



Press Release – 17.11.2012

COMMON PATHWAYS FOR THE FAMILY

Muslim and Christian families in the North of Italy will be meeting in Brescia on Sunday 25th November from 9.30 to 17.00.

About 2000 Christians and Muslims from Trentino-Alto Adige, Veneto, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Lombardy, Piemonte, Val d'Aosta, Liguria, Emilia-Romagna and Marche are expected to attend this one-day meeting, which is the fruit of a network of relationships and common experiences that matured over the years in many Italian cities, and is now giving rise to new opportunities.

In the midst of such a variety of religious and cultural perspectives, the family will stand out as a subject of common interest through the witnesses and reflections shared in a spirit of dialogue and listening.

This meeting is being organized by the Focolare Movement together with UCOII, CRII, GMI, ADMI, the Islamic communities of Triveneto and the Islamic Cultural Centre of Brescia.

The capital city of Brescia will be hosting this activity at PalaBrescia on Sunday 25th November. This original laboratory will involve about 2000 people coming from Muslim and Christian families that live in more than 50 cities in the North of Italy, the area with the highest number of emigrants, new citizens that made Italy their home.

It is the result of a long process of acceptance and friendship between Christians and Muslims rooted in a common faith in God. It is ingrained in the dialogue of daily life that springs from the ideal of universal brotherhood, that inspires the Focolare Movement and persons of Islamic faith belonging to Muslim communities in Italy. This process of mutual recognition, which builds a healthy network, is spread all over the Peninsula and is also present in other countries around the world.

While looking ahead to 2013 as the European Year of Citizens, the promoters of this activity are convinced that the family can contribute in a unique way towards the formation of responsible and active citizens that pursue the common good. This is why the family, with its values and challenges, not only those related to economy but even more so the ones that pertain to both private and public relationships, is the theme chosen to be reflected upon. Those participating will deal with this subject from different cultural and religious points of view, but through the reciprocity of their respective wealth.

Half way through the day there will be a round table conference that will focus on **the Family as promoter of the common good in the city**. So, the family is a resource and not a problem. The family is the privileged place where to weave questions and answers, problems and resources of the civil community.

Brescia 2012 is the result of a process, but also a new phase in a project which leads to a national event in Rome, in May 2013, another step towards building a common future.

Civil and religious dignitaries, that include Mgr. Luciano Monari, Bishop of Brescia and Dr. Aryn Hasmy, the Imam of the Islamic Community of Brescia, and many other imams and leaders of Muslim Communities in Northern Italy are expected to be present.

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