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Jesús Morán is elected Co-President of the Focolare Movement

The General Assembly has elected a Spanish focolarino, Jesús Morán Cepedano, Co-President of the Focolare Movement. The election came after the third ballot the day after the re-election of Maria Voce as President. The Holy See has expressed its confirmation, required by the statutes of the Focolare Movement, in a letter signed by Msgr. Rylko in which he wishes the best to the new Co-President "to carry out your task faithfully and generously, in deep unity with the President and for the benefit of the entire Work of Mary."

The figure of the Co-President of the Focolare Movement emphasizes its very nature, which is grounded on Jesus' words, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in their midst" (Mt 18:20). The first duty of the Co-President, is, in fact, as the Statutes state, "to be completed with all your heart and with full joy," to "always be in the deepest unity with the President," and "with her or in her stead" serve the entire movement.

Jesús Morán's acceptance before the Assembly was welcomed with joy and the gratitude of Maria Voce for being available to "share the responsibility" of the entire movement. The President also wanted to thank Giancarlo Faletti, the outgoing Co-President, "for having shared so well for six years," words which were echoed by the standing ovation of the Assembly.

Jesús Morán was born in 1957 in Avila, Spain. He is a focolarino priest, as required by the Statutes for the function of Co-President. He is outgoing Councillor of the General Council for the aspect of cultural formation since 2008, and is also a member of the Abba School, the interdisciplinary research centre of the Movement. For over 25 years he has served the Focolare Movement in Chile, Bolivia, Mexico and Cuba. He has degrees in philosophy and theology, and is currently completing his doctorate in theology at the Lateran University in Rome.

The Assembly continues now with the election of the general councillors, giving ample space in the plenary sessions to discussion of the issues emerging from the proposals that have been sent from all over the world.

Everyone is looking forward to the audience with Pope Francis on Sept. 26, at 12 noon, in the Vatican.

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