

Press Release, February 26, 2015

## «Chiara Lubich: unity and politics»

### The Focolari founder's charism contributes towards renewal in politics.

#### Conferences about Lubich's political thought will be held from 12 to 15 March 2015 in various capital cities of the world.

An international event, consisting of conferences and seminars, is scheduled to take place in various capital cities on the 7th anniversary of Chiara Lubich's passing away on March 14, 2008. These conferences and seminars will give one the opportunity to reflect on the prospects that emerge from Lubich's message of unity for today's politics.

Commitment in politics is considered by Lubich as a true and proper vocation, "*a personal calling that emerges from circumstances and is communicated through one's conscience*". She speaks of the response to this call as being "*before all else an act of brotherhood: one acts in response to a public need and deals with questions that concern others, wanting their good as if it were one's own*". Such an act enables "*a constant dialogue with every other aspect of life (economy, health, communication, art, administration of justice, etc) in order to provide the conditions for society itself, in all its expressions, to achieve its design completely*".

This worldwide event, consisting of a variety of events happening in different parts of the world, will highlight the political potential present in Lubich's charism. Experiences about personal change and commitment in public activity will range from getting together to address local problems to involvement in national and international political activity. These events will promote a renewed awareness of "universal brotherhood", "the dream" that animated Chiara Lubich's life and thought.

The event in Rome, Italy will be held on March 12 at Montecitorio, the seat of the Italian parliament. During the morning session, 300 young Focolare Movement leaders, coming from various parts of the world, will participate in a dialogue with politicians, scholars and representatives of international institutions. A conference entitled "*Chiara Lubich: unity and politics*" will be held in the same Chamber of Parliament during the afternoon session.

The conference that will take place at the Council of Europe Headquarters in Strasbourg, France between the 13th and 15th March is entitled « *Fraternité en politique: s'investir autrement dans la cité* ». On March 13, a debate on "*Politics for Unity. Making a World of Difference*" will take place at Glendon College of York University in Toronto, Canada. On March 14 there will be a meeting in the Parliament of Seoul, South Korea and the subject will be « *일치를 위한 정치운동 10주년 기념* », while the title of the conference to be held in Curitiba, Brazil is « *Política pela unidade, fazendo toda a diferença no mundo* ». Conferences are also being organized in Nairobi (Kenya), Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Madrid (Spain), Budapest (Hungary), Prague (Czech Rep.) and in other places.

The programme of scheduled events and information about them can be found on the website [www.politicsforunity.com](http://www.politicsforunity.com). A summary of Chiara Lubich's writings, selected by the event's organizing committee, is also available.

The reflection on the theme "*Chiara Lubich: unity and politics*" to be held in so many different geographical and cultural areas is an opportunity to delve deeper into Lubich's legacy to the story of mankind. The Cause for the beatification of Chiara Lubich began on January 27, 2015.

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