



Press Release n.1 – April 24, 2012

At the start of the Genfest year

May 1st 2012 – May 1st 2013

Let's bridge

Building bridges of brotherhood from the ground up

The breaking grounds open with a worldwide youth rally of the Focolare Movement

With the May 1st Meeting at Loppiano connecting live with the whole world

A year dedicated to universal brotherhood including the launch of the United World Project, a global youth network creating a **permanent Observatory of brotherhood practices** recognized by the UN.

Genfest – It's a good sign from the youth of the world. In a time crisis of many forms shake the global economy, lifestyles, and certainties about the present and the future, the Youth for a United World of the Focolare (Y4UW) are rallying all those who want to be protagonists of a real change that points straight to a horizon of brotherhood across the board. In one year's work, milestones include the focal point Genfest at Budapest, from August 31 to September 2, 2012. The worldwide event will gather youth of 150 countries, all moved by the same idea, which is also witness and social action: universal brotherhood.

"It seems like a perfect combination, the first step being the Meeting of May 1st at Loppiano - explains Rafael, a young Brazilian and one of the organizers of GenFest-. I see Loppiano as a true expression of a United World, and there's a need in the world for a testimony of peace, unity, universal brotherhood. We can't turn back. The title of Genfest is "Let's bridge" and it represents our full commitment to building bridges between humanity, among cultures and people of different realities. We believe in a more united world, and in a dialogue we'll live better".

Work in progress – The Genfest preparations have already started months ago, but not only in Budapest. Preparations are in full swing everywhere, including thousands of ideas, strength and imagination in raising money and inviting friends. All of these are opportunities to build bridges of brotherhood: a photography competition in Lombardy; babysitting and a concert in Lebanon; in Manila, Philippines, a raffle and dance lessons; a radio announcement during a program aimed for young adults in Warsaw, Poland; in Ivory Coast, efforts with adults and families; and also in Colombia, a Genfest preview – an encounter among the youth from Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Costa Rica, and Panama.

May 1st, 2012 Meeting in Loppiano – The 42nd edition will be a catalyst that will launch the Genfest year. The meeting will officially start the United World Week, an annual event of the Y4UW. A worldwide live streaming at 12:00 (GMT+1) will allow thousands of young people from Syria to Japan and Nairobi to Sydney to share testimonies and present projects with the 1500 participants at Loppiano, in light of the Budapest date. Anticipated highlights



include a connection with the youth of Syria and the announcement of the **United World Project**, a global youth network to create a permanent Observatory that “measures”, in a full 360 degrees, the development of brotherhood practices, demanding a true commitment from international institutions to this awareness.

To learn more and to follow the worldwide live streaming (active from 11:00 GMT+1):

www.genfest.org (click on “LIVE” in the main menu bar)

www.loppiano.it

live.focolare.org

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