loves me. I tried to "be another little mary" in silence, in trust. Then I received the hundredfold: a profound acceptance of who I am».

It was precisely in that year that she was entrusted with the important project of formation in the vicariate of Brabant Wallon, to which she launched herself with great enthusiasm. But soon after she was diagnosed with an illness and so she had to stop working. Even in the uncertainty of the future, her love for the neighbour and her total

abandonment to God impressed everyone: a very strong witness that she was asked to share even during the meeting on pastoral health care. With the support of Jesus in the midst with Damien and with the focolare, she spent her last months serenely, speaking without fear about her «departure» which she felt was imminent. The Bishop, the parish priest, her colleagues came to visit her: many of them said that her gaze emanated an anticipation of that Paradise to which Danielle flew to on October 27, accompanied by Mary. She was only 56 years old.



Bishop Irineu Roque Scherer

A man of great goodness

Born in the south of Brazil, Irineu was still a seminarian when he met the Focolare

Movement. Profoundly struck by «the relationship among the people - as he himself confided - the joy on their faces and the harmony that I saw all around», he asked and obtained the permission to spend a year at the Mariapolis Araceli (little town of the Focolare Movement in San Paolo). He then became a part of that first group of seminarians that started the gens School also in Brazil. Their experiences on the Gospel lived touched the many people they encountered in the various states of the Country where they were invited to share their life. These experiences later became the foundation for the *Perspectivas de Comunhão*, the Brazilian version of Perspectives of Communion, which exists today as the gens magazine. When he went back to the seminary, Irineu continued his formation course according to the style that he learned in the gens School, building

fraternal relationships with everyone with a new understanding of his vocation. «Before I had an image of the priesthood linked to status - he shared - so much so that my personal efforts were geared at achieving this. With the Ideal I learned that I must be Christian first of all: to move from theory to practice, from a comfortable life to action, from egoism to charity, just like Mary, the servant of the Lord, and so to be able to sing, like her, the Magnificat».

For twenty years Fr. Irineu fulfilled his priestly ministry in various parishes and as a professor of Theology in Toledo (Paraná). In 1999 he was consecrated a Bishop and sent to Garanhuns, in the northeast of the Country. There he became well-known for his great simplicity in meeting the people and as a promoter of numerous ecclesial and social projects. Then he was transferred to Joinville, where he remained until the 1° of July, 2016, when at only 56 years old, he was unexpectedly called to the House of the Father. Many said that Dom Irineu is a Bishop who will be remembered as a man of great goodness.

*Francis Xavier
card. Kriengsak Kovithavanij*

Mother Maria Grazia Marchesini

Strong and intuitive, possessing a maternal sense and a prophetic spirit

Elected as Mother General of the Daughters of Jesus of Verona in 1966, she held this responsibility for 27 years, making good use of her many qualities as a strong and intuitive woman, who possessed a maternal instinct and a prophetic spirit that saw beyond physical appearances. In the difficult times during which the (Second Vatican) Council was encouraging renewal, she started a series of formative courses to rediscover and keep alive the spirit of their founder. She met the spirituality of Chiara from her brother Gino, a priest focolarino and from it she found the inspiration on how to update her congregation and make it more relevant to the times. She gave all the Daughters of Jesus the possibility of encountering this new light that could enlighten their lives greatly.



At the end of every spiritual exercise, she invited focolarine or focolarini to share their experiences on focolare life. Together with Chiara she embraced Jesus Forsaken and invited her daughters to love Him, encouraging them to face difficulties with perseverance and abandoning themselves

to God. At the end of her mandate she dedicated herself especially to the sick and the elderly. All of her life became prayer and offering. To all those who came to visit her she would raise her hand in blessing, tracing the sign of the cross with the rosary that she kept around her neck. This was her farewell before falling asleep in the Lord on August 27, 2016 at the age of 96.

It is too little to say "Thank you" for all that she has been and has done for us. Each one of us keeps in her heart the words that she would whisper in every personal encounter with her: «I count on you, Jesus loves you very much».

the community of the Daughters of Jesus of Verona

Lenarčič Matilda

«Woman, your faith is great» (Mt 15,28)

Among the first women Volunteers of the former Yugoslavia, Matilda was born in Vukovar (Croatia), but due to her father's job they moved to other cities in the Country. She was a Math teacher and her first job was teaching in the junior highschool of Komen (Slovenia). A key moment in her life was her encounter with the Focolare Movement that led her to put God in the first place of her life and to the conviction that love is the greatest power that exists. During the difficult times of communism she was able to overcome all obstacles just to be able to participate in the meetings at the Center with Chiara. With her life she was able to bring Christianity to school and everywhere she went, helping

many who were in need, like a student who had learning difficulties, who through her help was able to finish her studies with flying colours. She offered her house to a family of six who had nowhere to stay.

During the war for independence and eventually with the conflicts in Croatia and Boznia-Herzegovina, the big courtyard of her house became a collection point for all the humanitarian aid coming from Italy and destined for Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Serbia.

In the beginning of 2016 her strength began to diminish, then an ugly fall caused her to



be confined in the hospital. She immediately accepted this new will of God and, as the nurses who took care of her said, she continued to be «a sun». She never thought about herself, for her every person she met was Jesus to love. To those who came to visit her she would tell them to reassure all those who asked about her saying, «we are united in prayer».

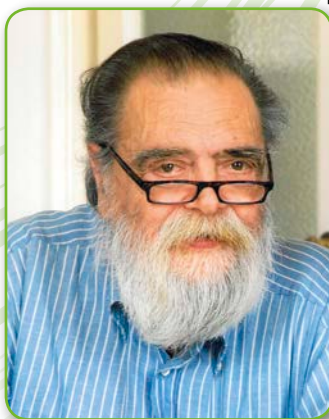
After having dedicated her life to proclaiming the charism of unity, on October 23, 2016, at the age of 88, Matilda peacefully reached the House of the Father.

Katarina Gerzina

Innocenzo (Enzo) Gargiullo

A life fully realized

It was 1975. Enzo, a young Roman, together with his fiancée Angela decided to celebrate their wedding during the Mariapolis. It was the beginning of a life together totally dedicated - as Volunteers of the Work of Mary - to giving themselves at the service of others. Forty years of life spent for those in need, such as the sick in the hospitals, where Enzo became a co-founder of an association for hospital volunteers (ARVAS). Everyone remembers his big heart, his generosity, his welcoming attitude in bring ahead everything without putting himself in the limelight. Every person who turned to him for help was never abandoned, but received concrete help from him personally or from others whom Enzo involved. Angela shared: «A lady who came to work in Italy with great sacrifice, so as to be able to send a big amount of money to Ecuador



for the operation of her son, was cheated by the employment agency. With Enzo we went to speak to the manager, whom, having realized that the woman was being supported by us, returned the money the agency had taken. But Enzo wanted to love this woman up to the end and was able to generate a chain of people who were willing to support her daily needs».

When he got sick which eventually led to dialysis, a new chapter began in his life which, after his initial rejection, he gradually accepted his illness and found the value of suffering. His acceptance of the will of God made him

more patient and to continue to love, maybe by just giving a smile, grateful to God for the gift of each new day. The nurses and the people that he met three times a week during this period of his calvary, were edified by him.

Enzo left us on September 11, at the age of 73, lovingly cared for by Angela and his son Giulio, up to the end.

Mario Cardilli

Margaret Collinson

*She was a champion in
spreading the Ideal*

Born in a Catholic family in Great Britan, she went to London to study nursing. At twenty years old she married Jack, and Anglican teacher. They had three children. From a colleague, Margaret - having moved with her family to Leeds - she came to know the Focolare Movement and became a Volunteer. In the nucleo she was entrusted with the aspect of



Giuseppe Pierobon

To fill every emptiness with God

Bepi, as he was called by everyone, was among the first men Volunteers of Cittadella (Padua). He was a strong man, authentic, determined, never giving up and always ready to love every neighbour, above all those in difficulty. His motto was: to fill every emptiness with God, through love, service, the offering of every suffering. In «making himself one», he knew how to take on the sufferings of the other, embracing Jesus Forsaken in them always, at once and with joy. There are many who can bear witness to the depth of his faith, a gift which he knew how to share to all those around him and which he cultivated through prayer and daily Mass.

Supported by his wife Flavia and by his beautiful family, he made a strong commitment to the Work of Mary which was made concrete by gathering 40 subscriptions for *Città Nuova* every year and by his distribution of 400 copies of the Word of life. In unity with Chiara



and Chiara Luce Badano, in the final moments of his life Bepi became always more the example of someone who knew how to offer even the most difficult sufferings, that never seemed to end, by continuously saying «for you Jesus». In this way he generated the atmosphere of Paradise around him.

On September 12, at 95 years old, her reached the heavenly Home, from where we believe he is looking down on us with that brotherly love that was his typical characteristic.

prepared by Pino Tasca

Luciano Di Anastasio

Always ready to be of service

At 34 years old Luciano, who was a house painter in Teramo, participated for the first time in a Mariapolis. He was struck by the Gospel being lived, and he went

to confession after many years. Soon after he felt the call to be a Volunteer. Married to Maria and the father of three children, he was always ready to be of service for the others. He had a special love for the heavenly Mother and so with his wife they would often say the rosary.

With the tragic loss of their son Gilberto, who was only 28 years old, he went through a strong experience of Jesus Forsaken from which he drew strength to live the Ideal even more profoundly. In 2014, he was diagnosed with a serious illness, but this did not stop him from fulfilling his commitments as a Volunteer with his usual generosity.

Lately, when he felt that his departure for Heaven was coming closer, he asked to receive the sacrament of the anointing of the sick from the same priest who heard his



communication. But she was also a champion in spreading the Ideal. Together with her husband they took care of people who were alone everywhere they went, even during their holidays, by listening to them and welcoming them into their home. Through the Word of life and the New City magazine, Margaret strived to share with them the hope that springs from the Gospel.

She spent the last four years of her life in a hospice specializing in Alzheimer's patients and on November 5, 2016 at the age of 79, she concluded her «holy journey». At her funeral, her son Andrew, even if her was not a member of the Focolare Movement, publicly expressed his gratitude and shared what the Focolare Movement meant for his mother.

Margareth Wilkerson

confession many years ago after his conversion and with whom he had maintained a special relationship. In his final days his gaze was fixed on the crucifix that he had in front of him, telling Jesus that he was ready to meet Him after having met Him many times in the brother. This meeting took place on October 29 at the age of 81.

Enzo Parenza



Rosa Steinegger

*A strong woman
with a gentle soul*

Eversince she was a child Rosa, from Switzerland, asked herself what could be God's plan on her life. After finishing her studies, she

worked as a seamstress, then as a housekeeper and as a cook. She met the Movement and in order to deepen her experience of the spirituality of unity, she moved to Cologne (Germany) and it was there that she understood her way: to be at the service of the Church. She accepted the proposal of Fr. J. Gleigh to work in the rectory of his parish and so Rosa worked to make it a home for everyone. She never imagined that she would remain there for 51 years! People approached her readily: Rosa knew how to listen to everyone and to understand their needs, helping them to resolve various problems, instilling serenity and joy.

Being a parish collaborator is not an easy task and it is not always understood. But it is precisely through her example as a free woman, profoundly spiritual, capable of independently giving concrete to the parish priest and to the parish, that many are now able to recognize its usefulness and importance.

On June 2, God called her to Himself at the age of 81. A priest wrote of her: «She was a strong woman with a gentle soul, ready to be welcomed in Heaven».

Fr. Wilfried Hagemann

Lucia Marras Caradonna

*«I am the vine, you are the branches»
(Jn. 15,5)*



Sardinian in origin, Lucia, alled by everyone as Lucetta, lived her youth in Turin (Italy) where she met Franco in the parish and together they discovered the Ideal of Chiara Lubich.

After their marriage and the arrival of the first four children, they moved to Bari due to work, and there, the other four children were born. When Lucetta understood her vocation as a Volunteer she began her first forays into social action, reinforcing her passion for humanity and for dialogue with persons of other cultures and religions. She became a wise and welcoming mother, not only of her children but also for all those she met.

Her life was characterized by a great faith in God Love which she knew how to transmit to others. Many came to know the Ideal through her, thus giving rise to a flourishing community of the Movement.

Her life of the nucleo and her choice of Jesus Forsaken helped her to be always in the light inspite of the many painful situations that she passed through, including her illness which, while it consumed her was also an occasion to love up to the end.

On April 14, Good Friday, she wrote, among other things, to her nucleo members: «I am living according to the musical score of my director up there, this new physical condition to which I can only

repeat: "Father into your hands I commend my spirit". Thank you for always being close by, your nearness gives me the strength to face with great serenity, every moment in communion with the Spouse. In embracing and kissing the cross I commit myself to being a builder of unity and to be its witness. With Franco too we agree on this. I offer and pray so that the Saint among us will make us all saints with Him».

Having understood that her departure for Heaven was imminent, she began to prepare with serenity and detachment. On May 11, at the age of 72, she concluded her offering, leaving behind the witness of a life all woven with love. Her parish priest said this of her: «With her life Lucetta became a page of the Gospel».

Domenichina Di Gennaro

Our relatives

The following have passed on to the Next Life: **Maria Bambina**, mother of **Roccia Orlandi** and **Giuseppe**, brother of **Rosa Mafalda**, focolarine at the Roman Mariapolis; **Antonio**, father of **Pietro Buccelletti** and **Giovanni**, brother of **Antonio Marangoni**, focolarini in Loppiano; **Juan**, father of **Toni Torres**, focolarino in Sevilla (Spain); **the father of Maria Isabel Rocha**, focolarina in Ohio (USA); the father of **Chris Ronayne**, focolarina in Liverpool (Great Britain); the mother of **Marika Fekete**, focolarina in Hungary; **Lucrecia**, mother of **Vicente Correa**, focolarino in Bilbao; the mother of **Veronica Bishop**, anglican focolarina anglicana in Liverpool; the father of **Nina Vyazovetskaya**, orthodox focolarina in Belgrade.

Words of life 2018

January | «Your hand is powerful, Lord» (cf. Ex 15,6).

February | «To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water» (Ap 21,6).

March | «Make known to me your ways, Lord; teach me your paths» (Ps 25(24),4).

April | «Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life» (Jn 6,47).

May | «In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control» (Gal 5,22).

June | «Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God» (Mt 5,9).

July | «My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness» (2 Cor 12,9).

August | «With age-old love I have loved you; so I have kept my mercy toward you» (Jer 31,3).

September | «Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls» (Jm 1,21).

October | «But if you are guided by the Spirit, you are not under the law» (Gal 5,18).

November | «Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, [then] I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me» (Ap 3,20).

December | «Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!» (Phil 4,4).

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Questo numero è stato chiuso in tipografia il 4 dicembre 2017. Il n. 10-11/2017 è stato consegnato alle poste il 23 novembre. **In copertina:** Una famiglia egiziana al Family-Highlights a Loppiano nel marzo scorso. © CSC Audiovisivi - C. Mendes

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