

## The King of Jordan receives the President of the Focolare Movement

***“We must face this crisis and these uncertainties together”  
said King Abdullah II to Maria Voce during a very cordial meeting.***

Yesterday, September 4, His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan received in audience Maria Voce, the president of the Focolare Movement and the co-president Giancarlo Faletti. They have been in Amman for eight days to meet delegations of the Focolare Communities from countries in the Middle East and North Africa. The almost unexpected news about this audience was confirmed late afternoon on Tuesday, September 3, when the members of the Movement were preparing to return to their respective countries at the end of the meetings held in previous days.

Communicating her impression immediately after this audience, Maria Voce referred to *“the great warmth with which His Majesty welcomed us. He said that he was honoured by this visit and asked about our work in Jordan”*.

During the audience, the president thanked him, even on behalf of all members of the Movement, for *“the welcome that your country has reserved for us”*. She continued saying: *“I’ve managed to inform him that the people present for our meeting in Amman came from different countries in the Middle East and North Africa, Christians and Muslims, all united by the spirit of universal brotherhood”*. *“I felt it was important”*, she added *“to emphasize the fact that these meetings could take place in Jordan thanks to the spirit of openness and tolerance in this country”*.

Maria Voce noted : *«The reaction of King Abdullah II was: ‘And what can we do to continue this work?’ And he expressed his concern about the situation in the Region, about the great challenges, and he did not hide his concern about the Christian communities. Above all this, however, he told me that we have to face this crisis and these uncertainties together”*.

While referring to his recent visit to Pope Francis, the president of the Focolare Movement said: *“I shared our joy with the King for seeing his photos with the Pope in the media. And he immediately pointed out that this was one of the finest visits in recent years. Referring to the Pope, he said: “We felt that we are brothers”*.

Maria Voce concluded that at the end of the visit, after thanking him for having been received, *“he told me that we can turn to him for anything at any moment. “Ask for anything you might need; we are at your disposal. I am your brother and I put myself at your disposal”*.

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