

MARIAPOLI

5-6 2018

NEWSLETTER OF THE FOCOLARE MOVEMENT

YEAR XXXV MAY-JUNE



10 may 2018

Loppiano
the «challenge»
of Pope Francis

Palermo
Capital
of the culture
of the Resurrection

Hispanic America
Educate
an indispensable
mission

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The Pact

Dearest all,

Here we are, after summer vacations, with another conference call.

We are already thinking of the new Ideal year which will begin in September and October.

It will be characterized by a profound study, which the whole Movement will make, of our spirituality of unity, and practically speaking, of the fact that it is a collective, communitarian spirituality.

As we go along, our study will be transformed into an intense practice of the main points which distinguish it, of the instruments which characterize it.

The first point upon which our spirituality rests is undoubtedly Jesus' new commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you" (Jn 15:12).

This Word of Jesus, together with that of unity, is the foundation of our collective spirituality because one person alone is not enough to achieve it.

Two or more people are needed, a collectivity, a small or large community.

Before hearing the talk on our collective spirituality which I prepared for everyone, and especially for the intern members, I think it would be helpful to live more earnestly this first point, the foundation for everything.

Loppiano, 12 June 1980. Chiara Lubich with some of the inhabitants of the little city, after having given her historic talk on the «Law» of Loppiano: the New Commandment of Jesus according to Jn. 15,12. She launched the idea of a «Pact» of reciprocal love that will be signed solemnly the day after, June 13 (see pag. 6).



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What should we do, specifically? I would suggest that we revive this love among ourselves.

And in order that our actions may be resolute and mark almost a milestone along the way of our Holy Journey, my advice to you and to myself is that we re-declare this love among ourselves: in our focolares, in our nuclei, in our gen units, with all those we normally live with, although in different ways - as the first focolarine did when they said to one another: "I am ready to die for you; I for you," all for each one, thus laying the foundations of our Movement.

Then let us live the practical consequences with all our might.

You know that unity, through mutual love, is not something that we bring about once and for all. It must be renewed every day through proposals and deeds.

By doing so, when you read my theme and examine it more closely during the year, it will have the profound effects that it should, it will produce much fruit, as I can already see in those who have had the opportunity to hear it.

This declaration of mutual love that I am asking of you is sacred, it is solemn, even though it is done with simplicity.

At times it will be difficult.

In fact, with some people, it will be easy to say it; with others, we will have to prepare the ground.

It is an act which requires sacrifice because at times we will have to disregard human respect. At other times, we will have to

overcome laziness or the spiritual routine into which we might have fallen. We will have to practice humility in order to silence self-love. In other words, we will have to make the first payment so as to pass from a way of living that is individualistic to a collective spirituality.

But the Lord will bless every effort, and if we are faithful to what we have said, He will give us the joy of discerning His presence, the fruit of unity, wherever we go.

I learned of the zeal and enthusiasm with which you received my letter concerning the extraordinary action in favor of our five thousand in difficulty. So then, after having asked you, the last time, to love those among us who are poor, today I ask you for mutual love among all, as Jesus taught us.

May the Lord grant that we fulfill, with the same enthusiasm and with the same zeal, this other characteristic of the early Christians of whom it was said: "Look how they love one another and are ready to die for one another"¹.

In doing so, this other splendid page will be written by our Movement.

Take courage, then, let us go forward! Let nothing stop us.

If we are faithful, our collective spirituality will make us saints; it will make new saints; it will transform us into a people of saints.

This is what God wants from us, for His glory.

Chiara Lubich

From the Collegamento CH, Sierre, 25 august 1994, published in *Santità di popolo*, Rome 2001

1 Tertulliano, *Apologetico*, 30,7



Pope Francis in Loppiano

An event of grace

One thing is very clear: the visit of Pope Francis to Loppiano is marking a historical hiatus. For Loppiano, for the Focolare Movement and beyond there is a before and an after that 10th of May 2018

The talk of the Holy Father was programmatic. So much so that he did not answer spontaneously – as he would often do when he is asked questions – and he made a lot of changes in the pre-planned programme. It is without a doubt a duty to deepen this talk that is profoundly theological in nature: it must be studied, dissected, contextualized with the teachings of this Pope in order to understand it fully and to draw the necessary conclusions.

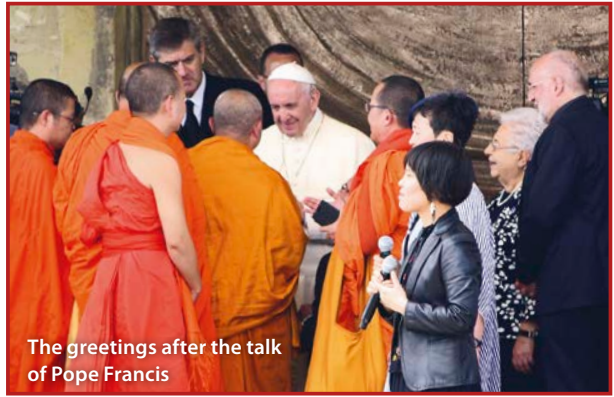
Nevertheless it is possible and opportune to make a first evaluation of this «event of grace» as it was defined by Maria Emmaus Voce.

Without a doubt this visit, this «pastoral blitz» (*Avvenire*) has profoundly changed Loppiano. A reality like this «little city» with 850 inhabitants cannot remain the same after an event of this mag-



nitude and public impact: 247 accredited journalists from 74 newspapers; reaching – only in Italy – around 1.650.000 TV viewers; a press release that was carried the following day by 90 broadcasts on TV, radio, print media and online. The public's response is a strong call to welcome all those interested in this project and in the total sharing of one's own ideals.

The «conversion» linked to the visit of Pope Francis already began in Loppiano 100 days before, immediately after the announcement, when Emmaus invited the whole Movement to intensify «evangelical love, [...] the commitment to be living Word day by day, [...] so that the Pope will find that people of Chiara who lives the Gospel and who is linked solely by reciprocal love. May he see in the Little City a reflection of the Trinitarian life here on earth». The inhabitants of Loppiano took these words seriously, meeting regularly to share their experiences. Loppiano was transformed by the time the Holy Father arrived. The serenity (and the perfection) with which this visit unfolded was the fruit of the limitless readiness of all its inhabitants, a tried and tested patience, a profound joy.



The greetings after the talk of Pope Francis

©foto D. Salmasso - CSC Audiovisivi

The words of the Pope in the beginning of his talk confirmed this: he found a city «born from the Gospel»; a «chosen and inspired» city; a city where «everyone feels at home»; «an illustration of the mission of the Church today, just as the Second Ecumenical Vatican Council outlined». That «go ahead like this» of Pope Francis was therefore not an invitation to stagnation but to continue to live with «humility, openness, synergy (and) the ability to risk» the creative dynamism that comes from an authentic life according to the Gospel.

The date May 10, 2018 will remain a historical date not only for Loppiano but for the entire Focolare Movement as well. Pope Francis wanted to include this visit in a series of quick trips (San Giovanni Rotondo, Molfetta for Fr. Tonino Bello and Nomadelfia) in which he gave visibility to charismatic realities and to the communities present in the Church today. This was visible in their diversity and vitality; their richness, their being rooted in the furrows of ecclesial tradition to proclaim that this is Christianity today: «to care for the human family, its unity – as Vittoria Prisciandaro wrote in *Crede* – starting from the most diverse perspectives. All contained in the Gospel».



Some of the pioneers of Loppiano

©foto D. Salmasso - CSC Audiovisivi



Il Patto di Loppiano

«Gesù, oggi è la festa del tuo amore, perché è la festa del tuo Cuore. Che cosa possiamo donarti in questo giorno? Sappiamo che da quel Cuore santissimo è uscito, il primo giovedì santo della nostra storia cristiana, un tuo desiderio, anzi un tuo imperativo che doveva contraddistinguere i tuoi seguaci: il Comandamento Nuovo: "Come io ho amato voi, anche voi amatevi gli uni gli altri".

Ebbene, con la tua grazia, con la carità che lo Spirito Santo ha infuso nei nostri piccoli cuori, noi vogliamo prometterti di voler fare di quel tuo comandamento LA LEGGE DI QUESTA CITTÀ.

Per questo ci impegniamo ad amarci tutti l'un l'altro come tu ci hai amato. E per concretare questo proposito ti assicuriamo la comunione dei beni materiali, secondo la nostra vocazione, la comunione dei beni spirituali e la pratica del reciproco ammonimento e della reciproca edificazione in ogni venerdì della nostra vita futura, come ricordo di questo giorno.

Gesù, tu che hai detto: "Fuoco sono venuto a portare sulla terra" accendi dunque le nostre anime e la nostra città. Sì, Gesù, un vulcano di amore vogliamo essere e null'altro, un incendio che dà fuoco a più anime possibile. Rimaniamo chiusi nel tuo Cuore, sotto il sorriso di Maria »

Chiara Lubich,
Loppiano il 13 giugno 1980



From his talk – especially in what he spontaneously underlined – one could notice that Pope Francis was able to pro-



foundly grasp the founding elements of the spirituality and the life of the Focolare: «the mysticism of the we»; the «being a lay person of Mary»; the call to a «creative faithfulness»; unity that is not uniformity; «the Eucharist, source of unity and of an always new life»; «a rainbow of colours in which the white light of the love of God fans out and is explained»; the presence of «brothers and sisters of other religions and convictions»!

We had the impression that Peter came to encounter Mary, present in her city (Mariapolis), in her Work, and he felt «at home» with her and she showed him the world: a great manifestation of the co-essentiality of the Marian and Petrine principles, sealed by his signature under the «Pact of Loppiano», the Pact of mutual love. What a gesture! (see box)

The responsibility that goes with such a respect and esteem is not a small thing. The

Pope showed that the experience of the Work of Mary is – as one journalist said – «a treasure for the Church and for humanity», and as a consequence we must put it «at the service of the new phase of

witness and proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus that the Holy Spirit is calling us to do today». Francis also underlined a wide-ranging, clear and precise goal: the invitation to contribute

to «overcoming all together the epochal challenge of building a shared culture of encounter and a global civilization of alliance».

This is a commitment that is serious, very significant and far-reaching, but alleviated by that nice request of Francis to develop «the human attitude which brings us close to the grace of God»: a sense of humour, and by the consoling observation that we are just «beginning».

Joachim Schwind



The challenge of Francis

The invitation of Emmaus

«Have we fully understood what actually happened?». Maybe we are discovering it a little at a time, as we understand

his wonderful talk better, because the Pope challenged us. He said we are at the beginning of our journey, at the start of Loppiano, at the start of everything, we might say. This being at the start means that we must look ahead, that we must do something to move forward. And the Pope told us what to do: we must transform society – he said some very strong things – we must not content ourselves with fostering relationships between individuals, in families, between different groups and peoples, but we must even get together to beat the challenge of this society which is going wrong and needs the Gospel, which is in extreme need of seeds of Gospel life that then grow and transform it.

We really feel we are at the start, and we truly are at the start, but we can-

not stop, precisely because in saying this the Pope gave us this challenge and said, “You can do it”. He also told us how to do it, because he said, “... by handing on to others the spirituality of ‘we’, this ‘culture of we’”, which can foster a global alliance, a universal alliance, a new civilisation, a civilisation born from this ‘we’. He also said that the charism is a powerful help and encouragement for us.

The charism is a gift of God, so we mustn’t feel proud about having received this charism, but with the humility he reminded us about, we must be aware of the charism and do all we can to hand it on to society around us. This is a long and tough path, but the Pope said, “We need women and men who are fit for this”. So, do we want to respond to the Pope’s appeal? I think we do, and that we will give the whole of ourselves as we discover, there where we are, how to transform society around us.

I think this is the commitment we are taking up today and that will last our whole lives».

see Mariapoli online: <http://www.focolare.org/notiziariomariapoli/it/la-sfida-di-papa-francesco>

CEC and the Focolare

A dialogue that is writing history

In the coming 70° anniversary of the ecumenical Council of Churches (CEC) and the comemoration of the 10° anniversary of the death of Chiara Lubich a reflection on their common journey and work for unity

Last April 18, more than 160 persons participated in a joint event: ecumenical Council of Churches (CEC) - Focolare Movement, opened by Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, secretary general of the CEC and by Jesús Morán, co-president of the Focolare Movement.

In the hall where Chiara Lubich spoke on three occasions, her tangible presence was felt in an atmosphere of celebration.

Dr. Tveit emphasized the importance of the mutual cooperation and support between CEC and the Focolare Movement for more than thirty years now: «We are wlk-



From the left: Callam Slipper, Teny Pirri-Simonian, rev. prof. Ioan Sauca, Luzia Wehrle, archbishop Job of Telmessos, representative of the ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in the CEC

us authentic. In other words, love prepares the person for dialogue by making him or her authentic. This is the responsibility of dialogue in all its moral scope: dialogue requires authentic persons and it makes people more authentic...». He concluded by saying: «Persons who dialogue write history».

In the second part of the afternoon there was a round-table discussion which highlighted the fruits of this dialogue.

«Chiara supported my personal commitment in the enthusiastic journey towards unity...» – Teny Pirri-Simonian, ex-directress of the CEC said. «I was greatly honoured when I learned that Chiara considered me as her sister. And now, during this Easter season, I ask my sister Chiara to accompany all those who strive to live the message of Jesus Forsaken/Risen for unity [...]».

Father Ioan Sauca, vice secretary general of the CEC and director of the ecume



Jesús Morán took part in the event

ing together in a world that is polarized and broken up, but we are also moving towards a more profound commitment: to work for unity, justice and peace...».

Jesús Morán spoke of dialogue as the foundation for a true spirituality of unity: «Dialogue is possible only between authentic persons. And it is only love that makes

Alcune impressioni

«Mentre parlavo, vedevo tanti giovani molto attenti che mi hanno riempito di speranza per il futuro...» (prof. Sauca).

«Non conoscevo bene il lavoro del Consiglio ecumenico delle Chiese ma ora fa parte di me. Abbiamo bisogno di loro per realizzare l'«Ut Omnes"... mi ha colpito la loro umiltà e la fedeltà al disegno di Dio durante questi 70 anni...» (Un interno del Focolare).

«Queste personalità del Cec sono entrate nel Carisma e lo rivelano, perfino a noi, con una dimensione, una freschezza, una potenzialità che ci rende ancora più coscienti dell'immenso dono che Dio ci ha dato attraverso Chiara» (Una interna del Focolare).



rev. dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, rev. dr. Martin Robra, bishop Ivan Jurkovic, Observer of the Holy See in the United Nations in Geneva

nical Institute of Bossey, affirmed how much the light of the Charism of unity has been a guide for him during a period of profound crisis in 2002. He added: «Chiara Lubich was 100% Catholic, but a Roman Catholic who was open to the others. She

met each person on the foundation of dialogue and of communion...».

Callan Slipper, focolarino, priest of the Anglican Church, spoke of an ecumenism of the people, the «dialogue of life...». Luzia (Tersa) Wehrle, focolarina, was interviewed about her 40 years of working in the CEC. She arrived in Geneva at 23 years old, full of enthusiasm: «I wrote to Chiara of my certainty that unity would be realized in a short time, also in this place. Chiara answered: "Go slowly Tersa... Just love, love Jesus in every person, that is all you must do"... This mark of fire took away all my stress ...».

The Orthodox archbishop Job of Telmessos – representative of the ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople at the CEC – concluded the session: «Thank you for these very moving memories of Chiara Lubich, which revealed to us her "testament" for the ecumenical movement: "just love". [...] Oftentimes today in the ecumenical movement we are afraid of each other, afraid of the future [...] but like the apostle John reminds us "where there is fear there is no love". We have a great need for love and maybe this is the greatest contribution of Chiara Lubich».

The afternoon ended in the ecumenical Chapel with the schools of formation of Montet. We prayed with the words pronounced by Chiara at the CEC in 2002: «Arouse in all of us that great fraternal respect, that profound reciprocal listening, enkindle that reciprocal love, that will allow, or better still, bring your spiritual presence among us. Because, we know it Lord, "without You we can do nothing" (Jn 15,5)».

There is a great desire of the Secretary General and the leaders of the CEC to continue to collaborate with the Movement.

Martine Schneider, Rainer Gude



Christians and Muslims

The strength of journeying together

The «we» christians and a «we» muslims no longer exists, but just a single «we», christians and muslims together. The participants to the Congress that was held in Castel Gandolfo (Rome) from April 19 to 22 all departed convinced of this, as they returned to their Countries, 23 different nations



Chiara Lubich said this in 2000 at the *convention* among christians and muslims in Washington and this was experienced during the meeting in Castel Gandolfo last April. «There is just one we, christians and muslims together. Our reciprocal love will serve to give rise to a new world everywhere – Chiara expressed her hope for this the USA – renewed by the love in which everyone sees themselves as brothers and children of the one God».

The congress entitled «*Together to give hope, Christians and Muslims journeying in the charism of unity*» – with the participation of around 400 people coming from 23 nations – was the arrival point of a journey that has grown and matured for many years in the various communities of the Focolare Movement spread all over the world.

In her opening remarks, Maria Emmaus Voce underlines that for Chiara, whose ideal is «That all may be one», «unity resounded even more strongly than the reality of the gift even outside our Christian circles. What was fundamental was the living and sharing of the so-called “art of loving”».

Chiara, again during the *convention* of 2000 in Washington, explained the deep roots of universal brotherhood: «Many beliefs, many attitudes already unite the men and women of different faiths, but I am convinced



that what we must focus on above all in order to work for universal brotherhood, is the “golden rule”, a norm that is common to all the religions. It says to do to others what you would want to be done to you, which means the only thing we are asked to do is to love the neighbour. Love – as the “rule”

says – without distinction, the way God does, without discrimination».

«This concepts of love are very precious – affirmed Talib Shareef, imam of the Nations’ Mosque Washington, Usa – and they are like a re-awakening for me, who as an imam I have to travel all over the world participating in many meetings with Muslim leaders and other Imams. I will strive to spread these concepts more because many do not know them in the way that Chiara has explained».



prof. Piero Coda, dean of the SUI and prof. Mohammed Ali Shomali, director of the Islamic Center of London

Since the '60s the Focolare Movement has started a profound dialogue between the muslim and christian communities. The aim of Chiara has always been that of giving hope and building sincere and constructive dialogues. As the Imam of Florence Elzir Izzeddin, president of the Union of Islamic communities in Italy, affirmed in his intervention: «We are all brothers. It is not our aim to have just one religion, but to build bridges. With dialogue we can go towards that hope that goes beyond all fears that have been generated by international terrorist acts. Let us work together to overcome all our fears».



Castelgandolfo, 21 april. The intervention of mons. Miguel Ayusot, secretary of the Pontifical Council fro Interreligious Dialogue

What is the secret to peaceful co-existence? «The best way to realize this is by loving one another – explained Zakiyyah Sabir, from the United States – with sincerity, simplicity and in the small things. To take care of each other 100%, just as the ideal of Chiara tells us».

Mohammed Ali Shomali, director of the Islamic Center of London shared: «After twenty years of having observed closely our friends of the Focolare Movement I came to the conclusion that God had given Chiara Lubich a kind of spirituality that is a new model for all of humanity. A new spiritual pathway that is communitarian, that takes into consideration all the realities of life, and at the same time is loyal to the theology and to the ontological questions that we christians and muslims, jews and all who believe in God have in common. I think that the more we go ahead the more we will appreciate this gift».

Chiara was a source of hope and strength for everyone in order to walk together, living the «golden rule» which is relevant now more than ever. Pope Francis reminded us of this through *tweet* of May 19, 2018: «Let us never forget the “golden rule”: “Everything that you want others to do to you, do the same to them” (Mt 7,12)».

Lorenzo Russo



Twenty years after Pentecost 1998

The reflection of communion

**With the witnesses of that vital event
for a new journey of communion in the Church**

«Communion – A promise that celebrates its twentieth year» was the title of the sixth School of the First dialogue, which is that within one's own Church, that was held last April 5 to 8. We are, in fact, at twenty years after that first international meeting of Movements with St. John Paul II that was held on May 30, 1998, a historical date from which the journey of fraternal friendship among the new charismatic realities cannot ignore or forget.

The different origins, from Central America to the Southern Cone, from the Middle East to Europe, made us appreciate how much and how alive the passion for the Church is, of which Chiara Lubich has left us a rich patrimony and her personal testimony.

Twenty years, a round figure, but just a grain of sand in history. Nevertheless, within it lies the heralds and prospects of a journey. It is for this reason that Margaret Karram and Marc St-Hilaire, councillors for the First dialogue, inserted in the programme of the School a panel discussion where, moderated by Aurelio Molè of the Città Nuova

publishing house, the following gave their interventions: Salvatore Martinez, national president of the Renewal in the Spirit Movement, Fr. Michael J. Marmann, general in-charge of the Movement of Schönstatt and Fr. Angelo Romano, responsible for international relations of the Community of Sant'Egidio and rector of the Roman Basilica of St. Bartholomew all'Isola.

In a before and after the *panel* the three of them gave an interview to Claudia Di Lorenzi of the Communications Office of the Focoalre Movement.



30 may 1998. The intervention of Chiara Lubich in St. Peter's Square

Martinez and Fr. Marmann knew Chiara personally and shared never before known episodes that made someone say: «I perceived how much Chiara had given to each of them. They gave back to us “the same Chiara”, very much alive, in the fullness of the vision of the Communion of Saints».

Martinez who, with Chiara and Andrea Riccardi, founder of the Community of Sant'Egidio, worked for the promotion of the celebration of Pentecost all over the world in the style of what took place in St. Peter's Square, recalling that May 30, '98 shared: «When the meeting ended, I was beside Chiara and Andrea. It was just the three of us, and Chiara said - with that ardour that reminded me of the haste of Mary: “We must do something, we must do something! The Pope wants us to do something!”. And from that moment on we began to meet». He continued: «That season is not over, but it must be given a boost. It was a marvelous beginning, but today we must do something more: pray together, meet more often, share these spiritual gifts just like we are doing this evening, to listen to one another, to complete each other».

Fr. Michael Marmann on the affirmation of the coessentiality of the charisms and the institutions of Pope Wojtyla said: «It is a very important message for catholics, but it has reached above all our evangelical brothers who often refer to the catholic Pope when they want to underline in the communities of their own Churches, the importance of the Movements and the fact that they work together». Regarding Chiara he said: «She gave a very important message, that of uniting. A great communion, a relationship that must grow from one person to another, from one Movement to another. In this process of growth, Chiara had a very special role. Not just in the beginning». Then with regards to the dialogue among generations, with

serenity of one who has a young and wide-ranging vision, he expressed: «I am more than 80 years old, I am a grandfather to the youth! But grandfathers are very much loved by the young people. I will listen to them and then I will tell them what comes spontaneously from the heart and which corresponds to the question that they have in that moment ».

Fr. Angelo Romano cites the affirmation of Andrea Riccardi: «After this meeting we (the Movements) moved on a bit from adolescence». In today's times he indicated the common fields of action among the Movements, that could create an impact given their worldwide diffusion: «We can question ourselves about that great phenomenon of mass mi-



Castel Gandolfo, 7 april 2018. From the left: Salvatore Martinez, Aurelio Molè, fr. Michael J. Marmann, fr. Angelo Romano

gration»; other important topics: conflicts, peace: «we believe that the Gospel is a driving force of unity and peace among peoples. I believe that this is a call to all christians and to wach one of us who belong to Movements in order to bear witness and above all to offer a new perspective». He recalled «Together for Europe»: «There is still the need to deepen those themes because the phenomena that we see in Europe today is quite worrying, manifestations of an emptiness to which one reacts by trying to find derivative identities. I believe that for the christian identity to flourish again, we need the Gospel proposal conveyed through the actions of the Movements».

Lina De Maina

The community of the Focolare Movement who were gathered together for her final greeting, listened with wonder and emotion to the words of Emmaus, on the 15th of May, after the numerous events that animated the city of Palermo.

«In these days we saw a miracle. I realized, being with you, living these moments with you, that they were the realization of what Chiara said twenty years ago, when she indicated to you the "First Dialogue" as your specific "path" ("*stradetta*"): "Be united. Unite your energies to do good!". The evil was great and in order to win over evil a much greater good was needed, and this can only be realized if we are united. Here, everything that you have done has this scent: the scent of unity that was built among Churches, among groups, among people. But this already existed. Without realizing it those words that Chiara

Palermo 2018

Capital of the culture of the Resurrection

The presence of Maria Emmaus Voce and Jesús Morán during those days rich in initiatives promoted by the Focolare Movement, within the framework of Palermo as the capital of culture 2018, 20 years after the awarding of an honorary citizenship to Chiara Lubich

planted in this community like a seed, has sprouted, it produced fruits which we are now gathering today».

Precisely so. In the preparation of every event, people, groups, associations, Churches of every denomination who are committed in doing good for this territory that has been seriously tested by mafia criminality, gave their contribution.

In Palermo, Italian capital of culture 2018, one is able to experience the atmosphere of unity and fraternity thanks to the commitment lavished by the Focolare community that worked first of all on itself, without skimping on sacrifices. «In order to reach "That all may be one" – Emmaus explained - every step taken is good, every relationship built is good, every forgiveness given for an omission, a misunderstanding is good. Every smile, every act of love given with a big or small effort is good. Without holding back or being stingy».

Impressions, important emphasis given by the President and the Co-president accompanied every event.

After the visit to the working-class neighbourhood of Ballarò, where the children presented skits on legality, Emmaus observed that «you can feel that all the associations are united. That is why flowers have grown in a flower bed awash in the sun of love that circulates among ev-



12 may, «E.Basile» Junior High. The intervention of Jesús Morán during the roundtable discussion with the youth, in the presence of the mayor Leoluca Orlando



12 may, Palazzo dei Normanni. The intervention of Maria Emmaus Voce at the meeting «Relaionality and law»

everyone». The high profile interventions given by various experts at the meeting of jurists entitled «Relationship and law. The relational good and the common good», made us affirm that we now have in our hands formative material that is valid for a complete series of meetings.

The ecumenical meeting «Together in charity, from dialogue to cooperation» was the fruit of relationships that were developed through the years which made us discover the value of each other's Churches and the charitable works produced by them, and through which we have been able to establish a strong collaboration. It is a work of refinement for which: «As President I feel very proud

to see that people of our Movement were present in all the many experiences that were shared» such as the welcoming of migrants who landed in Lampedusa, canteens for the needy, visits to the prisoners, free specialist medical assistance, assistance in acquiring homes for low income families, initiatives for an fair family taxation, support for initiatives of

other Movements or institutional organizations. «There is respect for the Focolare Movement – Emmaus remarked – but there was also a lot of work done, much commitment». Jesús said: «It is a formidable experience. We must extract the underlying ecumenical and theological thought, which is a thought that comes from life. It is ecumenical theology that is shared. Today we must make a new theology and what we have seen is like a river that will break down conceptual walls and so we must be ready with this new theology that comes from this real experience of profound unity».

In his talk given at the Convention held at the Faculty of Theology of Sicily entitled «The contribution of the culture of unity to popular humanism», Jesús spoke about «generativity», which means

The youth with the Gen Verde



to bear fruits that generate other fruits. Why? Because we are called to «That all may be one». The charism of unity calls us to realize universal fraternity beginning in the place where we are.

Emmaus mentioned that writing of Chiara Lubich «Resurrection of Rome» and, as an echo of this, she threw a challenge to Palermo to become the capital of the resurrection: «so as to invade the entire world. So as to bring the culture, all the culture that comes from our ancestors, all that we have received from history, resurrected in this new vision of the person, of reality, of the world that surrounds us. In this new vision that God gives us».

13 may.
Alt the Teatro Golden,
with 500 representatives
of around 20 CHristian
Churches. Present also the
archbishop of Palermo,
Corrado Lorefice



An important part was the involvement of the youth. Gen Verde returned to Palermo after holding workshops on music and dance in some schools throughout the year; students of the Sophia University Institute of Loppiano instead facilitated workshops for teens on «Digital identity, who are we in the social network?». A very successful *flash mob* took place in the center of Palermo. Around 800 people were present at the concert of the Gen Verde *On the other side*.

The gen boys and girls with other youth organized a dialogue with Jesús which they called «We are our choices. The courage to go, the courage to stay: dialogue and discus-

sion among the youth». They shared that it was received as «an authentic and true moment because what emerged was above all the experiences shared not only by the gen but also by other youth who were involved, even if they did not know the Movement». To go or to stay in this Sicilian land that greatly lacks the possibilities of employment? «Our aim – the gen boys and girls said - was not to favour one choice over the other. We wanted to convey the message that those who choose to leave do not choose it easily but they experience the same suffering of those who choose to stay». Jesús encouraged the youth offering them some reflections on the

way of «knowing how to give oneself». They can ask themselves «where can I give myself more and where can I develop my talents more... If I choose to go I should not do it just to escape, and if I remain I must not do so because of fear».

In her greetings to the focolarini and the focolarine Emmaus shared her admiration for Palermo: «In three days we did many different things, we saw many different realities and I could feel the extraordinary treasures of this city, a richness of life, a richness of its people, a richness of culture, of traditions... Therefore all the life that there is in this place, which is the life of Chiara, is a grace of God. This morning we felt, while we were in this university [Faculty of Theology of Sicily] that it was the life of Chiara that was continuing; so it is not just an expression when we say: «Chiara is alive, Chiara is present», this is not to console us, it is not just an expression, it is a reality because it is life that continues. Chiara generated a life that will never stop».

Rosi Bertolassi

see also Mariapoli online:
<http://www.focolare.org/notiziariomariapoli>



MAY.2018
**United
World
WEEK**

On the road to the Genfest

Big and small actions to contribute in the journey towards peace, in safeguarding the planet, taking care of health, giving value to sports as an instrument for unity beyond every barrier. This is the United World Week 2018 where the new generations of the Focolare Movement were on the frontline together with the local communities, youth groups and other organizations and Movements. This year, as the Genfest approaches, the idea of a united world becomes even more concrete.

There were many activities held in social centers or to bring joy in situations of suffering, solitude, marginalization.

In Santiago del Chile the youth involved their peers in the project that they have been bringing ahead for some time now for the homeless, sharing with them a bit of their time, aside from providing a hot meal, while in San Paolo (Brazil) they organized a lunch to raise funds for a social project. In other places they chose to spend time with children, just like in Cairo, Egypt.

In various localities the attention towards the environment was linked to the world of sports: in Chaco and Resistencia (Argentina) they organized an ecological afternoon in a social center, while Teresina (Brazil) they held a sports day.

And why not take advantage of the United World Week to launch a message of peace using the walls of our cities? This is what happened in Generale Rodriguez (Argentina) where they realized a graphic design in the city, while in Pajigua (El Salvador) the youth made a mural for peace. In Valencia (Spain) the youth orga-

**Youth, teens,
children, adults,
the community
together for a
week
of events.
To show that
universal
fraternity
is going ahead
and that it is
possible
to realize
a world
in peace, united
and where
poverty and
hunger have also
been vanquished**



India

nized a day meeting centered on the themes of peace and non-violence, including dialogue and sharing with the youth migrants of the «Solidarity with Africa» Association.

There were various cultural activities which aimed at increasing the awareness among cultures in the city: in Amman (Jordan) they had an evening of film showing, in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) an initiative to get to know the history of the city and its people and in Benevides (Brazil) the United World Week was the occasion for a «Dialogue withSeu Kaba», representative of the Munduruku tribe.

In various places the activities were realized in collaboration with other group and organizations, like in Rosario (Argentina) the activity a «Day for unity» involved seven Movements in the city.

Spain



And in this year of the international Genfest, there were various local Genfest held: from Italy to Portugal to Brazil thousands of youth gathered to bring ahead the «Beyond me» project.

The Target «Zero Hunger»



Mexico

Another common denominator this year was the commitment to Target «Zero Hunger»: an answer to the invitation extended to the youth and teens by the FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization), and which also the new generations of the Focolare Movement chose to work for. This is the second objective of the United nations that foresees the elimination of hunger in the world by 2030. A commitment that was deepened during the United World Week through various activities and which was at the center of the concluding activity «Run4unity» held all over the world.

the Teens forunity thought of relaunching to their peers the «coloured paths» that Chiara Lubich indicated to them as the way to reach a united world. A world where even hunger will be vanquished. They know very well that to face and solve a proble that is so great, and unfortunately continues to grow, we must be well informed about it and understd the causes. That is why they had moments to study and deepen this topic (indigo path). Then starting with a personal commitment against wastage and the unequal distribution of wealth, through the spreading of the culture of giving and sharing (red path). They tried to involve as many people as pos-

The fourth Genfest is on the way!

«Let us all get to work – Emmaus said at the the link-up of november 2017 – the Genfest is mine, it is ours!»

Yes, the highly anticipated Genfest, the 11^o in our history, has already begun, already exploding like fireworks in different countries! In Brazil, in Italy in Portugal... hundreds, thousands of youth are shouting loud and clear: LET US OVERCOME ALL BORDERS! BEYOND ALL BORDERS! The local events have already been held as a prelude to the international event which will take

place in the Philippines, and as we know it will be the first Genfest to be held outside of Europe.

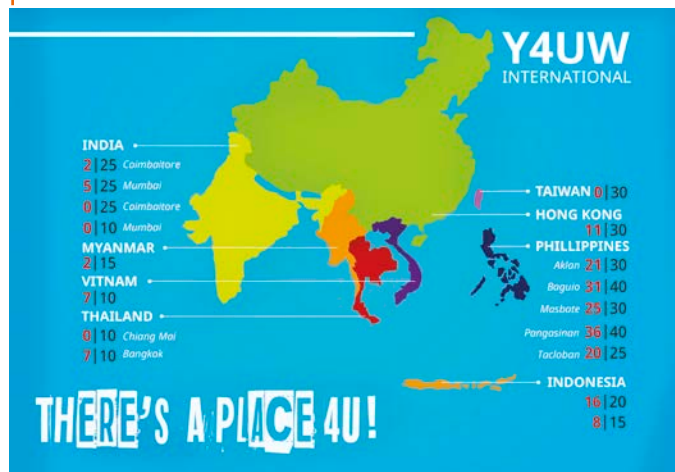
The whole Movement is looking towards this event, or rather it is preparing with the utmost interest and commitment, starting with Emmaus. With the main event to be held on July 6, 7 and 8 at the World Trade Center of Metro Manila, it will be preceded by a very interesting

pre-genfest, designed as an opportunity to immerse oneself in the challenges present today in different Countries of the Far East, from Taiwan to Myanmar, from Hong Kong to Indonesia, from Vietnam to Korea, to India and Thailand. Needless to say that there will be a diversity in participants, not only in country of origin but also in religious traditions!

It will then be followed by a School for around 900 Youth for a United World, majority from Asia, to be held in the little town of Tagaytay. There they will go in-depth, also through sharing and reflections, the study of strategies of seven topics distributed in numerous *workshops*, from ecology to relationships, from human rights to sustainability...

Genfest 2018 is ours!

The Countries where the pre-Genfest will be held



sible, starting with their friends, family members, classmates (orange path) and raising awareness of many also through music, theatre, dance, cinema and every art form (blue path). They «invade» *social media* with messages that express their commitment to «Zero Hunger» (violet

path) and work to eliminate the causes that generate hunger, two in particular: wars and climate change. For this they are mobilizing and committing themselves for peace on all levels (yellow path) and for the care of the planet (green path).

y4uw international



Run4unity2018

80cities

5Continents

8000participants

teens.youth.children.adults



A relay race that is run on eight paths. With small and big actions towards a united world where hunger is vanquished **#zerohunger**



Red Path ••

Orange Path ••

Yellow Path ••

Green Path ••

Blue Path ••

Indigo Path ••

Violet Path ••

Black Path ••



#zerohungergeneration

- Concrete actions to collect and distribute funds, food, goods in many Countries with social and economic situations that are very different from Malta to Spain to Angola.

- Run4unity made everyone protagonists from teens to children, youth and adults. We can see them in the photos, in the videos in the website www.run4unity.net and in the facebook page [Facebook Run4Unity - Official](#).

- A commitment to live for peace together with people of all beliefs and religions from Korea to Egypt, from Jordan to South Africa. Together with schools who have joined the project of peace education - «Living Peace International».

- Sports that unites, educates... which takes care of the environment. Many «competitions» to «clean» our cities, like in Rome, where the winner was the one who could collect the most rubbish along the way.

The competitions included artistic activities like in Brazil, or social action projects for people who are alone or who live in disadvantaged situations, for example in Cameroun or in Paraguay, where they have roganized a peace mission to «Barrio San Miguel», in Capiatà.

- Be formed so as to know, to know in order to act. The gen3 took advantage of the national Congresses to deepen topics related to the project «Zero Hunger» and produced a «Committment Card» to involve their peers in this project.

- Brief link-ups among Nations were utilized to share experiences in between passing the baton in different time zones. Short videos with greetings and experiences also helped to create a network among the participants. For the second time we collaborated with imaginary Radio, a radio made up of teens. With a small «communications office» at the Center of the Movement and with the support of the translation and IT services. The teens shared what was happening in the world through nine mini audio broadcasts translated in four languages.

- Some of the Run4unity relays had a strong impact on the civil realities: from Iglesias (Italy), where the organized march asked for the reconversion of a weapons factory, in Mexicali-Calexico, they ran along the wall the separates Mexico and Usa.





38 years ago «Foco» concluded his earthly journey. While the process for his «cause of canonization» is ongoing new and interesting episodes are being revealed about him

Una buona notizia: è stata consegnata alla Congregazione per le Cause dei Santi una parte dell'istruttoria (Positio) riguardante la causa di canonizzazione del nostro Foco. In attesa di assolvere alle successive fasi del processo, adesso le attività del Centro Igino Giordani si stanno concentrando sulla divulgazione della sua fama di santità, come recitano le norme canoniche.

Foto: Igino Giordani with his daughter Bonizza

Igino Giordani

Heroism and prophecy

Good news: a part of the preliminary investigation (Positio) regarding the cause for the canonization of our Foco has been submitted to the Congregation for the Cause of Sainthood. While awaiting the fulfillment of the next stages of the process, the activities of the Igino Giordani Center are now concentrated on the diffusion of his reputation for holiness, as required by the canonical norms.

To this end, there is a newly published *brochure* that illustrates the life of Foco, with brief descriptions of salient facts about him. Produced using modern and intriguing graphics, it goes through the important principal experiences of our co-founder, from his commitment to peace and love of neighbour in the trenches up to his consecration in the Focolare Movement, from his participation in the founding moments of the People's Party to the passion for ecumensim and the fathers of the Church. Accompanied with never before seen photos, this *brochure* has generated much interest. It is available for all those who would like copies to distribute, while it is also possible to avail of them in various centers of the Movement (Mariapolis Centers, focolare centers etc.).

This *brochure* has been given an important launching: in front of a jam-packed hall, at the International Center of the Focolare Movement, some of its contents were presented and explained by Alberto Lo Presti, in a stim-

ulating and compelling conversation. In that occasion, the less known and more intimate experiences of Iginio were explored: his relationship with his wife and children, the curious events that led to his exclusion from Parliament in the elections of 1953, his professional administration of the Library of Congress.

In the years from 1954 to 1961 Giordani was working as a consultant in the Library and he encountered many young intellectuals. Among them was the graduate student Rosa Russo Iervolino, who later became successively a congresswoman, minister of the Italian Republic and mayor of Naples. A few years ago she shared an important circumstance about her encounters with Giordani. She was concluding her graduate thesis in Jurisprudence, specializing in Trade Union Law. Her adviser was a well-known professor, who was also a Catholic, and the thesis she was preparing investigated the problems of working hours and its effect on the families of the labourers, child labour and the poor and disadvantaged working conditions of women and mothers. The university professor asked her provokingly if she wanted to graduate in Jurisprudence or to acquire a diploma in Social Work, because he thought that



her study on the social conditions of workers was not pertinent to her studies of law. Rosa had a talk with Giordani, which she remembered in this way - it was in the year 1960.

«Giordani told me: “Tell me something: you are aiming more at getting the highest honours or you are aiming at doing something for children and women workers?” I told him that I wanted both. But he again asked: “But if you had to give up one of these two things, which one would you choose?”. At this point I answered that I would give up the high marks. So he replied: “Truth and courage must always be the path of your life. Don’t remove anything from your thesis and bring it to your professor as is”. We went to defend the thesis, the professor gave a rather dry report, but the extremely secular president of the commission openly

remarked: “Finally a thesis which does not only talk of disputes among jurists, but instead says it tells us what the law is for or what it should do: to change the reality. I propose its publication”. So I received the highest mark, the honours and the publication. I went to Giordani a bit excited, and he serenely told me: “But didn’t you know that the Lord is never outdone in generosity? Go ahead in your chosen path”¹».

Grateful to Foco for his example and his great love for Chiara Lubich, expressed with sublime words that are difficult to surpass, we continue to work on the next steps in the cause for canonization and we count on your help to support it spiritually and materially.

prepared by the Iginio Giordani Center
info@iginogiordani.info

¹ Intervista a Rosa Russo Iervolino, 10 aprile 2014, Registrazione audio, in AGMF, AIG I, 69.12.5.4.a.

| In the Library of Congress



In Assisi with the consecrated women and religious men Growing together in the «school» of Mary

Assisi was the ideal venue for the meeting of a lively group of youth who have chosen the consecrated life following the different charisms given by God to the Church. The place itself brought with it a grace linked to the Franciscan spiritual treasures



This experience was made by 18 young consecrated women and 15 young religious men from diverse geographical origins, including four chinese nuns. Many of them were meeting the Focolare Movement for the first time but nevertheless they felt comfortable in this atmosphere of communion. Sr. Prudence, african, belonging to the Marianist Sisters, who had come for the first time confirmed that she was enriched «thanks to the joy, the fraternity, the sharing, the life experiences and the talks on Mary». Daniele, postulant of the OFM, as he was leaving shared: «These days were very important for me. There was the atmosphere of a family. I will bring with me the smiles so that we continue to walk together in the way of Mary. thank you for making me grow».

The title of the meeting was: «I want to see her again in you. At the school of Mary» and its objective was that of making a real experience of the spirituality of communion, the way God is asking the whole Church to do today, helped by a Charism – that of unity – which illuminates us on how to do it.

Three aspects were specially chosen to deepen, following the spirituality of Chiara Lubich: Mary and the Word of God (presented by Alba Sgariglia); Mary model of the consecrated person and the Way of Mary; Mary Desolate (both presented by Claudio Battistutti). What clearly emerged was how the vision of Mary given to us by Chiara helps, in its novelty, to have a relationship with Mary which passes from devotion to imitation.

One of the chinese nuns present commented: «My knowledge about Mary grew. Before it was only devotional or to ask for her help. Now I found the way to enter into Her heart: by living the Words of Jesus. My heart is full of gratitude, and just like the encounter of Mary with Elizabeth, these days were a turning point in my life. I am grateful to God for having given me this gift».

The life experiences shared by the people of our community in Assisi were a precious resource, that complemented the different topics and themes.

The comments of the participants were a true exchange of gifts among the charism of unity and the other charism. This is what one of the Brothers of Our Lady of Mercy, an Indian, affirmed: «I really liked looking at the charisms of the other Congregations. The life experiences is a good book for us: we study a lot, but we can also learn from the life of the others». The small group meetings were also precious moments to share. «These were days of growth. It is beautiful to see the unity among charisms. I bring with me the hope of this life» commented brother Rosario of the Minor Franciscans. One of the young consecrated women expressed her gratitude for encouraging them to look for the Marian spirituality of their founders. «I am very happy – Sr. Carla of the Poor Franciscans said - to be in the midst of young people, because I have always dreamed of these moments. There is a grace in the communion of charisms. I believe and I want to continue to live for this».

The immersion in the city of Assisi, with a guided tour of the Basilica of St. Francis and the meeting with the Mother Abbess of the Monastery of St. Clare was fruitful and in harmony with the entire programme. We could not miss the programme of Saturday evening, the recitation of the rosary and the torch-light procession to Porziuncola in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels. Strengthened by the atmosphere of unity experienced together, Jean Marie, from Burundi, belonging to the Brothers of Our Lady of Mercy, confided: «Yesterday while reciting the rosary, I felt freed from something I was carrying within. We must bring his way of welcoming the others, of talking to our communities».

It seems to us, that in a small way, the event of Pentecost was relived: with Mary in our midst, the many «languages» of the different charisms became united.

sr. Francesca, fr. Donato



New Families

The Movement is counting on you!

**A meeting-retreat for the committed members of the New Families
in Castel Gandolfo from April 12 to 15**

In the life of a family, there will always be difficulties, painful experiences, frailties... Is there a way to give meaning to all these? Is it possible for the relationship between husband and wife to grow and also their delicate role as parents?

«I understood that the enemy to be vanquished was not the others, but within me there were so many things that I had to change. Knowing the Movement gave us a new vision of things. Simple and normal people loved and supported us; today we are the ones helping other families in difficulty through the activities of the New Families, as gen4 assistants and as the leaders of a local community». This is what a family, participants at the Congress for Committed members of New Families shared. The participation of persons from Lebanon, Syria, Brazil, from almost all the



European countries, among whom was a good number of young slovak and slovenians, aside from a nice group of representatives from Africa (18 people from Burkina-Faso, Mali, Niger and five from Angola), gave an atmosphere of internationality to the audience. Anyone of the 900 participants could have shared how his or her life was transformed by the ideal of unity which has profoundly shaped their lives and that of their families.

The first place where the Committed members of NF are called to live the spirituality is precisely in the family. As they deepened the essential aspects of this vocation, they play an irreplaceable role in supporting and developing the who;e mass movement. The desire to live for unity is what pushes them to overcome the loenliness of one who may find himself or herself in situations of separation or widowhood and to pour out their love to the families around them. Some lend their service to engaged couples and to young families. Others are animators of groups. There are also those who



are involved in catechetical formation or in family pastoral work to accompany those who are separated, widows and also teens. Many dedicate themselves to social action projects especially those in support of families or they live in communities bringing the beauty of the world in this reality with all its challenges. This is a reality which the Movement counts on, a radical vocation where the call of God is visible.

This year too, like in the previous Congresses, a retreat was prepared for the participants by the international Commission made up of a couple from Lebanon, one from Germany, one from Slovenia, one from Angola, one from Korea, one from Italy and two couples from the Secretariat. So «since the start of the reparations - someone from the organizing committee said - it seemed to us that we were already breathing the atmosphere of a "United World"».

From the many experiences shared, what emerged were the fruits that has brought the Ideal lived to all the corners of the world. Facts of life in answer to the numerous challenges which the family has to face everyday. And not just challenges but also requests from individuals, institutions, or maybe even from the surrounding circumstances, which they take up and make their own, not hesitating to get involved. Individual actions, experiences of families, collective experiences, the many social initiatives that they promote and support all



over the world such as UP2ME, the Loreto School, the many projects supported through the AFN, have shown the possibility of giving concrete answers to the social dramas that many families experience today.

The presence and effective interventions of the central Councillors of the Blue and the Indigo brought the heart of the Center of the Movement to all the participants, who appreciated this special and personal love very much.

Thus they became even more aware of being the bearers of the Charism and



of being living and life-giving members of the Work of Mary in the realization of their own specific vocation.

The special *focus* on «Mary» gave everyone a new joy and helped in making a revision of one's choice of life in order to be Her living presence in the world. Many of the participants expressed a renewed desire and commitment to spread the Ideal first of all through their life there where they are without forgetting «water the seeds sown» with love and accompaniment, so that they will bear always more fruits.

Maria and Gianni Salerno

Focolarini priests

At the service of a «priestly» people

At Castel Gandolfo there was a meeting of focolarini ordained as priests

The awkwardness has disappeared! This was one of the first certainties expressed when the 60 focolarini who – usually after 20, 30 years of life in the focolare – have been ordained priest so as to be of service to the Movement, met in Castel Gandolfo last May 16. The aim of this meeting was to go in-depth into their special role and to offer moments of communion and formation in this service.

Two years and a half ago during their first meeting, there were still a lot of uncertainties and insecurities. After the ordination in 1954 of Pasquale Foresi, the first priest focolarino, the foundress of the Focolare Movement, Chiara Lubich – and with her the whole Movement – did not stop their study of the distinctive characteristics of this service. In fact they are effectively priests, but they are focolarini like all the others, inserted in the normal life of a focolare. Some perform their ministry in a parish, the majority do this more linked to the service of the Movement. So one can ask: are they a special group within the section of the focolarini? What characterizes them as compared to the other focolarini?

To this is added the age-old question of the so-called incardination. Being a private Association, the Work of Mary up to now cannot offer to its priests a juridical place within the Movement, which is necessary for them to exercise their priestly ministry. As a consequence the incardination takes place in the diocese of the Bishop who ordained them. It is up to the

benevolence of the bishop to leave them free to work for and in the Movement.

At the end of the meeting all these questions were expressed and dealt with, and some even found an answer or at least some prospects for the future. But the main topic developed based on a new



awareness of the priesthood of the people of God. With the death-resurrection of Jesus - as the exegete Gerard Rossé affirmed - an «old style» priesthood is no longer needed, one in which the priest serves as the mediator between God and humanity. We no longer need mediation - affirmed Rossé - because Jesus has brought us already to heaven, in the bosom of the Father. The people of the New Alliance, which means all Christians, have therefore an immediate relationship with God. This very same people are a priestly people in as much as they are called to «mediate», to become channels to bring God to the world and the world to God, they themselves are priestly!

Different writings of Chiara Lubich have confirmed that in the charism of unity there is a special light which emphasizes



es this priestly vocation of the people, just as the Second Vatican Council underlined. Chiara often spoke of a marian priesthood, which means a priesthood that expresses more the charismatic profile of the Church.

But we can ask ourselves: if this type of mediation, this «marian priesthood» is a priesthood for all Christians, what does it mean then for the focolarini who at a certain point of their journey have received the priestly ordination?

Jesús Morán, copresident of the Focolare Movement, was very clear with his conclusions: «There is only one priesthood: that of the people of God». The charisma of Chiara offers to everyone who adheres to it, the extraordinary possibility of living it and experiencing it, just like in the first Christian communities. In order to understand better the role and the identity of focolarino priests, the entire Movement must grow in the awareness of a «priestly» vocation as a people born from the Gospel. And it is for this reason that - Jesús said - the focolarini priests are called to live «lay priesthood» inasmuch as the

term «lay» means «oriented towards the people», a «relational priesthood». As a consequence he invited them to live and exercise this their ministry in full unity with their own focolare and with the entire Movement offering this style of «priesthood» to the Church with humility and honesty.

Maria Voce, present at the conclusion of the meeting, underlined that the priestly ministry of the focolarino is a gift,



given to him by the Movement, not for himself but for the entire big family of the Focolare. This gift – reiterated the President – comes with a great responsibility, an invitation: that which Jesus asked Simon Peter when he said: «Do you love me more than the others?». The focolarino priest, just like every other focolarino, and focolarina, like every Christian who welcomes the call of Jesus, must answer: «You know Lord that I love you!». But that «you» refers – Maria Voce said – to Jesus present in the people of the Movement that the focolarino priest is especially called to serve.

Joachim Schwind



In Great Britain

«Learn how to dialogue by living it»

The Mariapolis Center of Welwyn Garden City hosted the international School of ecumenism promoted by Centro «Uno» for the unity of Christians together with the community of Great Britain

Around 70 participants from 16 nations, from Cubato Australia, from Rumania to Argentina, belonging to five Churches, accepted the challenge to start from life: «Looking at the others with the eyes of Christ, looking at the other Churches, or whoever the "other" may be, in the way that Jesus would look at them, I felt that I made the experience of meeting different Churches in a new way, through the eyes of Jesus». «CWe realized that we can illuminate the



unity of Churches through Jesus in the midst and Jesus Forsaken, who teaches us how to be nothing, to set aside everything in order to welcome the other with his diversity».

«Now diversity is no longer a problem to be resolved, but a treasure to discover!» - someone said.

The programme, which took place from April 27 to May 1, was an immersion in the specific contribution of the charism of Chiara Lubich to the unity of the Churches, more often underlined and explained by Chiara herself during her eight visits to Britain from 1965

to 2004. They marked important milestones in the development of the ecumenical dialogue. In 1996 in London, Chiara strongly launched the «dialogue of life»: «dialogue of a people that is already Catholic,



Anglican, Lutheran, Reformed [...], of people who are already united [...] it is "the" Christian people of 2000, of this moment. This is our way of doing ecumenism, to awaken in Christians their Christian instinct, to link us all together and to bring ahead this people».

«Dialogue of life» made evident by the experiences of the focolarine, focolarini and intern members of the anglican,

© foto - Anke Husberg





baptist, orthodox and catholic Churches.

«We call on» Paradise

The second aim of the School was to understand from Paradise '49 the light which it represents in the journey of the unity of Churches. This happened thanks to the interventions of Callam Slipper, focolarino anglican priest, and of Joan Patricia Back (Pavi) expert in ecumenism: «We call on Paradise in order to understand ecumenism better. Paradise is an event, an action of God among us starting with the Pact: the Pact is like the take-off of an airplane, the soul travels in Paradise like an airplane that is on course. That life will give us light and the light will give us life. In fact ... it shows us here on earth how it is to live in Paradise».

«At a certain point – they said – we could no

longer take notes because we let ourselves slide into Paradise not with the mind but with the heart, it was like seeing things from high above a mountain».

The value of historical places

Having the School in Great Britain meant getting to know the Church of England «from within» and the la Chiesa d'Inghilterra e i fermenti di rinnovamento al suo interno nel corso del tempo. Così l'«aula» della scuola ad un certo punto si è spostata a Londra, nel quartiere di Westminster, partendo dalla Methodist Central Hall.

Over and beyond all our expectations was the visit to Westminster Abbey, the heart of Anglicanism, where we were welcomed privately in the Jerusalem Chamber (where Chiara received the parchment and the sum of the Templeton

Prize from the Duke of Edinburgh), which is normally closed to the public, for intense moments of collective and personal prayer. The Dean emeritus of the Abbey, a great admirer of our spirituality, explained and showed us personally – outside

the working hours and free of charge! – this place that is so rich in history, dense with suffering and sanctity. In the center of the Abbey is the tomb of St. Edward the confessor – an iconic place and symbol of the unity of the United Kingdom – and spontaneously we prayed also for the unity of all Christians.

One of the participants who had come for the first time said: «I am grateful to be here, to get to know Chiara and your activities. I tried to "empty my luggage" (of prejudices and expectations) as we had been invited to do. I discovered Jesus in the midst and Jesus Forsaken; I learned how to dialogue».

At the end of a long sharing of impressions, a pact was solemnly signed with the commitment to live the New Commandment of Jesus – reciprocal love.

prepared by Centro «Uno»

Philosophy and theology in play

«Following the footsteps of Klaus Hemmerle»

The figure of mons. Klaus Hemmerle, bishop, a fine theologian and philosopher, co-founder of the Work of Mary, was front and center during an intense day of study, held at the Aula Magna of the Sophia University Institute on April 27

An academic event, a meeting dedicated to the memory of a man who is a source of encouragement for our times; it was a moment of significant cultural impact, a day of celebration... all these adjectives are necessary to describe this event.

As the title promised, «following the footsteps of Klaus Hemmerle» the participants discussed his thought in order to deepen a central question: the relationship between philosophy and theology in view of a contribution that is constructive and which corresponds to the questions of every person in every epoch.

The idea which came from the department of Trinitarian Ontology of the SUI, hoped to put into play the treasures of the writings of Klaus Hemmerle, so as to continue to question ourselves and to dialogue with contemporary culture on the sense and the value of an authentic dialogue between the two disciplines. This is in view of revitalizing the ambit of research and also to be able to offer itself as a sympathetic horizon that is capable of asking the world today fundamental questions. It is an idea that is focused and shared by many

since it has been able to gather numerous professors and researchers from different universities both in Italy and outside such as - Salesian, Santa Croce, Tor Vergata, Teresianum of Rome, San Raffaele of Milan, the theology Faculties of central Italy, Florence and of the south in Naples, the university of Graz and of Augsburg - aside from the professors and students of Sophia, some inhabitants of Loppiano, the secretariat of the Bishops friends of the

A highly articulated and rich programme



Reading of the report prepared by prof. Enders, successor of Hemmerle at the Religionphilosophie chair in Fribourg, on the writing of Hemmerle *Verità e amore in pericoreis*; (Truth and love in pericoreis)



P. Coda illustrates the novelty that the participation on the Abbà School has brought about in the ontological proposal of Klaus and his legacy for trinitarian ontology.

Movement, some of whom have come to Loppiano for the first time.

The day concluded with the screening of the film *Il cielo tra noi* (Heaven among us), – Klaus Hemmerle for the first time in Italy, with the presence of the director and producer Winfried Baetz-Braunias. It is a splendid instrument to come close to and deepen the reflections of light in the cultural, ecclesiastical and social world of Hemmerle, in an updated rereading of his message.

Among the numerous echoes, we will cite one from a student of Sophia: «an encounter that is truly stimulating both from an intellectual and a spiritual point of view. Hemmerle is a great witness: the trinitarian ontology does not remain as just a



speculative question, but grafted profoundly in life and in relationships. We have also been witnesses to this!».

Mons. Zani also sent his impression: «It seemed to me, [...], that Sophia gave us a glimpse of a particular charism – and maybe it is for this reason that Chiara desired its birth; that is, knowing how to transmit

with all its necessary scientific and cultural concepts, the great patrimony of '49. From the unity that we experienced to the qualified interventions I sensed what could happen if "Paradise" would be doled out and inculturated with patience and without haste, through the daily and continuous work of an academic institution. It is the true formation of new people».

prepared by Valentina Gaudiano



Mons. Zani presented the challenge of a new cultural paradigm in the magisterium of Pope Francis, in tune with the project of Sophia and its impact on the world.



F. Sedlmeier, V. Gaudiano and W. Hagemann, in search of the sources of hemmerlian thought, they highlighted the link with the theological dimension of the Gospel of John, with the philosophy of i Welte and Rombach, and the decisive contribution made by his encounter with the charism of unity and his journey made in its light.

Antonio Rosmini and Chiara Lubich

A unprecedented meeting

A Meeting that dealt with connections and affinities between the philosopher from Rovereto, founder of the Institute of Charity and the foundress of the Focolare Movement

«Recall those first days". With this framework of memory one can live, breathe, go ahead and bear fruits». Citing these words, pronounced by Pope Francis during the recent visit to the Little City of Loppiano, Paolo Marangon, vice-director of the «A. Rosmini»

Research and Study Center of the University of Trent, opened the proceedings of the Meeting held in Rovereto from May 24 to 25 entitled «Antonio Rosmini and Chiara Lubich – roots and historical intersections». Organized by the Rosmini Study Center

in collaboration with the Chiara Lubich Center and the Rosminian Library, and supported by the Council of Rovereto, the Meeting hoped to offer an occasion of deepening and discovery of the historical intertwining between these two great Trentine personalities, as a step towards the centennial celebration of the birth of Chiara Lubich.

The scientific contributions were welcomed with interest by the numerous participants, among whom were representatives from different religious families. The first session was held within the suggestive background of the Hall of mirrors in Rosmini House, which was the home, until the end of the '40s, of the meetings of the Focolare community of Rovereto. This was mentioned by Fr. Mario Pangallo, director of the Rosminian Library. The greeting of the city Administration was presented by the vice-mayor

Coming soon a new volume on the thought of Klaus Hemmerle

Do Philosophy and Theology have something to tell us? Klaus Hemmerle seemed to be profoundly convinced of this, so much so that he developed a passionate and enlightening dialogue between the two disciplines. The result was an intense and growing research from the dialogue between the sacred and thought, truth and testimony, leading up to the question of time and of the Trinity, the relationship between truth and love. An instrument so that philosophy and theology can work together to offer answers to the culture of today.





From left: the vice-mayor, dr. Cristina Azzolini; prof. Fulvio De Giorgi; prof. Paolo Marangon; dr. Nino Carella

Cristina Azzolini, who underlined the importance of Rosmini's encounter with «a great woman who knew how to dialogue in a very personal manner with Christianity, creating a people around her». Nino Carella, author of the book *Silvia prima di Chiara* (*Sylvia before Chiara*), followed. His intervention centered on the scholastic endeavours of Chiara in the «Antonio Rosmini» college of education on Trent, while Fulvio De Giorgi, director of the Rosmini Study Center dealt with the influence of the Franciscan tradition in the formation of the man from Rovereto. Two reports followed given by representatives of the Chiara Lubich Center: Lucia Abignente tackled the theme of the relationship of Chiara with the Franciscan Capuchin Third

Order during the period of the birth of the Focolare Movement, while Elena Del Nero analyzed the first developments of the Focolare Movement in Rovereto and the meeting with the Rosminian fathers. The next



prof. Paolo Marangon; dr. Lucia Abignente; dr. Elisa Manni; prof. Alberto Lo Presti

day, in the Conference Hall of the Caritro Foundation, the proceedings continued with Alberto Lo Presti of the Iginio Giordani Center; Paolo Marangon focused his attention on the person of the Rosminian, Clemente Rebola and his role in the community of the Focolare in Rovereto. As a

conclusion, Elisa Manni offered a reading of the hymn *Il gran grido* (*The great cry*) of Rebola comparing it with the charisma of Chiara Lubich.

During the proceedings and the debates, what emerged was the harmony between the characters of the two protagonists, who, in spite of belonging to different historical epochs, they made unity and charity the constitutive values of their actions in history and in the ecclesial reality that were born from them. The common mark of fecund adhesion to the cross,

joined with an unconditional love for the Church, produced a profound understanding and fruitful reciprocal enrichment there where two Charisms met and walk together.

Anna Maria Rossi

At the Global Christian Forum New spaces of communion

The experience of our participation in the third Assembly of the GCF held in Bogotá in Colombia at the end of april



The Global Christian Forum is a platform where Christians of all Churches meet to get to know each other through the sharing of their personal testimonies of faith. In this way, many prejudices towards each other fall away and relationships of mutual respect are established.

The secretary general, dr. Larry Miller, invited the president of the Focolare Movement, Maria Voce, to the III International Assembly. Since she could not attend, she delegated me to represent her.

From April 24 to 27, Bogotá (Colombia) was the venue of this Assembly with 251 participants from 55 Countries. There

were catholics, anglicans, members of the African Instituted Churches, adventists, baptists, quakers, disciples of Christ, the salvation army, evangelicals, independents, lutherans, mennonites, methodists, neocharismatics, orthodox, oriental orthodox, pentecostals, reformed/presbyterians, members of the Movement of sanctity, waldesians, veterocatholics, and a representative of the messianic jews.

The Global Christian Forum was born in answer to the changes of the times: in fact many of the new christian realities, whilst feeling the call to unity were cautious with regards to the modern ecumenical Movement. A new venue was needed where they could feel comfortable, with new methods and different goals. The idea to create a Forum started in 1998 as a fruit of the profound exchange between the

World Evangelical Alliance, the Ecumenical Council of Churches, the World Pentecostal Fraternity and the Pontifical Council for unity of Christians. These four institutions continue to support and animate it.

This platform does not replace the precious and irreplaceable work done by the theologians of the various commissions on theological dialogue, but it is a pathway of great value because it gathers the people of God and brings them with a new enthusiasm in the march towards unity.

In this III International Assembly there were moments of in-depth study, of looking at the challenges that christians of all Churches have to face,





Dr. Larry Miller

reflections on the future and moments of prayer. In small groups we shared our stories of our encounter with Jesus, a practice which characterized the Global Christian Forum since its birth. There is a clear similarity with what happens in the Focolare Movement where we practice the sharing of the fruits of the Word of God lived, and the encounter with Jesus alive in them.

In weaving the net of relationships with the participants I realized how much esteem and trust they had towards the Focolare Movement because of its ecumenical nature. In fact, many of them have been in contact with

persons of the Movement present in the ecumenical commissions in their Countries.

The Final Message of this

III International Assembly invites us, among other things, not to be contented with an «ecumenism of the élite” but to unite ourselves to Christ in mutual love so as to continue to walk together. The division among Christians contradicts the will of God, it scandalizes the world and causes harm

to the common mission of proclaiming the Gospel to all the peoples.

In this experience I must say what a gift it has been to participate in the Holy Mass everyday, celebrated with the Catholics if the nearby Monastery of the Visitation. It was a joy to share this experience, even if only for a short while, with the persons of the Focolare Movement who live in Colombia and who, even there, commit themselves for the unity of Christians.

Beatriz Sarkis Simoes





Sportmeet and EcoOne

Synergies for the meeting

«Sport breaks limits»
and «Nature breaks limits»,
two simultaneous congresses
with the participation
of 135 persons
of twelve nationalities
from april 19 to 22
in Rome

Sportmeet met in the Campo dei Miracoli in Corviale, a sports structure that is a symbol of the rebirth of one of the many peripheries of our city. Bith of the congresses then moved to Villa Borghese on satuday to animate the first day-meeting of the «Village for the Earth», where the Mariapolis has been held for the third consecutive time.

It was the fruit of a demanding task of finding new relationships, built with a great unity among us, in close interaction with Earth Day Italy and opening up to the city in order to meet those realities of Rome that are already making an experience of sports and environmentalism. The event saw a significant number of new youth participants and gen, who felt the responsibility of sharing their experiences and bearing witness to the dream of Chiara Lubich also in the field of sports and in ecology.

Part of the programme included a school-work rotation during the Sportmeet congress, providing the possibility of learning something new and experiencing being protagonists. The twenty or so students from the high school of the city ended the program with much joy.

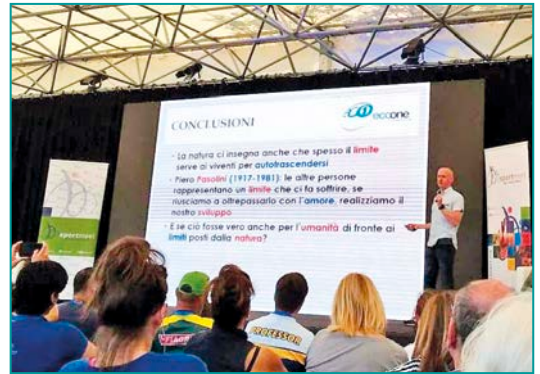
During Sportmeet on Saturday they walked to the Grand Mosque. On Sunday, Ruth Dureghello, president of the Jewish Community of Rome, came to greet the participants and among other things she said: «I feel that we are living a moment of empathy and of fraternity here at the international congress of Sportmeet» thus confirming the journey that has been started together with the marathon race «Via Pacis», which we hope to continue.

«Go out» is the experience in all our congresses, but thses in particular. At the «Village for the Earth» there were different people, games, sports, stands of

environmental associations... Someone among us asked what happened to our congress, because it seemed that the situation was rather chaotic and it seemed as if we were losing our style, our message. In that moment we remembered the phrase «to lose yourself in the crowd so as to surround it with the divine» of Chiara. As if to tell us not to be afraid of losing the congress, the style, because proclamation comes precisely in mixing with the others, seeing the positive in the experiences of the others, so as to help them become aware of their true potentialities.

We thought of those who were coming to our events for the first time, like Jeremy, who came from New Zealand, who told us about the journey of integration between the foreigners and the native maori people through the sport of rugby; Arianna, coordinator of a project to collect plastic waste material in her University; Stefano B., organizer of an original regatta with boats made up of recycled material; commissioner of public works of Carloforte in Sardinia, who - committed in his territory - would like to involve EcoOne and Dialogues in Architecture in a school of formation on his island.

Among the key points were the value of relationships proposed, with



interventions of experts (researchers, theologians, university professors, diplomats, managers, sports officials) with whom we already collaborate or who express promising prospects for future collaboration.

The highlight of SPortmeet was the final round-table discussion which developed into a profound and touching dialogue with Janaina Lima, a young councillor of the City Council of San Paolo (Brazil) and with the undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture, mons. Melchor Sanchez de Toca who - among other things - encouraged us to remain who we are, to continue to do what we are doing: creating networks. He asked also for a closer interaction with us on the cultural level to elaborate a theology of the game and of sports.

Finally, we told ourselves that what counts is not so much the quantity, since we are still in the founding stage of Sportmeet and EcoOne, but we must safeguard the original inspiration, the love, the spirit of openness and the passion that made us make an experience of the highest quality, if we measure it by the joy and the drive to do something that was felt by everyone at the end of the congresses.

*Paolo Cipolli Sportmeet,
Luca Fiorani EcoOne*



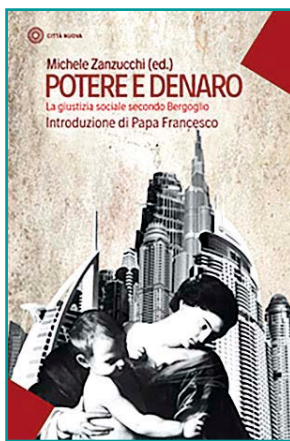
New publication

Social justice according to Bergoglio

A book of Città Nuova, with the introduction of Pope Francis

«Many, very many men and women of every age and latitude are already enlisted in an unarmed "army of good", who have no other weapons except the passion for justice, respect for legality and the intelligence of communion». This is what Pope Francis wrote in the preface of the newly published book, written by Michele Zanzucchi, journalist and writer, who was the director of Città Nuova magazine for many years.

The book, a well thought of collection of what Pope Francis has said or written up to now on the topic of money, power and wealth, is a strong accusation against the evils of the market economy as it is practiced today, as a means of oppressing the weakest, as a generator of new waste products and new forms of slavery. «One thing that I think is important is to raise the awareness on the seriousness of the problems. This is what Michele Zanzucchi is doing by gathering, systematizing and making available to readers the summaries of some of my thoughts on the power of the economy and of finance. I hope that it can be useful to make people aware and responsible, promoting processes of justice and of equity».



The idea for this book was born in 2017, when Pope Francis met 1,200 entrepreneurs who were celebrating the 25 years from when Chiara Lubich had the luminous intuition that gave rise to the Economy of Communion. «You show with your life that economy and communion become more beautiful when they stand one beside the other – Pope Francis said on that occasion. Certainly economy becomes more beautiful, but communion also becomes more beautiful, because the spiritual communion of hearts is more full when it becomes the communion of goods, talents, profits».

In the preface of the new book Pope Francis speaks of hope which he defines as «the most precious virtue today». «We cannot stop believing that, with the help of God and together we can improve our world and reanimate hope. If we are together, united in his name, the Lord is in our midst according to his promise (cf. Mt 18,20); therefore he is with us also in the midst of the world, in the factories, in the companies and in the banks just as in homes, in the slum areas and in the refugee camps. We can, we must hope».

a cura della redazione

Hispano America Educate an indispensable mission

In the ambit of EDUxEDU-project
the gen3 and Teens for Unity centers
wents to Hispano America last March

«Education is a permanent task, which unfortunately has been declined by many; but we have to continue to insist, without being discouraged». This is what I read in the Facebook post of a Venezuelan participant in the course EDUxEDU - educate yourself in order to educate, a week after the experience made.

Educate, facilitate the development and harmonious growth of the person is a challenging task and is necessary now more than ever in the present day scenario of our societies and in territories full of adversity, like in those places where four courses were held last March. From Cuba, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Venezuela and the Dominican Republic around 330 assistants, animators, youth, parents, persons working in the field of education and catechesis, members of the Focolare Movement, adherents and others meeting the Movement for the first time participated. Everyone had one thing in common, a strong interest to: offer to the new generations in their own communities a more appropriate accompaniment to the needs of children and teens today. It is



from here that the need to be educated arises, sharing good educational practices, reading them in the light of the charism of unity, supporting these ideas with scientific knowledge and trying to look for new ideas and projects for a creative educational action.

There were many encouraging local experiences shared, that bring hope, showing how much the ideal is penetrating in the social fabric of these Countries. In Maracaibo (Venezuela) a young 16 year old female student has started a social project together with the local community to offer to street children not just a meal in this moment of dire crisis in the Country but also an opportunity for human and spiritual formation through art. In Puerto Rico the emergency aid action after hurricane «Maria» involve many youth and teens in the most affected territories in an experience of service to one's own people and from here the desire grew to get to know the charism of unity more and to share it with others by starting groups for youth and adolescents in the parishes. Or other consolidated projects such as

Maracaibo
(Venezuela)



the Centro sociale Unidad of Bogotá, the schoolse «Sol naciente» (Tocancipá - Colombia) and «Café con Leche» (Santo Domingo), where the educational system, animated by the Charism, has transformed the territory throughout the years, improving the quality of life in the neighborhood.



The personal experiences spoke of a constant daily dedication, showing that the role of the educator does not end within the walls of a classroom or during a meeting: but rather it becomes a way of being, a fundamental attitude that permeates their life day by day. The professor who recognises in an educational failure a lesson in life, has in his hands the greatest opportunity for personal growth and the chance to improve the relationship with his students. The family that continues to trust the child who finds himself at a risky crossroad in his life, and who eventually chooses the way of freedom rather than dependence because of the openness, patience and forgiveness shown to him by his family members.

EDUxEDU was a venue to explore together the task to educate and consolidated in all the participants a crystal clear idea: today we cannot educate alone, we must go out of our isolation and join together to form a network. In various Countries a network has already been created made up of assistants, parents, teachers, professors and school directors, to

go ahead together and not be discouraged in the face of difficulties. Those who came with doubts if education was their calling left with a certainty, as expressed by this young girl: «The course EDUXEDU has reawakened in me the vocation to teach

that was hidden within. I discovered that I was made for this mission».

The apostolic nuncio of Caracas, Aldo Giordano, in his visit to the participants of EDUxEDU, saw in the committment of the Focolare Movement in the field of education, the possibility for a rebirth of the Country: «In the desert that we are experiencing here, we are already seeing new plants sprouting, new flowers, fruits. [...] Another Venezuela is possible, it is present here.. it already exists». And maybe, like there, it is precisely education that is the seed of hope for many other Countries in the world. So we must not be discouraged, we must invest resources, reflect together, get involved because, using the words of Paulo Freire, Brazilian pedagogist, «no one educates anyone». Is education then a permanent task that we cannot decline?

Stella Tomiola





With the gen2 of eastern Europe «A treasure that we didn't know about»

It was the first congress of the Violet Zone
where 150 gen2 met in Slovakia from March 9 to 11

It is difficult to summarize in just a few lines the experience made by the gen2 from different Countries of Eastern Europe during the first year of the constitution of the Violet Zone. Everything was born from the strong desire to deepen the vocation of a gen in the context of concrete life, but also to get to know each other better and to discover that they are part of a greater plan contained in the name «violet».

A constitutive part of the experience was the preparatory phase: for some months a group of representatives of the different zonettas met regularly through hangout (an online video site - ndr). To get to know each other, ask questions regarding

the content, share in the concrete work – was an exciting adventure, even if it did not lack in challenges.

Finally arriving in Šaštín, a Marian shrine in the west of Slovakia, many of them already knew each other. «This was particularly important – they wrote – because the friendship was already built and it helped us to create beautiful relationships based on the supernatural». Then, «we discovered what it means to be part of the Zone that is so vast... a treasure that we didn't even know that we had!».

The congress began with fundamental questions on the gen life: «is it just an interest, a lifestyle, to become a member if a group where I feel comfortable?». The experiences

of some of the gen were very important, as well as the experiences of some adults who grew up as gen, and also the dialogue in groups. The following day was illuminated by the vision of Mary linked to the experience of 1949. «It was very beautiful to see and understand together, helping each other, putting in common even what we did not understand and sharing what we understood».

After this «marvelous experience, maybe similar to those of the early times – the gen concluded – we want to continue together, also thanks to the new push and strength to all be coresponsible for our Violet Zone».

*Katarzyna Wasiutyńska,
Cristiano Lazzarini*

Tommaso Sorgi

Un cristiano autentico nel mondo rumoroso della politica

Nel 1956, invitato dal collega deputato Igino Giordani, Tommaso partecipa alla sua prima Mariapoli a Fiera di Primiero (Trento). Di quei giorni scriverà a Chiara Lubich: «L'incontro con te – col tuo carisma, con lo Spirito Santo che mi giungeva attraverso te – mi ha ridato il cristianesimo, la vita interiore e forse anche quella fisica, il senso del vivere. Prima il prossimo lo vedevo come un nome collettivo, una folla, un gruppo, sen-



za che ci fosse un volto singolo; quindi era nessuno. Ora il prossimo è un fratello o una sorella che è o passa a me vicino. Sto provando che si può vivere Maria anche nel mondo rumoroso della politica». Mentre è ancora in Mariapoli formula questo proposito: «Gesù, voglio essere tuo, tuo come intendi Tu: fa' di me tutto quello che vuoi». E chiede a Chiara di essere, come Foco, un focolarino sposato.

Nato a Teramo da una famiglia di artigiani, Tommaso si laurea con il massimo dei voti. Diventa professore di sociologia nell'Università della sua città e sposa Assunta che sarà anche lei focolarina sposata. Nascono quattro figli: Pino, Magda, Gabriella, Chiara. Si impegna in politica e la sua intelligenza e lo spirito di servizio con cui interpreta il ruolo pubblico gli fanno guadagnare la fiducia



e il consenso elettorale. La sua iniziativa politica – è in Parlamento dal '53 al '72 - spicca per la sensibilità verso le fasce deboli.

Nell'85 con Assunta si trasferisce al cuore del Movimento per dare vita al Centro Igino Giordani, compito che gli dà modo di approfondire e mettere in luce le molteplici dimensioni della persona di Foco. Ispirandosi alla Parola di vita ricevuta da Chiara: «Alzati e cammina» (Gv 5,8), si dedica allo sviluppo di Umanità Nuova, con numerose iniziative fra cui il «Triplice Patto» - morale, programmatico, partecipativo – elaborato per favorire l'interazione tra eletti ed elettori, e l'«Appello per l'unità dei popoli», presentato all'ONU nell'87. Ampia è la lista di suoi libri e saggi che spaziano dalla sociologia alla storia del cristianesimo, dalla teoria politica alla figura e al pensiero di Igino Giordani.

Sfogliando le tappe della sua lunga vita (96 anni) risalta la costante tensione alla santi-



tà, vissuta in piena unità con Assunta - partita per il Cielo nel 2014 (v. *Mariapoli* n. 12/2014) - nella finale, vigilante attesa «dell'incontro totale» con Dio che l'ha chiamato a Sé il 24 aprile. Lo pensiamo nell'immensità del Suo Amore, profondamente grati per il suo esempio di una grande umanità.

Per il profilo completo rimandiamo alla voce Testimoni di Mariapoli online

Umberto Giannettoni

«Essere nel mondo altra Maria»

Originario di Pisa, a otto anni Umberto vive il trauma della morte del padre in un terribile bombardamento. A 19, un amico lo invita alla Mariapoli sulle Dolomiti. Profondamente colpito da quell'esperienza di Vangelo, decide di iscriversi all'Università Cattolica di Milano per essere vicino ai focolarini e prepararsi ad entrare in focolare. Si sposta poi nei focolari di Pescara, Parigi, Bruxelles e nel 1965 va negli USA per iniziare New City Press, l'editrice dei Focolari che, grazie alle sue capacità manageriali, pur con pochi mezzi riuscirà a pubblicare nei primi cinque anni dodici titoli.

Nel '70 viene chiamato a Loppiano, un'avventura che durerà quarant'anni. Non c'è realtà della Cittadella per la quale Umberto non abbia lottato, gioito e sofferto, dalle iniziali aziendine e i primi Genfest, alle recenti realizzazioni come il Polo Lionello, il santuario della Theotokos e l'istituto Universitario Sophia.

Nel 2010 parte per il Canada dove rimane fino al novembre 2017, quando torna nella «sua» Loppiano ormai colpito da una grave malattia.

Dalle sue lettere a Chiara Lubich - che come nome nuovo gli darà «Umberto di Maria» -: «Oggi, primo giorno di lavoro, ho visto quale sia la nostra vocazione di focolarini: essere nel mondo altra Maria». «Prego perché Maria viva sempre più in me ed io possa dare il suo volto a quel pezzo di Zona che l'Opera mi affida». «Ho capito molto fortemente come Gesù Abbandonato, la croce, sia l'elemento di Dio che trasforma il semplice pensare umano in Sapienza. E ho capito l'enorme differenza fra una persona brava



e intelligente, ed uno che ama Gesù Abbandonato. Un salto di qualità dunque: l'umanità ha bisogno di uomini che amano Lui». «Maria Desolata l'ho vista con occhi nuovi. Il suo immenso dolore è stato colmato da un nuovo immenso Amore: dal corpo di Gesù a quello del suo

Corpo Mistico».

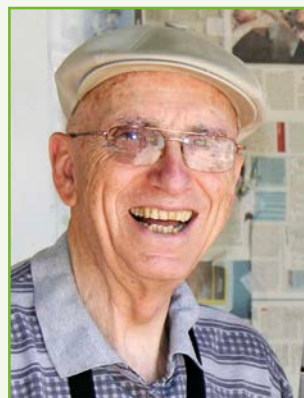
Nel '77 riceve da Chiara la Parola: «Ho combattuto la buona battaglia... ho conservato la fede» (2 Tm 4,7), che Umberto cerca costantemente di trasformare in vita, fino all'ultimo istante, mediante la fede nell'Ideale. Il 21 aprile, a 83 anni, raggiunge la Mariapoli celeste suscitando una grande riconoscenza per il suo amore mariano verso tutti. Significativo il fatto che si sia addormentato in Dio mentre i nipoti e il suo focolare cantavano «Maria». (v. anche in *Mariapoli online*)

Guglielmo Curti

Attraveva la
confidenza
di adulti e giovani

Nato a Reggio Emilia, mentre da bambino gioca all'aperto, Guglielmo ha il suo primo incontro con il dolore: gli esplose in mano un ordigno bellico, che gli compromette

l'uso delle dita, riabilitate solo dopo varie operazioni. Conosce la spiritualità dell'unità e con la sua testimonianza conquista la sorella Norma che, come lui, risponderà alla



chiamata di Dio nella via del focolare. Più avanti anche la sorella più grande e la mamma aderiscono al Movimento.

Nel 1967 Guglielmo è in focolare in Brasile, poi in Uruguay e in varie città dell'Argentina e infine nella Cittadella Lia di O'Higgins. Nel 1988 viene ordinato sacerdote.

In consonanza con la Parola di vita datagli da Chiara: «Andate, incendiate ed infiammate tutti con l'Amore» (tratta da una frase di s. Ignazio di Loyola a s. Francesco Saverio), molte sono le testimonianze della sua giovinezza spirituale che attrae la confidenza di adulti e giovani, della sua trasparente umiltà e dell'amore per i prossimi. Caratteristica è la sua sensibilità a cogliere le necessità altrui e ad attivarsi silenziosamente per soddisfarle. Il suo ascolto, anche durante le confessioni, fa emergere le realtà più profonde che l'altro sta vivendo.

Questo suo essere dono, che si consolida negli anni, rispecchia il rapporto che ha con Maria. Scrive a Chiara nel '91: «Ogni volta che recito il Rosario, al quarto mistero glorioso le dico che voglio fare della mia eventuale santità un piccolo regalo a lei, mia madre [...] e le rinnovo il mio "sì", perché porti a compimento l'opera iniziata quando tu mi hai donato l'Ideale, la nuova vita».

Forte il suo amore a Gesù Abbandonato, «con il quale desidero ardentemente incontrarmi in ogni attimo della giornata perché solo Lui, ho capito, costruisce l'Opera di Maria». Una fedeltà, la sua, che troviamo anche di recente quando confida, mantenendo il suo sorriso: «Sono in un momento di oscurità ... Mi torna alla mente quello che Chiara ci suggeriva: mettersi ad amare il fratello. E faccio atti d'amore...».

Ultimamente: «Sì, è vero, ho un tumore maligno. Però sto facendo un trattamento che sta dando buoni risultati. Io punto ai 100 anni, ma nello stesso tempo mi preparo!». Il 9 maggio, all'età di 84 anni, Dio lo chiama a sé, concedendogli la grazia di passare dalla vita alla Vita in un solo istante, alla vigilia della visita di papa Francesco a Loppiano.

Hildegund Vogel

«Abbiate in voi gli stessi sentimenti che furono in Cristo Gesù» (Fil 2,5)

Fin da piccola Hildegund, focolarina sposata della Germania, sente la chiamata a diventare santa e nonostante abbia notato che nel calendario i santi sposati siano pochissimi, pensa di sposarsi e di avere tanti figli.

A vent'anni, una collega, educatrice come lei di bambini disabili, la invita ad un incontro dei Focolari. Qui riceve la risposta che attendeva e nel vivere la spiritualità dell'unità scopre con gioia di essere, sulla scia di Foco, chiamata al focolare come sposata. Con Rudolf fonda una bella famiglia che con gli anni si arricchisce di sei figli. Nel cercare di conformare la sua vita a quella di Gesù, dona amore con generosità e fantasia a molte persone e famiglie, sostenendole in tutti i modi. Prende sul serio l'invito di Chiara a fare della vita un Santo Viaggio e dopo un Collegamento le racconta: «Voglio fare un patto con quanti sono già arrivati Lassù dove è anche la mia meta. Ho già spedito vari pacchetti (Chiara Lubich chiamava così gli atti d'amore, ndr), perché vorrei essere proprio di casa in Cielo».

Nella sua vita ci sono dolori pesanti, problemi di salute, momenti di sconforto, ma in tutti riconosce Gesù Abbandonato, convinta che, ancorata a Lui: «Non mi manca nulla, ho tutto per diventare santa per amore». E Chiara la incoraggia dicendole che «ogni sofferenza vissuta nell'amore» contribuisce alla realizzazione dell'«Ut Omnes».

Il 4 maggio, colpita da infarto, Hildegund raggiunge improvvisamente la Mariapoli celeste all'età di 77 anni. Nello stesso giorno, in



vista di un'operazione agli occhi, aveva chiesto l'unzione degli infermi e il giorno prima, in un'e-mail al suo focolare scriveva: «Ora non ci sentiremo e non ci vedremo per tanto tempo, eppure siamo insieme in tutto ciò che a ciascuna verrà chiesto di vivere. Dio ci benedica tutte e rimanga ogni ora al nostro fianco. Stanotte ho avuto l'impressione che Dio mi abbia svegliato più volte e "senza parole" ho potuto sentirLo».

Raimundo Albani de Abreu

«In verità vi dico: chi crede ha la vita eterna» (Gv 6,47)

Albani, come lo chiamano tutti, è fra i primi focolarini sposati della zonetta di Belém (Brasile).

Concreto e semplice, padre di dodici figli, è instancabile nel servizio collaborando in varie importanti iniziative dell'Opera fra cui l'innovativo progetto sociale «Magnificat» per il riscatto dei senza-terra. Dà un valido contributo anche allo sviluppo della scuola Fiore alla Mariapoli Gloria e alla piccola fabbrica di dolci, espressione dell'EdC, «Feito por nós» (fatto da noi). Si prodiga anche per la Fazenda da Esperança nel recupero di giovani in difficoltà. Pur se anziano, con lui i giovani si trovano bene. Con la sua edificante testimonianza segue e accompagna numerose coppie di sposi.

Nel 1974 scrive a Chiara che nella spiritualità dell'unità ha trovato «la vera vita, la vita della grazia». E dichiara: «Dio solo mi interessa e prometto di essere fedele fino alla morte affinché, anche per il mio contributo, l'«Ut Omnes» possa realizzarsi». Scrive ancora a Chiara nel '95: «Voglio essere fedele al Patto, pronto a dare la vita per te, per i focolarini che mi sono accanto e per tutta l'Opera».



Albani attraversa anche momenti di oscurità spirituale, che cerca di vivere nell'umiltà e mantenendo sempre vivo il suo impegno di vita evangelica. Confida: «Gesù Abbandonato è sempre presente, senza di lui non si può andare avanti». Nonostante il suo carattere forte, non esita a piegarsi per costruire l'unità. Scrive: «In questo momento della mia vita, solo una cosa importa, percorrere il Santo Viaggio come Dio vuole, con l'impegno sempre più grande di vivere

nell'unità». Raggiunta la pensione si trasferisce nella Cittadella, aiutandone la costruzione fino alla fine della sua vita. Il 19 aprile, a 90 anni, parte per il Cielo.

Wilhelm Knoche

«So dove sto andando»

Focolarino sposato di Münster (Germania), a trentadue anni Wilhelm conosce la spiritualità dell'unità insieme ad Edeltraud, sua moglie, e dopo qualche anno ambedue diventano focolarini sposati. Danno così un grande contributo alla

fondazione dell'Opera nel nord del Paese.

Chiara Lubich suggerisce a Wilhelm la Parola: «Rivestitevi dunque di sentimenti di misericordia, di bontà, di umiltà, di mansuetudine, di pazienza» (Col 3,12) che egli cerca di attuare nel vivere quotidiano. Docente universitario di fisica, accompagna giovani di tante nazioni aiutandoli ad ottenere sussidi e, nel post-laurea ad inserirsi nel mondo



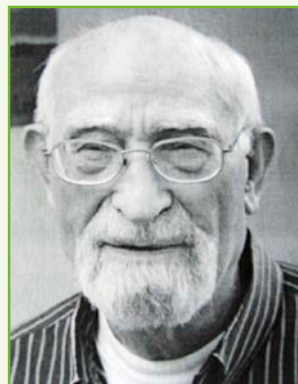
del lavoro, guadagnandosi grande stima fra gli studenti che lo chiamano «babbo Knoche». Impegnato in Umanità Nuova, approfondisce e organizza congressi su grandi temi quali bioetica, scienza e fede, valore della vita umana, ecc. Di mente lucida e grande cuore sa discutere e ascoltare, trasmettendo la visione dell'Ideale. Per un anno intero ogni settimana va a visitare un amico focolarino sposato gravemente ammalato, organizzandogli le vacanze e sostenendolo spiritualmente.

Dopo la visita di Chiara a Nairobi del '93 le scrive: «Le tue parole sull'inculturazione mi hanno dimostrato in modo lampante quanto il mio pensiero sia limitato dalla filosofia occidentale. Mi si è chiarito che altre culture comprendono il mondo anche senza la nostra logica. Una conseguenza immediata è stata per me capire che posso prendere il Vangelo alla lettera e non devo filtrare le sue affermazioni attraverso il mio pensiero». Chiara gli risponde: «Sì, Wilhelm, Gesù ti ha fatto intuire il segreto di come essere "popo" (focolarino – ndr): perdere tutto, anche le proprie strutture mentali, per amore di Gesù Abbandonato, per accogliere ogni prossimo fino in fondo e farsi uno con lui. Così, essendo amore, sarai in prima fila a vivere per l'«Ut Omnes», che è la tua vocazione».

Ad un ritiro al Centro Wilhelm scrive: «Qui sperimento il paradiso. In ringraziamento e come risposta voglio impegnare tutte le mie capacità affinché in terra, anche attraverso la mia vita, rimanga presente Maria». Compiuti gli 80 anni sente diminuire le forze. Capisce che la vita volge al termine e ripete a Dio: «Sia fatta la tua volontà». Assistito in ospedale dalla moglie, dai cinque figli, dai e dalle focolarine, dopo aver ascoltato un brano del Vangelo, commenta con un grande sorriso: «So dove sto andando». Il 12 maggio, a 81 anni, Wilhelm va all'incontro definitivo con Dio.

p. Angelo Pisano

Gesù Abbandonato l'unico amore della sua vita



Fin da bambino Angelo, originario della Sardegna, ha in cuore il sacerdozio e con la sorella Maria Rosa, che diventerà una suora contemplativa, tutte le mattine corre in chiesa per servire la Messa. Con l'aiuto di alcuni benefattori a 15 anni entra nel seminario saveriano per diventare missionario in terre lontane, nelle quali, con la fantasia, già si vede in azione. Conclusi gli studi però gli viene chiesto di rimanere in Italia. Trascorreranno ben 13 anni prima di poter partire per la missione. Per prepararsi partecipa ad un ritiro di alcuni giorni alla luce della spiritualità dell'unità: un'esperienza determinante per la sua vita.

Giunto in Messico prende contatto con le e i focolarini del posto, che lo invitano ad unirsi a loro per testimoniare e diffondere in quella terra l'Ideale, soprattutto fra i giovani. Dà rifugio a messicani e indios salvandoli dal bagno di sangue scatenato dalla guerriglia. Con i confratelli, nell'abbraccio a Gesù Abbandonato, fa l'esperienza del non-essere dell'amore per essere solo amore. Intorno a lui sorge una comunità di persone le più varie, nella quale fioriscono numerose vocazioni. P. Angelo scrive a Chiara Lubich le sue prime conquiste e lei prontamente gli risponde: «...Ho messo nelle mani di Maria i germogli della nuova vita che hai piantato, in modo che sia lei a farli fruttificare...».

Nel 2006 è chiamato a Guadalajara per riprendersi da una malattia. Oltre al servizio ai suoi fratelli e seminaristi religiosi con vari incarichi di responsabilità, si dedica alla formazione delle tante persone che lo cercano: nascono così nuovi gruppi del Movimento. Nel cinquantesimo di sacerdozio scrive: «In tutti i dolori della vita quotidiana riconosco e abbraccio Gesù Abbandonato come l'unico amore della mia vita. Il segreto del cristiano è questo: trasformare il dolore in amore». Il 22 marzo, a 84 anni, p. Angelo parte per la Casa del Padre, lasciando dietro sé una vita di consacrazione a Gesù Abbandonato, che è stato davvero l'unico amore della sua vita.

p. Fabrizio Tosolini

Maria Martha Ruth Krien

Una vita all'insegna della comunione ecumenica

Nata in una famiglia evangelica della Slesia, vive la sua fanciullezza con una forte passione per la musica e la matematica. A causa dell'espulsione avvenuta alla fine della seconda guerra mondiale, tutta la famiglia si trasferisce in Turingia (Germania centrale) e poi nella Germania dell'est ancora libera, dove Maria inizia i suoi studi. Qui avverte che Dio desidera un'altra strada per lei, così ritorna nella Germania dell'ovest per studiare teologia ed essere poi ordinata pastorella.

Il suo primo servizio è a Magdeburg, poi a Zeitz, dove, attraverso la parrocchia cattolica viene in contatto con i Focolari. Profondamente toccata

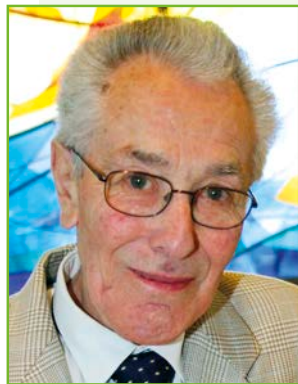


dalla spiritualità dell'unità, diventa una volontaria, intensificando ancor più l'amore per la sua Chiesa e per la Santa Cena. Vive l'ecumenismo in comunione con un collega cattolico e un'assistente pastorale. La sua fede vissuta, non solo conduce a Dio le persone della Chiesa evangelica, ma entusiasma anche fedeli cattolici. La vita

della comunità rifiorisce. Maria vive davvero ciò in cui crede e nel mettere a frutto i tanti talenti ricevuti conquista molte persone, che accompagna e segue affinché ciascuna possa liberamente scegliere il piano di Dio.

Il 10 settembre 2017, dopo un breve periodo in un ospizio di Lipsia, nella pace, parte per la vera Vita all'età di 86 anni.

Marion Stransky



Luigi Balduzzi

«Tu solo hai parole di vita eterna» (Gv.6,68)

Nato in una famiglia di contadini della Val Seriana (Bergamo), a 15 anni, mentre pascola le mucche recitando il rosario, Luigi fa una promessa a Maria: «Quando sarò grande ti costruirò una cattedrale». Crescendo apre un'attività come meccanico, diventa consigliere comunale, è barelliere nei pellegrinaggi a Lourdes, fa un'intensa vita associativa nel territorio e nella comunità locale.

Nel 1963 il cognato, Tino Piazza, gli parla dei Focolari e lo invita alla Mariapoli: è la folgore. Prontamente si inserisce nella

branca dei volontari e vive con passione ogni realtà dell'Opera in Zona e nel mondo.

Nel '68, un infiammato discorso di Chiara Lubich sulla nascente cittadella di Loppiano, gli fa ricordare il suo anelito di adolescente e d'accordo con la moglie Maria e i figli Barbara, Maras e Mite, decide, fidandosi solo della Provvidenza, di lasciare tutto per andare a costruire, con Tino e col fratello Matteo - che pure si trasferirà a Loppiano qualche anno più tardi - non una cattedrale, ma addirittura una città, la città sul monte, la città di Maria.

Per più di quarant'anni queste prime famiglie saranno il nucleo portante dell'edificazione concreta della Mariapoli di Loppiano e il crocevia di ogni realtà che sboccherà in essa: dalle scuole di formazione al Centro Ave, dalle band Gen Rosso e Gen Verde all'Azur, dalla Claritas alla Fantasy. Una vita intensa, quella di Luigi, costellata di snodi cruciali e scelte coraggiose, puntellata da

una fede adamantina e da un'adesione in-
scalfibile all'Ideale.

La notte del 21 gennaio, a 89 anni, si ad-
dormenta per risvegliarsi nella Vita che non
finisce, dove l'attende la giusta ricompensa.

«Il nonno ha realizzato i suoi sogni» commen-
tano i nipoti al suo funerale. E il sacerdote:«...
Luigi è nato in paradiso. Già da questa terra lo
era, e quindi è qui con noi, vivo».

Mauro Bracci

Emma Baldi

«*Io sono la vite voi i tralci*» (Gv 15,5)

Volontaria di Bergamo (Italia), ab-
bracciato il carisma dell'unità, Emma
- bravissima sarta - si mette subito a
servizio dell'Opera. Dà il suo prezioso
contributo anche al Centro Mariapoli di
Rocca di Papa (1968-71), poi, tornata in
Zona e ripreso il lavoro in proprio, inse-
gna la sua professione ad alcune volon-
tarie africane che ospita per vari periodi nella
sua casa. Mette gratuitamente a disposizione
la stanza più grande del suo *atelier* come sede per
le gen della sua città: la sua presenza amorevole
e discreta è per loro una testimonianza dell'es-
sere «famiglia» dell'Opera. Successivamente si
trasferisce a Reggio Emilia, alla Scuola di ballet-
to classico di Liliana Cosi dove, per 10 anni, si



occupa dei costumi, suppor-
tando con amore le allieve.

Una fedeltà a tutta pro-
va quella di Emma, una vita
spesa per costruire l'unità do-
vunque si trovi, certa di poter
contare su Gesù che vive in lei
e fiduciosa che: «Egli - scrive -
ci aiuterà ad essere coscienti,
coerenti, fedeli e forti come il
Papa e Chiara ci vogliono».

Ha 77 anni quando, il 1°
novembre 2017, accompagnata dalle volon-
tarie che le assicurano Gesù in mezzo tenendole
la mano, vola in Paradiso per ricongiungersi alla
mamma Agnese, anch'essa volontaria, al fratel-
lo Luigi, pure volontario, e a tutti della Mariapoli
celeste.

Letizia Mombelli Pasquali

d. Ramon Blas Batet

«*Ben radicati e fondati in lui*»(Col 2,7)

Il 22 marzo d. Ramon, sacerdote focola-
rino della Spagna (Tarragona) raggiunge la
Mariapoli celeste all'età di 84 anni.

Dal 1984 al 1986 si trasferisce nel Congo
come missionario *fidei donum* (presbiteri in-
viati per un periodo in terra di missione) della
sua diocesi, irradiando in questa terra d'Afri-
ca l'Ideale dell'unità. Ne sono testimonianza
le numerose relazioni di quegli anni inviate al
Centro sacerdotale con la descrizione detta-
gliata della sua vita secondo i sette aspetti.



In una di esse scrive:
«Oggi, venerdì santo,
voglio rinnovare la mia
consacrazione a Gesù
Abbandonato, chiave
dell'unità con Dio (an-
che quando non pos-
so fare delle preghiere
normali; questo l'ho
capito bene) e chiave
per l'unità con i fratelli,
soprattutto con quanti

non hanno un riferimento religioso».

Gesù è il fondamento del suo amore ap-
passionato per i prossimi, qualunque sia la loro

Margaret Nkeh Ngwango Ghogomu

«Gioisco nel fare la tua volontà» [cf Sal 40 (39),8]



Nata a Bambalang Ndop nel nordovest del Camerun, dopo la scuola primaria Margaret continua gli studi nella scuola Nostra Signora di Lourdes a Mankon Bamenda, dove incontra l'ideale dell'unità. Di professione insegnante, si impegna a portare la vita del Vangelo in famiglia, al lavoro e nella parrocchia, dove è catechista. Molti bambini ricevono il battesimo nella Chiesa cattolica grazie a lei; si dedica come madre anche a tanti altri, specialmente seminaristi e preti venuti lì per il lavoro pastorale. Forte il suo contributo per rendere stabile la Chiesa nel suo villaggio e far conoscere l'Ideale di Chiara Lubich alla sua gente.

Come volontaria dell'Opera si impegna particolarmente nell'aspetto del Giallo, dedicandosi alla preghiera e aiutando le altre volontarie a

origine, la loro cultura, la loro fede. Un focolarino della Spagna, subito dopo la sua morte, testimonia: «Lunedì scorso sono stato con lui alcune ore a Valls, dove abitava; era conscio da tre mesi che per seri problemi di salute poteva partire in qualsiasi momento. D. Ramon è stato per me e per tanti un grandissimo dono. Era pronto. Abbiamo un nuovo fratello nel cuore del Padre che unisce Cielo e terra». Scrive Ángel Bartol, anche lui spagnolo, ora delegato centrale dei Focolari: «Preghiamo con tanta gratitudine per questo sacerdote focolarino che ha raggiunto la Mariapoli celeste dopo una vita di santità».

d. Francisco T. Tomas Rodriguez

viverlo e a testimoniare. Sempre nell'amore e attenta ai bisogni degli altri, ha il sorriso anche quando la salute inizia a declinare. Ed è a questo punto che decide di donare la sua vita per la Chiesa e per il Movimento, come suo contributo per l'«Ut Omnes». Il 23 ottobre 2017, dopo una lunga malattia, conclude il suo Santo Viaggio, a 67 anni. Così la ricordano nella zona: «Mama, tu sei andata in Paradiso, ma rimangono le tue parole e le tue azioni, fonte di ispirazione per tutti noi».

Doroty Ngeh Kum

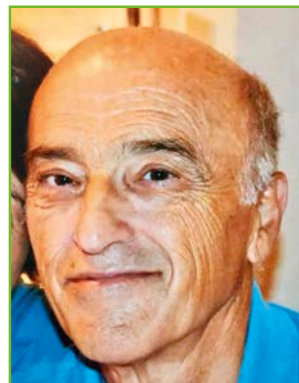
Luciano Parrozzani

Un «santo della porta accanto»

Volontario di Roma, fin da giovane Luciano si impegna in parrocchia aderendo all'Azione Cattolica insieme a Sergio Mattarella, ora presidente della Repubblica Italiana, il quale, avvertito della sua morte - avvenuta il 26 aprile 2018, a 78 anni -, telefona alla famiglia dicendo che Luciano è stato sempre per lui una persona speciale, perché umile e trasparente ... con cui ha condiviso tanti momenti belli, di sport e di svago, ma anche tante attività formative.

Geometra presso il Ministero delle Finanze, sposato con Anna, hanno tre figli: Enzo, volato in Cielo ad appena tre mesi, Chiara e Valerio che affermano: «Un padre migliore non si può immaginare». In casa è soprannominato Mastro Geppetto per la sua abilità col legno e la pittura.

Nel 1984, assieme ad Anna conosce i Focolari e ben presto diventa un volontario, vocazione che vive con totalità, nell'ascolto e nell'accoglienza verso tutti senza mai giudicare. Assieme alla moglie



(focolarina sposata), seguono le famiglie e i fidanzati in parrocchia e coordinano le attività dei Focolari nel primo Municipio di Roma, con eventi che a volte arrivano a coinvolgere migliaia di persone.

Sette anni fa l'annuncio della malattia. Sostenuto dai famigliari e dagli amici del Movimento l'affronta con la forza della fede. Nel settembre scorso, quando tutto sembra superato, il male si ripresenta. Non è facile per Luciano accettare tale ricaduta ed entra in un profondo scoraggiamento. Mantiene però lo stile mariano che lo porta ad amare chi gli sta vicino senza lamentarsi. E nell'abbraccio a Gesù Abbandonato trova la pace che lo accompagnerà fino alla fine. Una focolarina testimonia: «L'essere di Luciano mi ha trasmesso concretezza, essenzialità, schiettezza e mi fa pensare ad uno di quei "santi della porta accanto" di cui parla papa Francesco».

Marco Massarelli

d. Matteo Scapino

La grazia suprema della sua vita

Sacerdote focolarino di Asti, zonetta di Torino (Italia), è partito per la Mariapoli celeste il 20 marzo a 93 anni. Già direttore del Seminario e poi per quasi 50 anni parroco della cattedrale, quest'anno avrebbe celebrato il 70° anniversario della sua ordinazione sacerdotale.

Così scriveva a d. Foresi, allora vicepresidente dell'Opera, al termine della scuola sacerdotale di Frascati frequentata dall'ottobre 1974 al

marzo 1975: «Sono lieto che la scuola mi abbia confermato e fortemente potenziato l'amore all'Opera di Maria e la volontà di vivere come sacerdote della quarta strada. Sono sicuro che



questa è la grazia suprema della mia vita, con la chiamata battesimale».

La Parola di vita: «Beati i poveri di spirito, perché di essi è il regno dei cieli» (Mt 5,3) che Chiara Lubich gli aveva suggerito era per lui «un costante richiamo a Gesù Abbandonato e a Maria Desolata, maestri dell'unità», per rimettersi sempre in Dio e nell'unità con i fratelli.

d. Domenico Busso

Camilla Zanzucchi Bigliardi

«Rendete piena la mia gioia, con l'unione dei vostri spiriti, con la stessa carità» (Fil 2,2)



Nata in una bella e numerosa famiglia di Parma (Italia), anche per la giovane Camilla non mancano le prove: la morte di due fratellini, la lunga malattia della mamma, gli anni della guerra, che le impediscono di terminare gli esami e di laurearsi in lingue.

Dal matrimonio con Marino nascono due gemelline: Cristina e Lia e poi Vincenzo. L'amore che Camilla riversa attorno a sé trova radice nella spiritualità dell'unità che il fratello Danilo, uno dei primi focolarini sposati, le aveva fatto conoscere. Con particolare dedizione si prende cura della suocera, del fratello Achille, e di papà Pierino nel suo ultimo tratto di vita. L'ideale dell'unità, dice: «ci trasforma in creature nuove, soprattutto per la presenza di Gesù in mezzo a noi». Camilla è una volontaria dotata di grande generosità; mette a disposizione degli altri tutto quanto può, senza mai venire meno ai doveri verso la famiglia. Pensando agli anziani della parrocchia fa realizzare a sue spese uno scivolo per farli entrare in chiesa agevolmente.

Dal 2000 inizia un periodo particolarmente segnato da sofferenze: la morte del marito, quella del marito della figlia Lia (focolarina

sposata), la morte prematura di Cristina, col conseguente prendersi cura del genero e dei nipoti. Tappe vissute con lo sguardo fisso su Gesù Abbandonato e Maria Desolata che la conducono sempre più dentro le realtà divine. Gli ultimi anni sono caratterizzati da limiti fisici e dalla solitudine, che Camilla riempie di Dio, costruendo rapporti profondi anche con chi la assiste. Il 26 dicembre 2017, a 94 anni, va gioiosamente all'incontro con Dio, per cui si è preparata durante tutta la sua lunga vita.

Daniela Nicolini Palmieri



Giulio Milesi

Silenzioso, ma attivo e concreto

Con la moglie Valentina, focolarina sposata, Giulio – impegnato di Famiglie Nuove della

Lombardia - forma una famiglia in cui l'amore, visibile e concreto, si estende ai quattro figli e nipoti introducendoli ad uno stile di vita sobrio e responsabile. È sempre attento e premuroso verso tutti, condividendo quanto può disporre e raccogliere per aiutare chi è in difficoltà.

La sua partecipazione ai Focolari risale a più di cinquant'anni fa, come membro silenzioso ma attivo e concreto, instancabile fino all'ultimo. Ad ogni Natale, per più di vent'anni sostiene i gen4 nel preparare migliaia di statuine di Gesù Bambino per l'operazione «hanno soggiato Gesù».

Il 26 ottobre 2017, all'età di 85 anni, Giulio parte improvvisamente per la Mariapoli celeste. Il suo funerale, cui partecipa anche tanta gente del quartiere, è un forte momento di ringraziamento che fa dire al parroco: «È una Pasqua!».

segreteria Famiglie Nuove di Milano

Maria Angela Gasparini Agostini

Un «sì» eroico alla volontà di Dio

Solare, positiva, accogliente: così è Maria Angela, volontaria del Veneto (Italia), insegnante di inglese, sorella di Annalisa, focolarina a Verona. Papà Gino, pure lui volontario, trasmette alle figlie quella spiritualità dell'unità che illumina la sua vita, e Maria Angela diventa una delle prime gen di Treviso. Sempre in donazione, protesa ad amare con una sensibilità speciale verso i piccoli, con alcune ragazze fonda la band «Gen Sorgente» annunciando il Vangelo con la sua bellissima voce e la chitarra.



Col marito Eugenio condivide la passione per la montagna e il rispetto della natura, vista come mezzo per approfondire il rapporto con Dio. La sua vita si dipana tra l'amore per Dio e l'amore al prossimo, ma è soprattutto nella malattia, presentatasi 18 anni fa, che ripete il suo «sì» eroico alla volontà di Dio, accettandola e offrendo tutto fino alla fine. Continua a partecipare agli incontri del Movimento portando il suo contributo di costruttrice di unità. E quando le forze non glielo consentono, offre e vive per quanti avrebbe incontrato. Alcuni mesi fa, il male si ripresenta in forma veloce e aggressiva, con dolori così forti da rendere necessario il ricovero ospedaliero. La sua capacità di amare edifica famigliari, amici e il personale sanitario.

Quando si accorge che le sue risorse fisiche vengono meno, recita ad alta voce tutte le preghiere, temendo di non riuscire più a dirle, come difatti avverrà. Per altri 70

giorni il cuore continua a battere, forse per dare il tempo ai suoi cari di prepararsi al distacco. Il 9 maggio, a 64 anni, vola dritta in Cielo, a conclusione di un cammino terreno guidato dalla Parola che Chiara Lubich le aveva suggerito: «Ecco la strada, camminate in essa per non deviare né a destra né a sinistra» (cf. Is 30,21)

Paola Rita Soccol

d. Sergio De Martin

Il mistero trinitario come stile di vita

Il 29 aprile d. Sergio, sacerdote del focolare di Belluno (Italia), ha celebrato il suo *dies natalis*. Aveva 80 anni. Assetato di spiritualità, aveva cercato in diverse esperienze la via

a lui più congeniale e quando, «casualmente», si è imbattuto nella spiritualità dell'unità ha compreso che quella sarebbe stata la «sua» via. «Pian piano – scrive – coglievo la realtà di Gesù presente tra due o tre riuniti nel suo nome, l'amore reciproco anche nelle piccole cose, il

vivere il mistero trinitario come stile di vita, in un rapporto profondo tra noi».

Nel 1993 riceve da Chiara Lubich la Parola di vita: «Ecco, lo faccio nuove tutte le cose» (Ap 21,5); «Questa parola – scrive d. Sergio – è diventata il tronco da cui spuntano i rami delle altre parole».

Uomo del dialogo, a servizio di tutti, la sua ultima sede come parroco è Lorenzago di Cadore, località turistica che ha visto più volte s. Giovanni Paolo II trascorrere le vacanze estive. In quella chiesa è celebrato il suo funerale.

d. Luigi de Rocco

Christa Gehrman

*Dallo splendore del volto
traspare il suo «sì»*

Cresciuta in Turingia (Germania centrale) in una famiglia ben radicata nella Chiesa cattolica, a 15 anni Christa perde la fede, per ritrovarla a 17, unitamente ad un forte desiderio di condurre molte persone a Dio. Poco dopo incontra Manfred che diventerà suo marito e che anni dopo, grazie a lei, troverà la fede.



Nel frattempo Christa conosce i Focolari, nella cui spiritualità trova nuovo slancio per portare l'amore di Dio nel mondo. Divenuta una volontaria, esprime la sua natura gioiosa e i suoi tanti talenti (suona il pianoforte e l'organo ed ha uno spiccato senso del bello) nella famiglia, nel lavoro, in parrocchia.

Dopo 15 giorni dalla morte del marito (2015), viene colpita da un *ictus* dal quale non si rimette completamente. La comunicazione diventa difficile, l'autonomia viene meno, e deve andare in un complesso residenziale a Lipsia. Le volontarie del suo nucleo l'aiutano a partecipare alla Messa quotidiana e alle attività del Movimento. Nonostante si trovi in un ambiente completamente estraneo, un luminoso sorriso testimonia il suo «sì» sempre nuovo alla volontà di Dio. La salute si deteriora rapidamente e viene trasferita in una casa di riposo a Berlino dove la figlia l'assiste con amore fino alla fine.

Christa lascia questo mondo il 18 novembre 2017 all'età di 74 anni.

Marion Stransky

Luigi Cuomo

Serviva il prossimo con solarità

A 17 anni Luigi (impiegato postale della Campania, Italia) partecipa alla sua prima Mariapoli, dove impara ad amare per primo e a servire, con la solarità del suo sorriso, Gesù in ogni fratello. E se sbaglia, si affida alla misericordia di Dio e ricomincia. Con Silvana, sua sposa, si promettono di non far mai mancare Gesù in mezzo nella loro famiglia che verrà arricchita da tre figli. Impegnato di Famiglie Nuove, con la moglie porta avanti per 25 anni i corsi prematrimoniali della parrocchia, attivi anche nelle iniziative della Diocesi.



Due anni fa l'annuncio della malattia, che Luigi accoglie con positività dicendo subito il suo sì. Il percorso non è facile. Ma grazie al sostegno concreto e alle preghiere di tanti, riesce a superare un momento di buio e a riaccendere il suo rapporto con Dio. Affronta i tre interventi chirurgici nella certezza di avere la Mamma celeste vicino. E ogni volta che torna lo sconforto, il dire a Gesù, pur nelle lacrime: «Ti voglio bene», gli permette di ritrovare la pace interiore. Prima di entrare in coma recita con Silvana la sua ultima *Ave Maria*. Il 4 ottobre 2017, a 66 anni, conclude il suo Santo Viaggio.

Miriam e Giovanni Lucchese

Federica Lazzati Lilliu

Perché il dolore diventi amore

Per Federica (nata a Varese, Italia), l'incontro con Michele, suo sposo, coincide con la conoscenza della spiritualità dell'unità che mettono alla base del loro matrimonio. Con gioia scopre che ogni perché della vita trova risposta in Gesù Abbandonato, e in Lui riesce a vedere oltre l'apparente non-senso delle vicende umane. Stabilitisi in Sardegna, Federica si inserisce nel Movimento Famiglie Nuove come impegnata.

Nel 2015 la comparsa della malattia che, nonostante le cure, avanza inesorabilmente. Federica accoglie tutto mettendosi nella volontà di Dio, sempre attenta a incoraggiare le persone che incontra e che lottano contro la stessa malattia. Mai fa pesare ai famigliari il suo soffrire e trasmette serenità a tutti. «Il dolore - ripete spesso - se accettato, se riusciamo a dargli un senso diventa amore». E il senso che lei vi trova è offrirlo per le persone che si dichiarano senza Dio. A chi le



domanda qualcosa sulla sua sofferenza risponde: «Oggi sto bene». Con il «filo d'oro» dell'Ideale di Chiara continua a tessere la sua vita per completare il disegno che Dio ha pensato per lei. La sera precedente la sua «partenza» assicura di portare nel seno del Padre il Movimento Famiglie Nuove. Il 12 novembre, a 70 anni, nel lasciare questo mondo può dire: «Tutto è compiuto».

*Rosanna e Daniele Siddi,
con Michele Lilliu*

Camilo Antonio Saavedra

Un uomo libero

Camilo è uno dei primi volontari di Armenia (Colombia). A soli 24 anni rimane vedovo con due bambini e dopo otto anni si risposa con Zulmery dalla quale avrà altri quattro figli



Di professione commerciante e produttore di calzature, il suo incontro col Movimento risale al 1980. La spiritualità dell'unità, fa vivere l'uomo nuovo che è in lui, spiritualmente libero e amorevole. È di poche parole, ma grande è la sua ricchezza interiore. Vive la vocazione di volontario con radicalità, specialmente negli aspetti concreti. Il nucleo è la sua grande passione per vivere con i fratelli il clima di Paradiso e portarlo poi in famiglia, al lavoro, nella società. I clienti e dipendenti sono per lui persone da servire.

Da sette anni una malattia degenerativa lo costringe a letto: una «crocifissione» che gli dà di immedesimarsi in Gesù Abbandonato. Gradualmente perde la capacità di parlare e di riconoscere, ma in alcuni brevissimi momenti ricorda la gioia di quando si facevano gli incontri presso il suo letto con la meditazione e la recita del Rosario. Il 12 marzo, a 77 anni, va all'Incontro con Dio, lasciando l'eredità di una vita interamente spesa nel suo amore.

I volontari di Armenia

Pina Aloj Bedetti

I tanti modi per amare Gesù nel fratello

Di professione infermiera, Pina è un'impegnata del Movimento Parrocchiale. Col marito Valeriano, che diventerà diacono permanente, e i loro due figli, si trasferisce dal Veneto in Piemonte, dove, nel 1970, accompagnati dal parroco, partecipano al funerale della giovane Maria Orsola Bussone, ora serva di Dio. Colpiti dall'atmosfera di festa decidono che nell'età della pensione si trasferiranno a Vallo. È ciò che avviene nel 1982. Scrivono: «Ci inseriamo nella nostra nuova comunità parrocchiale, con il desiderio che la condivisione dei beni materiali e spirituali ci aiuti a vivere una vera comunione e apertura verso il prossimo».

Da subito la loro casa è aperta all'accoglienza: un Vescovo brasiliano per alcuni mesi, per alcuni anni un giovane in difficoltà, e per ben 14 anni un sacerdote anziano della diocesi. Nel 1999 si trasferiscono al Centro parrocchiale «Maria Orsola» per accogliere i gruppi che dall'Italia e dall'estero vengono per conoscere più da vicino l'esperienza della giovane venerabile.

Pina è soprattutto impegnata nel servizio in cucina. «Far da mangiare – scrive – è uno dei tanti modi per amare Gesù nel fratello. Anche il



più piccolo gesto, se fatto per amore, può contribuire alla presenza di Gesù in mezzo e quindi alla diffusione del Regno di Dio».

Negli ultimi anni, per problemi di salute deve lasciare gli impegni concreti, ma serve la comunità pregando per tutti. All'età di 84 anni, il 19 febbraio parte per il Cielo.

segreteria Movimento Parrocchiale del Piemonte

Giacinto Lentini

Gesù Abbandonato mi ha sempre affascinato

Affetto dalla nascita da una malformazione congenita, Giacinto accetta serenamente questa sua condizione, con tutto ciò che ne deriva: il susseguirsi di ricoveri e di interventi chirurgici.

Di origini siciliane, nel 1978 si sposa con Anna, che lo renderà padre di Marco e Francesco, e per lavoro si trasferiscono a Varese. Dopo qualche anno conoscono la spiritualità dell'unità e iniziano un cammino in Famiglie Nuove. La fede in Dio Amore consolida ancor





Patrizia Cannillo De Robertis

«La morte è solo
un passaggio»

Nata a Corato, in Puglia, Patrizia comunica con gioia le sue esperienze di Vangelo vissuto, sia alle famiglie con

le quali è collegata, sia a chiunque incontri. È questo uno dei suoi tanti modi di evangelizzare, attuando il suo essere un' impegnata di Famiglie Nuove. Nella grave malattia, che accetta in un abbraccio incondizionato a Gesù Abbandonato, è teneramente accompagnata dal marito, Leonardo. Poco prima di «partire», rivolgendosi a lui dice: «La morte non è niente, è solo un passaggio nella stanza accanto. Quello che siamo ora l'uno per l'altro lo saremo ancora».

Patrizia vola serenamente in Cielo il 6 gennaio, a soli 54 anni.

Susy e Bartolo De Toma

più l'accettazione della sua malattia; svolge il suo lavoro di postino come una missione, pronto all'ascolto e alle necessità di chi incontra. Come impegnato di Famiglie Nuove ne sostiene le iniziative e ne porta lo spirito in parrocchia.

Nel 2012, dopo un incidente stradale, il suo stato di salute si aggrava, ma Giacinto continua a vivere ogni difficoltà, senza mai far pesare i suoi problemi, sempre sorridente e disponibile. Nell'ottobre 2016 la scoperta di una ancor più grave malattia; Giacinto, insieme ad Anna, sostenuti dalle preghiere e dalla vicinanza di tante famiglie dell'Opera, si abbandona all'Amore di Dio. Un giorno confida alla moglie: «Gesù Abbandonato mi ha sempre affascinato».

Il 30 dicembre 2017, dopo aver ricevuto con gioia la visita del parroco che gli dà l'unzione degli infermi, si spegne serenamente a 64 anni, accompagnato con amore da Anna e dai figli.

segreteria Famiglie Nuove di Milano

Elena Candelori Spera

Venite a me, voi tutti che siete stanchi e oppressi e io vi darò ristoro" (Mt 11,28)

Proprio quando sembrava che Dio fosse assente dalla sua vita, Elena, di Roma, conosce il carisma dell'unità. La sua terza figlia, nata da poco, ha la sindrome di Down ma nonostante questo grande dolore il sole torna a splendere nella sua vita e diventa una volontaria.

Il dolore bussava nuovamente alla sua porta con la morte prematura del marito. Elena lascia il suo lavoro di responsabile della segreteria del vice sindaco per dedicarsi ai figli, accettando un impiego di minore prestigio ma vicino casa. Il da fare è tanto,

ma lei non manca di collaborare nella segreteria di Umanità Nuova nel mondo della giustizia e poi della politica e di occuparsi di minori, immigrazione, handicap. Per anni è responsabile di nucleo.

Negli ultimi mesi la salute le viene meno ed è tentata a lasciarsi andare. Le volontarie le sono accanto aiutandola con amore concreto. Ad un certo punto Elena sente di non opporre più resistenza a Dio e ridice il suo «sì» all'Amore. E pur nell'aggravarsi della malattia continua a partecipare agli incontri perché «il nucleo non va in vacanza». Dopo il 2 agosto entra in ospedale dove si alternano a visitarla focolarine, volontarie, focolarini sacerdoti, e altri dell'Opera. Toccante l'ultimo saluto alla figlia ammalata, da lei accudita per 56 anni con un amore senza misura.

Il 31 agosto 2017, a 89 anni, Elena vola in Cielo. Al funerale il parroco testimonia:



«La bellezza di Elena era anche l'auto-ironia, e chi sorride nella vita, sorride per sempre. Ha fatto conoscere l'Ideale di Chiara Lubich a molte persone e si impegnava per diffondere *Città Nuova*: ora con gratitudine la consegniamo al Padre».

Emmaus Voce scrive: «Sentitemi vicina insieme alla grande famiglia del Focolare! Ho pregato per la mamma appena ho saputo che era grave e poi per il suo incontro con Dio. Vi lascia il calore del suo amore e sono certa che continuerà ad accompagnarvi nei passi della vita».

Anna Maria Massaro Nuzzo



Elena Requejo Negro

Ha posto piena fiducia in Dio

Volontaria delle Isole Canarie (Spagna), Elena è sposata con Luis, anch'egli volontario. Donna semplice ed affettuosa, è innamorata di Dio, nel quale pone fiducia piena. Sempre disposta ad aiutare, con il suo sorriso trasmette pace e serenità a tutti. Insieme a Luis suscita e porta avanti Famiglie Nuove nella Gran Canaria.

La sua vita è costellata da grandi dolori, ma nell'amore a Gesù Abbandonato trova forza e consolazione anche per rasserenare gli altri. Ad Elena è già diagnosticato l'Alzheimer quando Luis parte per il Cielo. Entra così in un residence vicino alla casa della sua unica figlia Maria Elena che la segue con amore. Anche le volontarie accompagnano il suo percorso verso Dio, conclusosi il 9 giugno 2017, a 87 anni.

Ana Guerrero

Marcucci Linda

Una fede profonda e un cuore generoso



Volontaria del centro Italia, professoressa di matematica al liceo, Linda è una persona discreta, mite, con una fede profonda e un cuore grande e generoso. Si dedica con amore agli alunni e dopo la morte della mamma si prende cura del papà rimanendo a vivere con lui. Attiva in parrocchia, prepara i ragazzi alla prima comunione. Solerte nel distribuire la *Parola di vita*, fa conoscere a molti l'Ideale dell'unità. Dopo la morte del papà, la badante che lo aveva assistito continua a rimanere nella casa con Linda che se ne prende cura fino alla fine con amore di figlia.

La pensiamo in cielo con Maria Assunta, protettrice dei volontari - è morta il 15 agosto 2017 nel giorno della sua festa, all'età di 82 anni -. Al suo funerale un'alunna la ringrazia pubblicamente per averle fatto fare l'esperienza della Mariapolis.

Elena Palladini Galassi

Our relatives

The following passed on to the Next Life: **Francesca, mother of Elena**, focolarina in Rome, and of **Ettore Coppola**, focolarino in Naples; **Juan**, father of **Quique Enrique Guerrero**, focolarino in the Little Town Castello Esteriore (Spain); **Anna**, sister of **Andrea Belgiovine**, focolarino in the Roman Mariapolis; **Alzira, mother of Adilson Contò**, focolarino in the Mariapolis Ginetta (Brazil); **Francesco, brother of Lucia Abignente**, and **Elenice, sister of Elenira (Lena) Rodrigues Da Silva**, focolarine in the Roman Mariapolis; **Luigi, father of Laura Eufemia**, married focolarina of the zone Lazio north; **Maria Angela, sister of Anna Lisa Gasparini**, focolarina in Udine; **Michele, father of Francesca Operti**, focolarina in Belfast (Ireland); **David, brother of Godlove Ngalim**, focolarino in the Little Town Vittoria (Ivory Coast); **Anna Maria, mother of Federico Viara**, focolarino in Bologna; **Mario brother of Vale e Angelella Ronchetti**.

Notiziario Mariapoli

Sixty years... and it doesn't show

To change so as to grow together. This is how we could probably describe the dynamics of *Mariapoli*, whose readers are both the recipients and protagonists of these «pages of life» written wherever the charisma of unity is in action

«It will be called *Mariapoli!*». It was in 1958 when Chiara gave it its name and she described its features: «It will contain "family news" since every movement or work of the Church is like a family, with its own activities and affairs, special interests, specific goals, which are shared among family members». It immediately brought «the indestructible enchantment of an experience of the Gospel lived together, among the peaks of the Dolomites, in the light of the "magna charta" of the Christian, unity»¹. It was born as a fruit of that life, as a letter that linked all the mariapolites with updates of news; it developed through the years, changing its title and typographical format, according to the demands of the times. Already in '56 a very humble newsletter was published using using an alcohol printer every two days called: «48 hours of unity».

In 1982 the *Mariapoli* Newsletter, after being called *News Flash*, *Collegamento*, took back its original name. On that occasion, Chiara would say: «today is an important day because something new in the Movement is born».

In 1998 a new format, coloured photos, the number of pages are doubled. In answer to the needs of the times that everyone in the Movement, whatever branch they belong to, should know and receive the news of the whole Movement: «In all the points of the earth we must feel ourselves "one", which means that we represent the whole Work of Mary there: to have in us the entire Movement, because only in this way we are strong, formidable everywhere»².

We come to 2012. Novelty in continuity: more dynamic contents and we arrived *online*, in five and more languages. The digital version gives the possibility, among other things, to participate in real time in the life of the Movement (Assembly, trips of the President, family moments).

And today? *Mariapoli*... will continue to «change»! In its purpose

and the attention and haste to reach all those who are of the «family», digital natives or not. This is to respond to that creative faithfulness to which the Pope encourages us.

prepared by the editorial board



1 Editorial Mariapoli 1/84

2 From 1° e 2° Vademecum dof the violet

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Ai sensi del D. lgs. N. 196/2003, per la tutela dei dati personali, comunichiamo che gli indirizzi dei nominativi a cui viene inviato Mariapoli fanno parte dell'archivio del Notiziario Mariapoli, gestito da PAFOM, esclusivamente per la finalità dell'invio di tale periodico. I dati possono essere comunicati a terzi incaricati per la spedizione.

