

# MARIAPOLIS

Newsletter "Mariapoli" n.2 - May 2023



**Hello everyone,**

Here is the second of the four newsletters planned for this year, which we hope will foster knowledge and sharing among all of us.

*If you did not receive the first one, you can find it at [this link](#)*

These newsletters are dedicated to the integral sustainability of the Focolare Movement as well as the challenges we face. This time, we will focus on the communion of goods, both personal and communitarian, according to the Focolare spirituality.

We will also take stock of the progress of the work that is being taken ahead on the Economic Vision of the Movement (in Italian VEO), in particular on what is being done for the Updating and Simplification of the International Centre of the Focolare Movement (in Italian ASC).

You will receive the next newsletter in September, but we look forward to seeing you all at the Link up, on Saturday 10th June at 14.00 (Rome time).

There will be a 'special' report on the journey that Margaret Karam and Jesús Morán, President and Co-President, are currently making to Asia and Oceania. They return on 25th May.

Enjoy the newsletter and see you soon!

*Stefania Tanesini*

## *The communion of goods today*

The different ways in which the communion of goods is implemented today; how the funds which are given freely by those who live the spirituality of unity, are invested; the current economic situation of the Movement and the challenge of sustainability in a continually evolving society. These are some of the issues that Geneviève Sanze and Ruperto Battiston talk about in this interview. At the International Centre they are the councillors for the aspect concerning the "Communion of goods and work".





As many of you already know, in 2022 the Movement published its first “Communion in Action Balance Sheet”. It is available in five languages to read and download on the website [www.focolare.org](http://www.focolare.org)  
*Communion in Action - a lifestyle of sharing*



## At the roots of our way of acting

The sharing and management of goods, work and all that is linked to the economic-financial perspectives, is one of the various aspects which express the life of those who choose to adhere to the spirituality of unity.

Reflecting on the complexity and fragmentation to which the lives of many people today are subjected, Chiara Lubich realised that Gospel love must be put into practice so that every aspect of life can be transformed.





## *In the early days of the Movement*

The communion of goods, chosen and practised in complete freedom, is one of the characteristics of the Focolare communities, based on the way the first Christian communities lived.

But how did it begin? Giosi Guella, who was one of the first focolarine with Chiara Lubich from the very beginning of the movement, tells us about some of the events related to this. Later on, Chiara entrusted her with the aspect of the communion of goods and work, known as the 'Red', in the whole Movement.



Video



PDF

## *Opening the hands of God*

In July 2002, Chiara Lubich wrote that our giving opens the hands of God who, in his Providence, steps in, in a practical way and enables us to meet the needs of others. Her words were a commentary on the Gospel phrase "To the one who has will be given and will be in abundance, and from the one who does not have will be taken away even what he has" (Mt 13:12)".

This 'giving' can be experienced starting from the smallest choices of everyday life, and then discovering, as these testimonies from Angola, Vietnam and Italy illustrate, that nothing is small, precisely because it is filled with love, and so it can open God's hands and bear unexpected fruit.



## *From the focolare of Angola*



## *Win from Vietnam*



## *Silvia and Carlo from Italy*



## **The Economy of Communion**

**Anouk Grevin** and **Isaías Hernando**, coordinators of the Economy of Communion (EoC) have written to us: "In the 30 years of its existence, the EoC has certainly contributed to building a more just, humane, inclusive and sustainable economy. Today we face enormous challenges globally, including inequality, environmental crises, and unsustainable lifestyles.

The category of communion is still too absent from life and from economic thought. The Economy of Communion wants to focus on people living in situations of poverty, on the vision of business as a common good, where the wealth that is created is shared, and the development of economic paradigms that are alternative to the dominant vision of today. EoC wants to establish processes of change in dialogue with others. All of this arises from charismatic roots that are fully relevant in generating new responses to today's challenges".



## **ASC - Work in progress**

In the last Newsletter we spoke about the Economic Vision of the Movement (VEO) and presented the working group known as the "VEO Steering Committee".

This time we want to present the members of the group, who are involved in the task of **Updating and Simplification of the International Centre of the Focolare Movement (ASC)**.



**Alejandra Alvarez**  
Focolarina, Colombia,  
Centro Foco. Expert in  
computer science.



**Flavio Rovere**  
Focolarino, Brazil  
Responsible for  
the Section of  
the focolarini.



**Giancarlo Crisanti**  
Married focolarino, Italy  
Administrator of the Focolare Movement.  
Responsible for the ASC Commission.



**Vicki Lahoz**  
Married focolarina, Philippines.  
New Families Centre.  
Audit analyst and controller  
of business processes.



**Roberto Mosca**  
Married focolarino, Italy  
Gen 2 Centre  
Expert in Personnel Management.



**Stefania Bustaggi**  
Focolarina, Italy. Secretary of the Section  
of the focolarine, formerly on the Commission  
for the functioning of the  
International Centre.

# The ASC Commission

Updating and Simplifying  
of the International Centre



**Markus Ressler**  
Married focolarino, Austria.  
Consultant with expertise  
in business reorganisation.



**Nicoletta Bernasconi**  
Focolarina, Italy.  
Centre for interreligious dialogue.

**Anabel Abascal**  
Focolarina, Mexico.  
Coordinator for the Indigo  
and the Yellow at the  
International Centre.

**Adriana Avellaneda**  
Focolarina, Colombia.  
Centro Santa Chiara, Audiovisual Centre.



**Enrico Donzelli**  
Focolarino, Italy.  
Delegate for North America.  
Management and business  
administration consultant.



**Gabriela Melo**  
Focolarina, Portugal.  
Works for the Indigo  
at the International  
Centre.



**Ana Paula Panzarini**  
Focolarina, Brazil.  
Gen 3 Centre.



The VEO Steering Committee gave a three-year mandate to this team to work on simplifying the structure of the International Centre and the various services that are part of it, so as to slim it down and make it more effective in the light of the changing needs of the Movement and of society today. When we refer to the International Centre, we mean many different entities: the Centre of the Movement and the General Council; the centres of the branches, the dialogue secretariats, the activities and services linked to the aspects.

In drawing up this plan, the ASC group is involving a wide range of people. After a preliminary collection of data on all the entities that make up the Centre, they held an initial series of workshops in February 2023 with representatives of the various "offices" involved, namely **the services linked to the various aspects, the secretariats of the dialogues, the centres of the New Generations, and the New Humanity NGO.**



In mid-March, a questionnaire was sent out to all employees of the International Centre and to a wide representation of people in the zones. A total of 1,100 replies were received, 270 of which were from groups; the estimate is that about 2,700 people took part in completing the questionnaire.

In April, the committee worked on analysing the results of the questionnaire and of the first workshops.

Characteristic of all the stages of the Commission's work has been listening to each other, respecting the different opinions and viewpoints that have emerged, paying attention to what the questionnaires have put into light, making an effort not to be biased but to understand everyone's reasoning,

discovering that within each statement there is a legitimate need that can be accommodated.



In a few weeks there will be a second series of workshops and then a document will be drawn up containing suggestions for a first draft of a new organisational structure. This document will be presented to the Presidency and the collegial bodies of the Movement (Centre of the Movement and the General Council), and they will begin their own phase of discernment.

## *Prossimi appuntamenti:*

- Saturday, 10th June, the **link up** at 2 p.m. (UTC+2)



Collegamento

- From 1st to 6th August the XXXVIII **World Youth Day** in Lisbon, Portugal



- From 7th to 9th August, also in Portugal, in Braga, the **meeting of a group of bishops** who are friends of the Focolare Movement.



And I am sure there will be many other events and meetings arranged in different places!

News and updates are available on the website and social channels of [focolare.org](http://focolare.org)



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