

Greetings from around the world

General Assembly Diary 9/ 2 February 2021

After the first ten days, the Focolare General Assembly has reached a turning point. The election of the new President Margaret Karram, and the Holy See's confirmation today of the re-election of Co-President Jesús Morán, completes the first phase.

Tomorrow, in her first official duty, the new President will establish the number of General Counsellors to be elected by the Assembly. These cannot be less than 20, in line with a recent modification to the General Statutes of the Movement.

Today, as the Assembly continued working on the direction and lines of action for the next six years, greetings and congratulations to the newly elected president have been pouring in from around the world. Here are a few highlights:

"With great pleasure we heard of your election as new president of the Focolare Movement. [...] Being so expert in dialogue between cultures [...] your nomination will strengthen the witness of unity among cultures and religions. [...] In the cooperation of 'Together for Europe' we wish to be a trustworthy partner in contributing to a new culture of unity".

P. Heinrich Walter, Schoenstatt Movement

"Dear Margaret, [...] I wish to congratulate you, on behalf, also, of Andrea [Riccardi] and all the Community of Sant'Egidio on this important role. [...] We've met on various occasions already [...] particularly in our shared commitment for unity among movements and 'Together for Europe'. [...] Building bridges and links of fraternity is a real necessity for our world and a 'vocation' for which your own personal story, your provenance from a land of suffering and conflict, makes you particularly sensitive. [...] In this spirit of fraternity, we'll continue our friendship between the Focolare Movement and the Community of Sant'Egidio".

Marco Impagliazzo, President of the Community of Sant'Egidio

"The Federation of the Fellowship of Christians and Jews in Italy expresses our sincere best wishes for your new role. [...] We call to mind the light and colours of your cities: Haifa, Los Angeles and Jerusalem, and we hope to collaborate for the promotion of Jewish-Christian and inter-religious dialogue".

"With great pleasure, on behalf of the Union of Islamic Communities in Italy, I extend our hearty congratulations on your nomination as President of the Focolare Movement. On behalf of the

communities I represent, I renew our wish to collaborate always on the way of dialogue, of sharing, of encounter, in the hope of gathering fruits of peace."

Yassine Lafram, presidenteUCOII

"The Order of the Holy Sepulchre sends our best wishes to the newly-elected President of the Focolare Movement, Margaret Karram. [...] As a Catholic Arab of Haifa, you have always been intensely involved in the activities of inter-religious dialogue working for the culture of encounter in the Holy Land."

Before concluding this diary, we ask you, our dear readers, for your collaboration. Disappointingly, documents, photos and recordings of the General Assembly are already being shared on various platforms. Let us not forget that this Assembly is not a public event. Please help us to protect the reserved nature of our Assembly. Please don't join in the improper sharing of any content which has not been authorized by this office. Grazie! Thank you!

Focolare Communications Office