

Press Release - April 17, 2015

Building Universal Brotherhood

Youth for a United World and Teens for Unity. Two contemporary worldwide events.

In the current international situation of “a third world war in pieces”, the ideal of a united world seems far away. The youth of the Focolare Movement, together with many others, are committed to give their share towards stopping this wave of violence. They are convinced that going to the root of this problem means creating spaces of fraternity, putting into practice solidarity and sharing.

United World Week and Run4Unity are two initiatives that will bring together youth in the five continents during 10 days of encounter and relationship building between people of different ethnic groups, religions and cultures.

United World Week 2015 “Fabric, Flavour, Festival. Discovering fraternity”.

As in the last 20 years, **Youth for a United World** will create a network that links various activities taking place in different countries and involving civil and religious institutions. The focus will be on a **360°dialogue** with Christians, members of other religions and people who have no religious belief. The main event will take place at Mumbai, India, and it is centered on **interreligious dialogue** and the great variety of Asian civilizations and cultures, a gift for a united world. Delegations of youth from many Asian countries and from other nations will be among the participants. They will all bring the commitment lived in the respective regions of the world.

www.uww2015.com

While the main event will take place in Mumbai, the traditional May 1st Meeting will be held in Loppiano (FI, Italy). The theme for this meeting will be “*Outside*”: an appeal to Italian youth to go out of “their comfort zones” and support those in their society who are suffering and living in great discomfort.

www.primomaggioloppiano.it

Run4Unity 2015 “We link. Discovering fraternity”. #Run4Unity #4peace

On Sunday May 3, 2015 it will be the teenagers’ turn to manifest their personal and collective commitment to build peace and unity. Youngsters from different religions will be holding the 4th edition of the worldwide relay race, a 24 hour event, held from 11.00am to 12.00 noon in each time zone. More than 100,000 youngsters took part in the previous editions. The relay baton will be passed on symbolically through cities and significant places in the world.

This event will start in the Pacific Islands at 11.00 local time. At 12.00, the relay baton will be passed on to countries in the next time zone and these will continue to give their witness. Various activities will be held in the different latitudes; there will be sport events, actions for solidarity and the presentation of experiences lived locally where loneliness, poverty and marginalization prevail. The Run4unity relay can be followed directly via internet, with updates covering the 24 hour event and links to various cities in the 5 continents. The young people themselves will be the protagonists of this event.

The motto is WeLink: we look at the other as a brother or sister to build or strengthen “bonds of unity”, to increase signs of peace. Each “We link” can be documented through a photo (sign made with the fingers) and posted on **#run4unity** on the website www.run4unity.net/2015/. The total number of “links” will be counted at the end and one will be able to find out which city will have the greatest number of hashtags for peace.

The relay will end in Cairo (Egypt) with the event **Living peace** at “The Students’ World Peace Forum” taking place on 4-5-6 May 2015. The “Living Peace” Project was started three years ago with the aim of living and spreading the education and culture of peace. Today there are about 150,000 youngsters, aged 16 to 22, who come from more than 200 national and international schools and universities and adults that come from 103 nations, involved in this project. The aim is to share and give witness of the personal and common commitment to live and build peace. <http://living-peace.blogspot.it/p/italiano.html>

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