

CEREMONY FOR THE DAY OF THE RIGHTEOUS
at the Library of St Matthew of the Armenians - Perugia

Rocca di Papa, 6th March 2020

I send my cordial greetings to all those present at today's celebration in the *Garden of the Righteous* in Perugia, in particular to the civil authorities and those representing various associations.

Today, the *European Day of the Righteous*, we gratefully acknowledge those who bore witness to the inalienable values of the human person, such as their dignity, and freedom of worship and expression, promoting a sense of respect and responsibility among the new generations.

This commemoration, which is of significant historical value, also acquires a deep educational meaning. The Righteous are not only heroes of the past, but above all they stand out as examples. Today, too, they challenge all of us to hold fast to receptiveness and ongoing solidarity, shown through deeds whether large or small, and to take a courageous stand against violence, indifference, prejudice, and new forms of racism that are also present in our time.

It is an honour and a great joy for the entire Focolare Movement that, during the centenary of her birth, Chiara Lubich, our foundress, should be designated Righteous among the Righteous for her tireless commitment to building bridges of peace and promoting universal fellowship throughout the world. Furthermore, it represents a resounding call to pursue with greater passion the path she prophetically traced out in favour of dialogue and unity among peoples.

With heartfelt thanks, in shared ideals,



Maria Voce