

Press Release – June 3, 2017

«Thank you for working for Christian unity»

Charismatic leaders, gathered for a celebration that takes place on the Vigil of Pentecost at Circo Massimo, were received in a private audience by Pope Francis. Maria Voce, president of the Focolare Movement was among those present.

When greeting the participants, the Pope said: *“Thank you for what you do, working for Christian unity all together as the Lord wishes. Let us walk together, let us help the poor together, charity together, education together. All together”.*

He continued: *«And may theologians carry out their work and help us too. But we, always walking, never still, never still... and together. This is what I wish for, and I thank you because I know you do this».*

Maria Voce, who was among the evangelical leaders invited for this audience, comments: *«It was a brief but a personal encounter; the Pope greeted each one of us. We were in the Consistory Hall, and he wanted us to be in the form of a circle to greet each one of us personally.*

Then he just stopped with us for a couple of minutes; he wanted to show his gratitude for this visit. He was pleased about it; he felt it as a sign of esteem and affection. He expressed his desire that we walk together. He said that this ecumenism is walking together and he thanked the participants because, he said ‘I know that you do this’. He urged us to keep on walking together. Theologians will help us understand the differences and find a way to overcome them, but the most important thing is that we walk together because it is God’s will that we all be one. This was his message. He was very relaxed and very pleased to meet everyone».

Pope Francis said that he would meet the participants in the afternoon at Circo Massimo. On the eve of Pentecoste, an event is being organized by the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services and the Catholic Fraternity to celebrate the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Golden Jubilee.

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