

Dossier – January 2017

The Economy of Communion recognized through awards given to Chiara Lubich

The Economy of Communion has been awarded high level institutional recognition when honours were conferred on Chiara Lubich by the President of the Federal Republic of Brazil (Southern Cross, 1998) and the President of the Federal Republic of Germany (Great Cross of Merit, 2003). It was Chiara Lubich who launched this project.

During the conferral of the Brazilian award, the Economy of Communion has been recognized as “*an innovative and effective form of struggle against poverty and exclusion*”. It has also been noted that “*the companies, considered as communities, are called to pass from a culture of having to a culture of giving, from an economy of consumption to an economy of communion. The commercial strategy of these enterprises has a very clear social function, since their goals focus on man and not on the sole criteria of return on invested capital.*”

Chiara Lubich has been awarded public recognitions from various universities:

- Honorary Degree in Social Sciences from the Catholic University of Lublin, Poland (1996);
«Chiara Lubich has created a new social phenomenon, that while indicating the possibility of applying a new paradigm of unity, can play an important inspirational role by finding itself at the base of social sciences and mean to them what the Copernican revolution meant to natural sciences». (Prof. Adam Biela)
- Honorary Degree in Human and Religious Sciences from the Catholic University of San Paolo, Brazil (1998);
- Honorary Degree in Economics from the Catholic University of Pernambuco, Brazil (1998);
- Honorary Degree in Dialogue with Contemporary Culture from the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina (1998);
- Honorary Degree in Economics from the Catholic University of Milan at Piacenza, Italy (1999).

Chiara Lubich has been invited to speak about the experience of the Economy of Communion and its fundamental concepts in various institutional settings, such as the Federal Parliament of Brazil (1998), the European Parliament (1998) and the Council of Europe (1999).