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Press Release November 9, 2014

Conclusion of Study Days at Castelgandolfo on “Paul VI and Chiara Lubich. The prophecy of a Church in dialogue”

Unpublished documents stimulate further studies

“Paul VI and Chiara Lubich. The prophecy of a Church in dialogue” was the theme for the study days held on 7-8 November 2014 at the Mariapoli Centre, Castelgandolfo and organized by Paul VI Institute (Brescia) and Chiara Lubich Centre of the Focolare Movement (Rocca di Papa, RM).

Maria Voce, president of the Focolare Movement and Fr. Angelo Maffeis, president of Paul VI Institute opened these study days. In their speeches they thanked the speakers for their qualified work of research and elaboration and also expressed their hope that this symposium would be the first step towards further study meetings.

Talks and subsequent discussions revealed the historical, social, ecclesial, ecumenical and theological aspects of the relationship between Paul VI and Chiara Lubich, a relationship that started in 1952 when Mgr. Montini was then Deputy Secretary of State and lasted till his death in 1978.

The 1950's were years marked by strong doubts that the ecclesiastical authorities had about the novelties of the Focolare Movement. In the early 1960's, when the Movement received its first Papal approval and was supported by Paul VI's personal commitment in its progressive legal and institutional configuration, these doubts were cleared.

During these years, the Focolare Movement increased its presence very considerably in East European countries and intensified its important contacts in the ecumenical field. These facts are documented by the dense epistolary correspondence between Chiara and Paul VI and also by what Lubich wrote in her diary after her private audiences with Pope Montini.

This wide range of unpublished documents, now made public, has stimulated further studies. A report about the proceedings will be published shortly.

[Please note the attached abstracts.](#)

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