

## Maria Voce, President of the Focolare, in Spain First trip scheduled for 2011

### Meeting in Madrid with over 1000 youth in preparation for World Youth Day

For the first time, Maria Voce, President of the Focolare Movement, visits the Iberian land accompanied by the Co-President Giancarlo Faletti and other collaborators. The stages: Barcelona (14-18 January), Seville (19-22 January) and Madrid (23-30 January).

**“Positive RevolutiON! Protagonistas en nuestro mundo”** – It is one of the most awaited appointments. On the 29<sup>th</sup> January in Madrid, youth from all over Spain will meet to discover and build together a positive world! For months 200 youth have been preparing this event, working very closely with Maria Voce. A day together with 17 workshops, musical concerts and lots of open dialogue, all aimed at building a more just and united world ([www.positiverevolution.es](http://www.positiverevolution.es) ).

*“I would like to communicate to the youth, the beauty and the joy of spending ones’ life for great ideals; to show them the challenging attraction of aiming high, of becoming saints. It is there that happiness lies and the full realization of their every ambition!”*, affirmed the President of the Focolare.

This is a step towards the next big appointment with the youth of the whole world in Madrid.

**There will also be meetings with ecclesial authorities and visits to places linked to some of the great Spanish saints:** Saint Teresa of Avila and Saint John of the Cross. In Seville, she will visit some of the businesses that adhere to the Economy of Communion project.

**The main reason of the trip is to get to know the people directly, to see the developments and life of the Focolare in this Country** which is currently facing many great challenges.

*“To build a unity capable of embracing the strong social and cultural differences that exist”*, is the impulse that Maria Voce would like to give, relaunching the same legacy that Chiara Lubich left as a conclusion to her last trip to Spain in 2002. *“A legacy that is valid today as much, or more, than it was then”* the President of the Focolare underlined in a recent interview given to the Ciudad Nueva and Ciutat Nova magazines. A message fully in harmony with Pope Benedict XVI who, during his trip to the Spanish land, invited everyone to live *«as one family»*, embracing *«all of the Spanish, without exception, and the many others who live among you without being born here»*.

**The trip to Spain is the first of a very tight schedule proposed for 2011: Holy Land** (11-19 February), **United States and Canada** (16 March – 17 April), **Russia** (13-19 May), **Czech Republic** (19-24 May), **Hungary** (25-31 May), **Slovenia** (1-5 August), **Switzerland** (August). Of particular importance the time in the Holy Land, during which the President will meet with religious authorities of different Oriental Churches.

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