

Servizio Informazione

Danilo and Anna Maria Zanzucchi

Biographical Notes

Danilo Zanzucchi was born in Parma in 1920, in his youth he frequented the activities of the Catholic Action of which he too became President. He graduated as an engineer in his city.

Anna Maria Gennaro was born in Padua in a numerous family in 1929. She graduated in Padua from the Faculty of Pharmacy and worked as a pharmacist up to the time of her marriage to Danilo.

In 1950 Danilo came to know the Focolare Movement, that was born just a few years before in Trent, through his meeting with Ginetta Cagliari, one of the first companions of Chiara.

In 1952 he meets Anna Maria and in april of '53 they got married in Parma, where they made their home.

In the spirituality of unity they felt the call to “*a unique vocation, that of love, which means to be always in the disposition of loving God and the neighbor who passes by us*”. Both of them became married focolarinos.

Danilo worked in the field of construction in Milan and Parma. He was elected councilor for construction in the municipality of Parma. He was nominated president of the men's section of the Catholic Action from 1956 to 1959.

They have five children, (two are focolarinos) and twelve grand-children.

At the end of 1959 they moved to Rome so as to be at the service of the Movement. In 1967 Chiara Lubich established the branch of the “New Families” with the aim of giving value to the family and of bringing back as the central point of this institution, the commitment to love one another.

Anna Maria e Danilo were responsible for this branch up to 2008. Their personal life experience and their experiences as a family centered on evangelical love lived with radicalness continues to inspire persons and family units from all lattitudes. There are 800,000 members of the New Families Movement.

The Zanzucchi spouses were among the first families to collaborate in giving life, according to the desire of John Paul II, to the Pontifical Council for the Family (initially called the Committee for the Family).

They were consultants of the Pontifical Council up to the year 2000.

Anna Maria and Danilo are authors of various publications.