

### **Ottmaring Declaration**

The General Council of the Focolare Movement is at the Ecumenical Centre of Ottmaring on February 19-26, 2017 for its annual retreat. The days are being spent in communion, prayer, work and discussion on one of the main goals of the Movement; the unity of Christians.

Ever since Chiara Lubich began the ecumenical movement – precisely in Germany – it has been promoting a “dialogue of life” that has produced fruitful collaboration with more than 300 churches and ecclesial communities.

For more than 50 years this Focolare town has been committed along with the Vereinigung vom Gemeinsamenn Leben (Association of the Common Life), to give witness to the profound communion that joins all Christians in the one Body of Christ, beyond the divisions that continue to exist among churches.

The spirit of ecumenism is strong around Augsburg where, in 1999, the Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church signed a Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification. It was an important step, charged with meaning for overcoming the theological differences that still remain open. On this 500th anniversary of Luther’s Reform the meeting on last October 31st in Lund, Sweden between the Roman Catholic Church and the World Lutheran Federation, a Joint Document attested to the mutual trust and invited the respective communities to “grow even more in their communion that is rooted in Baptism” and to “witness together to the Gospel of Jesus Christ,” being faithful messengers “of God’s immense love for the human family.”

As a global movement with members from many Churches and sharing a living experience of the Christian people united in mutual love, we feel particularly called to the invitation expressed in that Declaration. We see the meeting in Lund as a true *kairos*, a sign from God for our times, which urges Christians to become more engaged so that Jesus’s testament, *that all may be one*, is fulfilled. We wish to enlist all our strength into supporting the Churches in their effort at reaching full and visible communion and serving the human family together.

We will do everything possible so that our activities, gatherings and initiatives support this open and fraternal attitude among Christians both on a local and international level. We continue to be involved in the communion among Movements and Christian Communities around the world, especially in the Together For Europe ecumenical network, entrusting the path of our different Churches to God so that our steps are hastened towards the common celebration in the one chalice.

Ottmaring, February 21, 2017

Maria Voce (President)

Jesús Morán (Co-president)