



## 1991 - 2011 - 2031

### Twenty years of the Economy of Communion; prospects for the future

«We believe that we can build an economy that takes the principle of fraternity seriously” and that «economics under this principle will give its contribution to the fulfillment of the person and of every people”, stated the concluding message of the EoC’s international convention- **“Prophecy makes history, 20 years of the Economy of Communion”**- that took place on 29<sup>th</sup> May at the *Memorial da América Latina*, San Paolo. The message, entitled **“From San Paolo to the world”** expressed the convictions, hopes and commitments of the participants.

17 young people voiced the message in front of the over 1600 people from 37 countries present at the event. It launched an appeal so that *“economics in 2031 may be characterized by communion, for us and for everyone”*. The youth read, *“We youth here at Sao Paulo- present in May of 2011, with our roots in May of 1991, and more than ever responsible for how the economy and the world will be in 2031- believe that the EoC came about on Earth, here in Brazil twenty years ago, to nourish our hope and make it possible.”*

It was back in May 1991 in Brazil that Chiara Lubich, founder of the Focolare movement, gave life to the Economy of Communion (EoC). There she announced the first intuitions that matured within her whilst faced with the tangible social inequalities in San Paolo where the skyscrapers of the city’s metropolis are crowned with its favelas.

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, **Cardinal Odilo Scherer**, archbishop of San Paolo paid visit to the EoC’s international Assembly, which took place in the Focolare’s little-city, in the days leading up to convention. He strongly encouraged the promotion of the EoC project saying that it is *“fully in line with what the Social Doctrine of the Church has been proposing for the field of economics for some time”*. *“The EoC certainly offers the possibility of a different way out of the world’s economic problems”*, he continued, *“Wealth, if not shared, generates conflicts.”*

The EoC has *“the potential to transform economic life from within; not only in businesses, but also in families, financial institutions, and economic policies.”* said **Maria Voce**, President of the Focolare, in her message sent for the occasion. She reminded everyone of the need to remember a fundamental condition: *“The EoC will find new impetus if its horizon continues to be a united world. It will thus be capable of moving hearts, actions and enthusiasm of those who need great ideals for which to spend their lives.”* She went on to assure the participants that she does not doubt that *“a new season of creativity and protagonism of all of you will come about, and we will respond to a great appointment with history.”*

In support of these words, entrepreneur and president of Prometheus Ltd., **Alberto Ferrucci** retraced the fruitful work of the assembly. **Rubens Ricupero**, rector of the University of FAPPI of Sao Paulo, laid out the challenges and hopes in economics. **Vera Araujo**, Brazilian sociologist and coordinator of the international

group of sociologists and social workers, "Social One", highlighted the basics of the culture of giving. Economist and economics professor at the University of Bologna (Italy), **Stefano Zamagni**, spoke of the EoC as a economic "resurgence" in a global society.

The outcome and expansion of this project were underlined by the life-experiences told by people from various continents. In the Philippines, the project is underway in a rural bank, the Bangko Kabayan, with 16 branches and 270 employees. The managing director, Teresa Ganzon, spoke at the event. Bangko Kabayan strives to offer new jobs rather than to create personal wealth and came out of the serious economic crisis by opening microfinance options in favor of low-income families and individuals. It is governed by: transparency, ethics, legality, employee involvement, and care for development of the community and of the least fortunate.

*"We've come to Brazil to better understand Chiara's inspiration," clarified **Luigino Bruni**, coordinator of the International Commission of the EoC. Laying out future prospects he said that "Today, we need take a leap towards the future. Each one of us and everyone together needs to take that leap if we want to set off with hope towards 2031", because "the EoC treats poverty by transforming people, but now it is also necessary to change economic institutions."*

Overturning the dominant structure that views capital as central, Bruni emphasised that the person is *"the first and most important factor in business and in economics. It's their creativity, their passion that makes all the difference."* Underlining the role of young people he said, *"The EoC was born and is born each day from a charism. That's also why there is such a deep link between the EoC and young people. Charisms and young people share hope, faith in the future, and great projects and ideals."* The new generations in the EoC are a precious fruit of these twenty years, but they are also the guarantee of a journey that will continue at a cracking pace towards the future.

**Find attached: "From Da San Paolo to the World"**

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