

Maria Voce will speak on “Men and Women in the Church” during the Social Weeks in France

Her talk will be at the heart of the 87th edition of this event,
entitled “Men and women: the current situation” (*“Hommes et femmes: la nouvelle donne”*).

Parc Floral, Paris - 23- 25 November 2012.

Today, in democratic societies, the principle of equality between men and women is recognized as a fundamental right. In the continuous development of the man-woman relationship, where autonomy, specific contribution and recognition of roles play an important part, one notices resistances, strong ones at times, in family and social life, in politics or at work, but one also notes the promotion of a culture that tends to flatten the differences.

“The Social Weeks of France intends to take stock of the situation and to ask the basic questions. All questions – declares Jean-Pierre Rosa, director general of the Social Weeks in France. And they will do so by interrogating representations and anthropologies underlying past developments or those that are still in progress. Christianity will be invited to share its vision, and also to speak about its practices.”

Maria Voce is scheduled to give her talk during the plenary session on Saturday afternoon, November 24. She will offer the witness of a woman who heads a world-wide movement, very varied in its composition, a movement founded by a woman and always to be led by one, as specified by its statute; a movement that, thanks to a charism, has unity in diversity rooted in its DNA and in which the exercise of responsibility is practised jointly, on equal footing, by men and women.

The Focolare Movement also proposes the following three themes to be discussed during some of the many workshops that will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 24th:

- Married life: “One plus one equals three: the man, the woman, the couple”
- Equality: “Equality between man and woman in decision-making”.
- Society/Culture: “Decision-making by African women in France”

On this occasion there will be the launching of the new book-interview with Maria Voce, “La Pari de la Confiance”. This is the French translation of “La scommessa di Emmaus” (The Challenge of Emmaus) edited by Nouvelle Citie.

Social Weeks of France – organizes annual sessions of a few days of work. On one hand, it aims at forming Christians to be active in society by promoting the social thought of the Church, and on the other hand it aims at establishing an open and constructive dialogue with society, particularly with those who have in hand the reins of the country. About 4000 people participate in this event, which consists of plenary lectures, panel discussions, debates and workshops, and involves sociologists, philosophers, personalities from various associations and from the field of economy, theologians, politicians.... These sessions are increasingly attaining a European level by inviting speakers and participants from different European countries. Over the years various themes have been dealt with, from violence to sustainable development, from bioethics to democracy, from new solidarities to religion in the public sphere. The 2012 edition is 87th edition. (www.ssf-fr.org).

Umberta Fabris (+39) 348 8563347

Benjamim Ferreira (+39) 348 475 4063