

Chiara Lubich's beatification process: the diocesan phase ends

On 10 November, the diocesan phase of the process of beatification of the founder of the Focolare Movement will end in Frascati (Italy). It will continue in the Vatican, at the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

The Diocesan phase of the cause of beatification and canonisation of Chiara Lubich will end at St Peter's Cathedral, Frascati, at 4.30 pm on Sunday 10th November, with the holding of the last session of the Diocesan Inquiry presided over by the Bishop of Frascati, Most Rev. Raffaello Martinelli.

With the definitive closure of this phase, all the documents of the inquiry will be sealed and sent to the Vatican. This follows almost five years of investigations and research into Chiara Lubich's life, virtues, reputation for holiness and signs thereof.

After this stage, the study of the documents will continue at the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

The process initiating the cause started on 7th December 2013 - five years after Chiara Lubich's death - with the presentation of the official request to the Bishop of Frascati by the Focolare Movement. On 27th January 2015, Bishop Martinelli responded to the request by solemnly opening the cause.

On that occasion Pope Francis sent a message in which he recalled the shining example of life of the founder of the Focolare Movement to those who "preserve her precious spiritual heritage." He also urged the Focolare "to make known to the people of God the life and works of the one who, by accepting the invitation of the Lord, lit up for the Church a new light on the path to unity."

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