

The last farewell to Chiara Lubich In St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome

Tuesday 18th March at 3:00 pm

It will be presided by Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone

The message of Pope Benedict XVI

"I learned with deep emotion the news of Chiara's death which has crowned a long and fruitful life. Chiara's life has been marked by her tireless love for Jesus Forsaken." This is the beginning of the telegram by Pope Benedict XVI which reached us this morning. "In this hour of painful detachment", the Holy Father assures us his spiritual closeness "with affection", "to her relatives and to whole Work of Mary - Focolare Movement founded by her." He is also close "to all those who appreciated the Movement's commitment to constant communion in the Church, in the ecumenical dialogue and in the brotherhood among all peoples." The Pope thanked the Lord "for the witness of her life which has answered the yearnings of contemporary society in full fidelity to the Church and the Pope". Benedict XVI expressed the hope that "those who have known and met her, admiring the wonders that God has done through her missionary zeal, will follow in her footsteps maintaining alive her charisma." The Pope concludes by invoking "the maternal intercession of Mary" and giving his apostolic blessing to "all."

The last farewell to Chiara Lubich will take place on Tuesday 18th March at 3:00 pm in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome. The ceremony will be presided by the Secretary of State, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone. It will be broadcast live via Internet and satellite.

Throughout the whole morning there has been a constant flow of visitors to her home. The funeral parlour will be set up this afternoon at 4:00 pm and will continue up to Tuesday at 11 am. It is located at the International Centre of the Focolare Movement in Rocca di Papa (via Frascati 306).

She will be buried in the Chapel of the same International Centre of the Movement in Rocca di Papa.

The Mayor of Trent Alberto Pacher has declared today a day of city mourning.