

PRAYER

Eternal Father, source of Love,
of every light and goodness, we give You thanks
for the charism of unity given to Chiara
and for the remarkable testimony of it
she gave to the Church and humanity,
remaining faithful to Jesus Forsaken.

Grant us, o Father, through the action of the Holy Spirit
and the living of the Word in the present moment,
the grace to contribute, following Chiara's example,
together with all people of good will,
to the fulfilment of Your Son's will:
"That they may all be one!"

We humbly pray to You:
allow us, Your children,
to live in mutual love and to love all
so as to delight in the presence of the Risen One
while in communion with Chiara and through her intercession,
we ask You, if it is Your will,
the grace ... (*the personal petition is expressed*)
through Jesus and for the glory of the Most Holy Trinity.
Amen.

With ecclesiastic approval
Cardinal João Braz de Aviz

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Chiara (Silvia) Lubich was born in Trent on January 22, 1920. The Focolare Movement (Work of Mary) began with her consecration to God on December 7, 1943. The light of the Gospel put into practice and the “*radicalism of love*”, characteristic of her witness, made her an “*apostle of dialogue*” in ecumenism and inter-faith dialogue, as well as dialogue with those of no religious affiliation.

This came about as a consequence of a special gift given by God and acknowledged as providential for our times: the charism of unity, which is centred on the prayer of Jesus to the Father “*That they may all be one*” (cf *Jn* 17:21) and on the understanding and total embrace of the mystery of love contained in Jesus’ cry of abandonment on the cross (cf *Mk* 15:34).

Through the daily acceptance of God’s gift and the journeying towards the fullness of Christian life and the perfection of charity, Chiara Lubich gave herself completely so that this way of holiness could be lived by many, in an ever more renewed determination to help all those that God had placed along her path to “*become saints together*”.

The concrete fruits and signs of this spiritual experience and life of sanctification that the Spirit worked in her were manifested throughout her life and at the moment of her death, which took place in Rocca di Papa on March 14, 2008. Tens of thousands of people viewed her as she lay in state, and participated in the funeral service celebrated in Rome. Such attendance further demonstrates and ensures the continuity of the impact that the charism of Chiara Lubich had, and still has, in the Church and in today’s culture.

Her mortal remains rest in the chapel of the Centre of the Focolare Movement in Rocca di Papa (Rome).

“*That they may all be one*” (*Jn* 17:21): We understood that our Movement had come to life to fulfil this page of the Gospel. That ‘all’ would be our field of action, and unity the reason for our being. The making of God’s dream our own linked us to Heaven; at the same time it immersed us totally in the history of humanity, in order to make known the path leading to universal brotherhood.” (12.09.2004)

Chiara Lubich