



movimento dei  
**focolari**



Communion in action: a lifestyle of sharing  
2021





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2021

Dedicated to Carlo Maria Gentile  
Focolarino,  
22.7.1955 - 26.6.2022



A dear friend and brother,  
who worked with passion and dedication on this Report  
Dear friends and everyone in the Focolare Movement,

As I turn the pages of this document, "Communion in Action: a Lifestyle of Sharing 2021", which is a first step in a broader sharing of the economy of the Movement, joy and gratitude spring up in my heart for what God is doing and for the fruits that the life and work of so many have generated and continue to generate.

It is with these sentiments, that I wish to offer it to you all, so that it can also become an instrument of dialogue, to build bridges and to spread a culture and practice of fraternity.

It is my heartfelt wish that we can learn to live this "communion", this ever more complete sharing, in a relationship of reciprocity that makes us sisters and brothers and fosters an authentic family in which diversity enriches us and binds us in a harmonious unity.

It is the love between us that performs this miracle.

We hope that these pages mark the beginning of an ever greater sharing for all of us, so that we can be credible seeds of hope that help renew the world with love.

And with these words of **Chiara Lubich**, I would like to dream with you.

Margaret Karram  
President of the Focolare Movement

## I have a dream

*"(...) When I observe what the Holy Spirit has done with us and with so many other spiritual and social 'enterprises' operating in the Church today, I cannot but hope that He will still and always act with such generosity and magnanimity.*

*And this not only for works that will be born from his love, but for the development of already existing ones such as ours.*

*And in the meantime, I dream of an ethos for our Church that is more in keeping with her being the Bride of Christ; a Church that manifests herself to the world as more beautiful, more holy, more charismatic, more conformed to the model of Mary, therefore Marian, more dynamic, more familiar, more intimately configured to Christ her Spouse. I dream of her as a beacon of humanity. And I dream of a holiness of the people, never seen before.*

*I dream that that, a lived fraternity, ever more present on this earth in the consciousness of millions of people, will become tomorrow, with the year 2000, a general, universal reality.*

*I dream of a retreat from wars, strife, hunger, and the thousand evils of the world.*

*I dream of an ever-intensifying dialogue of love between the Churches so that the composition of the one Church is now near.*

*I dream of the deepening of a living and active dialogue between people of the most diverse religions bound together by love, the 'golden rule' found in all their holy books.*

*I dream of a mutual rapprochement and enrichment between all the cultures in the world, so that they give rise to a world culture that brings to the fore those values that have always been the true wealth of individual peoples, and that these become global wisdom.*

*I dream that the Holy Spirit will continue to inundate the Churches and strengthen the 'seeds of the Word' beyond them, so that the world will be invaded by the constant newness of light, of life, of works that only He knows how to bring about. So that more and more men and women may set out on straight paths, converging to their Creator, disposing heart and soul to His service.*

*I dream of gospel-based relationships not only between individuals, but between groups, movements, religious and secular associations; between peoples, between states, so that one finds it logical to love another's homeland as one's own. It is logical to strive for a universal communion of goods: at least as a point of arrival.*

*I dream of a world united in the variety of peoples who all recognise themselves within changes of being under one authority.*

*I therefore already dream of an anticipation of new heavens and new lands in as much as possible here on earth (...)."*

Interview with Chiara Lubich for 'Neue Stadt', 7.12.1999

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# WHY A REPORT?

## INTRODUCTION AND NOTE ON METHODOLOGY

### Why have a report?

This is the first time the Focolare Movement has published this kind of report. And it is striking that it has done this in these years in which, because of the pandemic, so many activities have been reduced, cancelled or have become virtual events.

And yet, precisely in this time of crisis and uncertainty, of bewilderment at the exacerbation of certain conflicts and the igniting of new ones, a popular feeling of fraternity and solidarity has emerged. The certainty that the greater and more common the problems are, the clearer it is that only together can solutions for positive changes be found.

This is why a document like this helps us to highlight what we are already doing, to underline what already unites us. At the same time it allows us to reflect together on how we are moving in the direction of a united world and how we can commit ourselves even more.

In this historical, social and cultural context and in these troubled times we have experienced how the charism of unity, typical of the Focolare Movement, can help us to live and to travel together towards the realisation of unity and fraternity.

The lifestyle proposed by our Movement is based on the attempt to put into practice the love that has its roots in the Gospel. A love that, as the Focolare founder Chiara Lubich (1920-2008) said, requires loving everyone, being the first to love, walking in the shoes of the other, loving our enemies and spreading this love until it becomes reciprocal, becomes communion.

The aim of this document is therefore to highlight the effects of this communion, of what we have and what we are, in a voluntary and free sharing. At the same time, as President Margaret Karram said in her introductory words, it aims to be an instrument of dialogue and communion.

This is why we have chosen a specific name: a "Communion In Action, A Lifestyle of Sharing". This "Report" can be a means to make known the main actions and interventions of the Focolare Movement in the world.

We will try to give an account of the life of the period 2020-2021, starting from the impulse that drives the commitment of the Focolare Move-



ment: evangelical love, which has the capacity to transform, which gives rise to reciprocity and which draws together and enables people and communities.

The resulting spirit of universal fraternity manifests itself both as a communion of *surplus* and of needs. This is why a free, regular, local and worldwide communion of goods is implemented among all the members of the Movement, which serves to cover the needs of those in poverty and to support the Movement's activities throughout the world.

Underlying this communion is always a personal relationship with God, which leads both individuals and the entire Movement to consider themselves mere stewards of their goods and to trustingly abandon themselves to the interventions of God's Providence.

On a social and cultural level, this communion aims to be the protagonist of a new culture: the culture of giving.

It is also thanks to this practical communion, that the activities and achievements described in this report are supported, as are all the initiatives of the Focolare Movement.

This Report does certainly not include everything that is done under the name of the Focolare Movement.

It can only open a glimpse into the activities and achievements of the many people around the world who adhere to it.

It is a summary of the activities carried out in the years 2020-2021 and especially those which are connected to the International Centre.

## What it contains

The index of this document gives an overview of how the content is structured: several distinct aspects emerge, because diversity is a typical characteristic of evangelical love. In order to offer a key to its interpretation, we wish to emphasise the transversality and unity of the expressions of life that underlie each activity.

# THE FOCOLARE MOVEMENT

The Focolare Movement is a large and diverse family, a 'people born from the Gospel', as Chiara Lubich, defined it. It has a single dream: to contribute to the realisation of a united world. This goal stems from the desire to contribute to the fulfilment of Jesus' prayer to the Father 'that they may all be one' (*Jn. 17:21*): a unity that is born in respect for and appreciation of diversity. To achieve this goal, Focolare aims to empower individuals and communities as key agents of change. It privileges dialogue, in a constant commitment to build bridges and relationships between individuals and entire peoples, in various cultural and religious spheres, in the protection of human beings and their dignity.

The unity and international coordination of the Movement is guaranteed by the following bodies:

- [the General Assembly](#)
- [the International Centre](#) of the Movement
- [the General Council](#)

The General Assembly has the task of electing the President (who according to the Statutes will always be a woman), the Co-President and the General Councillors of the Centre of the Movement, who remain in office for five years. It is also responsible for formulating guidelines, based on the requests of the communities of the Movement around the world.

The last General Assembly was held online from 24<sup>th</sup> January to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021. It was the third Assembly since the death of Chiara Lubich in 2008.

It was attended by 359 people from all over the world, from many cultures, generations, and vocations, religious and non-religious faiths, representing those who live the charism of the Focolare.

The following were elected: President Margaret Karram, Co-President Jesús Morán and the 22 Councillors of the Centre of the Movement (11 men and 11 women) which is the body that assists the President in the governance functions of the Movement.

The 3,000 plus proposals that arrived from all over the world on the topics to be dealt with in the Assembly indicate the energy of the large Focolare family, but also the awareness of the "change of epoch" taking place.

Over **2 million** adherents of all ages, cultures, beliefs, religions, Christian denominations, vocations, social conditions

**27** branches which are active in various civil and ecclesiastical fields

**16** geographical areas (zones)

Over **740** Focolare Centres

**2,000** (approx.) "nuclei" of 'Volunteers of God'

**2,000** (approx.) groups of young people, teenagers and children (gen)

**1,000** local communities

Over **1,000** development and human rights projects

**1 network** of people, communities and associations

Widespread in **182** countries

After the General Assembly, the Councillors representing the branches and activities of the Movement were appointed or confirmed by the President and form part of the General Council. Including the Centre of the Movement, there are currently 60 Council members (equal numbers of women and men).

This body has advisory and approving functions. Its main task is to maintain and increase the spirit of unity in and between all parts of the Movement.

# FUTURE COMMITMENTS

in the light of the 2021 General Assembly guidelines

In the light of the guidelines that emerged at the General Assembly of 2014 and that inspired the activities of these years, the 2021 General Assembly expressed the main principles that will guide the Focolare Movement's commitment in the coming years. In brief they are:

We want to take up our way of life again with new hope, as a "People born of the Gospel" living to help realise "That all may be one" (Jn. 17:21).

That is why, especially at this time in our history, we want to look at the world and commit ourselves to seek out those who suffer and those who are excluded, starting with those whom we have made suffer or have excluded ourselves, personally or as the Focolare Movement. To do this we want to:



## Listen to the cry of humanity

We want to respond to the 'cry' of Jesus Crucified and Forsaken that echoes today in all those who are silenced, suffer, are excluded and seek dignity.

*"Jesus crucified! He, who had experienced in Himself the separation of humanity from God and from each other and had felt distanced from the Father, He was seen anew by us not only in all personal sufferings, of which there were many and in those of our neighbours, often alone, abandoned, forgotten, but also in all the divisions, traumas, splits, mutual indifference, large or small: in families, between generations, between the poor and the rich; in the Church itself at times; and, later, between the Churches, between religions and between those who believe and those of various convictions.*

*But all these lacerations,' Chiara continues, 'did not frighten us; on the contrary, through our love for Him abandoned, they attracted us. And it was He who taught us how to face them, how to live them, how to help overcome them when, after the abandonment, He had placed His spirit in the hands of the Father: 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit' (Lk. 23:46), thus giving humanity the possibility of recomposing itself, both as itself and with God, and showing it how to do this. He therefore manifested himself to us as the key to unity, the remedy for all disunity. He was the one who recomposed unity among us, whenever it was broken. He became our only Spouse. And our life together with such a Spouse has been so rich and fruitful that it has prompted me to write a book, like a love letter, like a song, a hymn of joy and gratitude to Him'.*

Enzo Fondi and Michele Zanzucchi, *Un popolo nato dal Vangelo*, San Paolo, 2003, p. 25-26.

## ● Listen to the cry of the planet

We believe in a conversion to integral ecology.

Through the “Pathways”, paths of action in various fields towards a united world, we will collaborate with other organisations to achieve the environmental goals, present in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals promoted by the United Nations (UN).

## ● Listen to the cry of the new generations

Young people, teenagers and children challenge and build the world with their dreams, their questions and their voices raised against injustice and unsustainability.

We are committed to:

## ● Going out to ‘be close to’

Going out to ‘be close to’ those who seem not to count, who live in disadvantaged conditions or in suffering.

We are all called to discern the most urgent face of the Forsaken Jesus in our community.

## ● Together to ‘act’

We are also committed to re-launching ‘environmental cells’ in the places where people inspired by the charism of unity find themselves on a daily basis for work, leisure or school, to offer concrete and effective responses to the problems they encounter.

We want to improve the communication of our decisions by involving all the generations.

We are called to be family, which is why family must be at the centre of our priorities.

We want to help realise God’s plan for every family and every person.

## ● Formation and Spiritual Accompaniment

We see the spiritual accompaniment and integral formation (head, hands, heart) of the new generations in the charism of unity as a responsibility of the entire community.

## ● 360° Dialogue

We want to be ‘apostles and witnesses of dialogue’ and to train ourselves to acquire this way of life by being open to the challenges of the world and history, to dialogue with all others (Churches Religions and Convictions) and to the needs and suffering of humanity.



# A NETWORK OF PARTNERSHIPS FOR A UNITED WORLD

## Our Stakeholder

Because of its roots in the Gospel and in the Church and its involvement in dialogue and universal brotherhood, the Focolare Movement, collaborates with those who are committed to building a more united humanity, in peace. This is why it proposes to give ever more value to this network of relationships and to develop collaboration and communication as much as possible, with trust, respect and mutual benefit, with all those, both in the Movement and with others who are interested and who work for this goal.

The first stakeholders are **all the adherents and local communities of** the Focolare Movement in the world, of all vocations, ages, and religious denominations. They are protagonists of change in the world.

Through each of these people and communities, the Movement listens to the needs of the least and can direct its action towards building a more fraternal society in collaboration with all.

Other interested groups include ecclesial institutions and realities, other religions, people with no religious reference and the numerous expressions of culture, society and peoples. It is impossible to mention everyone here because of the vastness of these mutually enriching relationships.

That is why we are merely mentioning those with whom we carried out activities in 2021, without intending to forget anyone, while continuing with everyone to help build bridges of unity and peace everywhere.



## The Catholic Church and its institutional and ecclesial realities

- Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life and numerous other Dicasteries and Institutions
- Dioceses and Parishes
- Movements and ecclesial realities e.g. New Horizons, the Pope John XXIII Association, Catholic Action, the Community of Saint Egidio, Renewal in the Spirit, the Scout Movement, Shalom, Communion and Liberation, Fazenda da Esperança, Canção Nova, Nomadelfia, the Emmanuel Community



## Christian Confessions

- Together for Europe, a network of 300 Christian Communities and Movements from many Churches
- Ecumenical Council of Churches - Geneva
- More than 350 Churches and ecclesial communities, to which people who identify with the Focolare spirit belong.



## Religions and their associations and movements

- Orthodox, Conservative and Reformed Jews; Shia and Sunni Muslims; Mahayana and Theravada Buddhists; Hindus of different currents; followers of African traditional religions; Shintoists, Sikhs and Baha'i
- Muslim Society
- Risshō Kōsei Kai
- Shanti Ashram
- Religions for peace



## Networks, cultural and action-oriented movements for the transformation of society, universities

- Economy of Communion
- Political Movement for Unity
- EcoOne • Communion and Law
- Social-one • NetOne • EDU
- Medicine in Communion • Sportmeet • Clarté
- Prophetic Economy • Economy of Francis
- Laudato Si Movement
- Transversal Dialogue Project (DIALOP)
- Living Peace • Sophia University Institute
- LUMSA • Several universities around the world



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## Institutions

- United Nations
- UNESCO for Peace Education
- FAO for hunger eradication
- Human Rights Council
- Council of Europe
- European Commission
- Presidency of the Italian Republic
- Ministries of many countries
- Hundreds of regional and town councils throughout the world, many of them involved in the Cities for Fraternity Association

## Donors

All those, individuals and Foundations, who support our initiatives with donations or by providing professionalism, expertise and time.

## Other realities and associations

- New Humanity International Association
- Over 1,000 social and cultural realities, informal or constituted in Associations, which the Movement promotes in the world, including AMU (Action for a United World), AFN (New Families Action), the La Pira Centre and many others

## Employees and collaborators

People employed by or collaborating with us, who put their heart and skills into this service

## Suppliers

Companies and persons providing us with services and products

## Media

- Over 20 publishing houses worldwide
- Città Nuova magazine with 32 editions in 21 languages

# SPREADING THE CULTURE OF GIVING





*“Give, give, implement ‘giving’.  
Give, increase the culture of giving.  
Give our surplus or even what we  
need, if we are so inspired. Give to  
those who have not, knowing that  
this way of using our things yields  
an inordinate interest, because  
our giving opens God’s hands  
and in his providence, He fills us  
superabundantly so that we can give  
again and receive again and thus be  
able to meet the inordinate needs of  
many. ”*

Chiara Lubich, “Four aspects of the Economy  
of Communion”,  
School for Economy of Communion  
Workers, Castel Gandolfo (Italy), 5th April 2001.

From the very beginning of the Focolare Movement, in 1943, in Trent, the evangelical discovery of the new commandment “love one another as I have loved you” (*Jn.13:34*) gave rise to the communion of spiritual and material goods. Since then, the communion of goods has become standard practice in the Movement, following the example of the first Christian communities. This is a fact of enormous importance and consequences. That communion of hearts and goods, the jewel of the first Christian communities, an echo of the teachings of Jesus had lost its strength throughout the life of the Church but had been ‘kept’ in monasteries and convents and in a few communities of lay people. Now in that small fledgling community in Trent it re-exploded as the beginning of its recovery for the ‘masses’, for the Christian people, with all the results that would emerge. Chiara and her first companions were aware of this even then: Chiara said, ‘We aimed to implement the communion of goods as widely as possible in order to solve the social problem of Trent. “I thought: ‘there are two or three areas where there are poor people... let’s go there, let’s take what we have, let’s share it with them...’ Such simple reasoning, namely: we have more, they have less; we will raise their standard of living in such a way that we will all arrive at a certain equality.” And it is then that the ‘surprising’ experience of the evangelical ‘give and it shall be given to you’ began: ‘in the midst of the war, food, clothing, medicines arrived with unusual abundance’. The conviction was born living the Gospel holds the answer to every individual and social problem.

# OUR COMMUNION OF GOODS

The practice of the communion of goods is an ever-living reality in the Movement that produces the joy of giving freely. Everyone gives freely according to their possibilities and many express their gratitude for having received. There are many experiences from all over the world.

## LIFE STORIES

From **Croatia**: 'I went to buy 10 kgs of grain for my chickens. The man who sold it to me did not want any payment. I put what I saved into the extraordinary communion of goods for the pandemic'. Of course, it is not always easy to donate goods and money, but the effort reinforces the value of the gesture: 'I recently sold some wine to a neighbour. He gave me more money than he should have and did not want the change. Even though I could have used it myself, I gave it for the extraordinary communion of goods'.

The experience of receiving after giving is also common. It is the evangelical "give and it will be given to you" (Lk. 6:38) that Chiara and her first companions experienced concretely.

From **Macedonia**: 'We helped some families left jobless by the pandemic crisis by donating food, medicine and school supplies. It was not much but one of them told us because of this they had food for a fortnight. Shortly afterwards, another family made a donation that covered those expenses. Everything circulated'.

Joy in giving and in receiving is often experienced.

In **Serbia**, the Communion of Goods reached a family in which the parents were both ill and unemployed. They were living off produce from their garden. "When we went to bring them some money, the father had just come home after arranging a loan to buy wood. We explained to them where the help was coming from and they were moved because they felt that through us, God had 'looked' at them".

The Communion of Goods is, after all, nothing more than an instrument of God's providence.

The community of **Portugal**, after an update on the global situation from the International Focolare Centre, decided to broaden their horizon beyond their own borders. They wrote, "The sum we have collected is the result of small acts of self-denial, as well as amounts that we were not expecting to receive. We see that there is a growing awareness of communion in the daily lives of each one of us: together we can try to overcome not only the obstacles caused by the pandemic but make this a way of life".

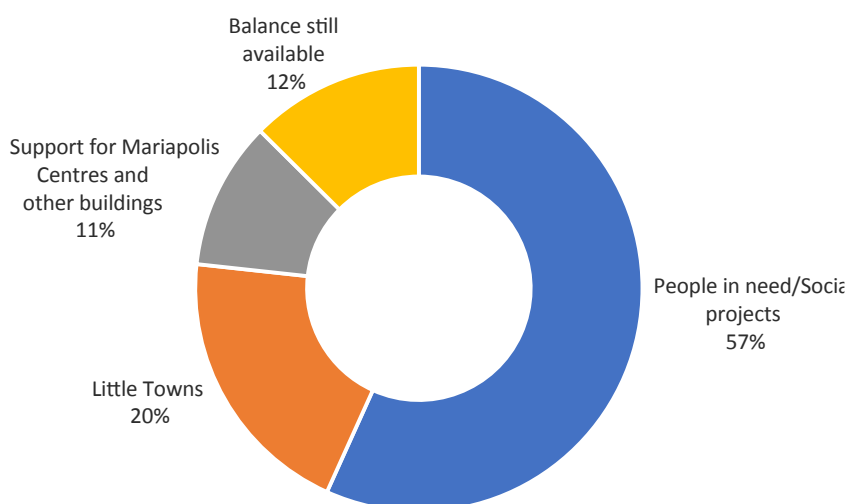
## EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNION OF GOODS COVID-19

The pandemic caused by the Coronavirus and the crises that have followed in the health, economic and social spheres continue to create new poverty and inequalities. These are issues that have challenged the Focolare family to review its lifestyle, inviting each of us to intensify our witness of fraternity. Throughout the world, the communities, associations and members of the Movement have actively responded to the needs of the people around them. To this end, an 'Extraordinary Communion of Goods COVID-19' was activated at the International Centre of the Movement.

**It was a response of love** that, while it gave rise to gestures of generosity of all kinds, also offered the opportunity to share needs and difficulties.

Born in the wake of the "ordinary" Communion of Goods without replacing it, this sharing has enriched our communities with a renewed family spirit. It has put a more universal love in everyone's heart, spreading hope at this dramatic time for humanity.

Distribution of Extraordinary Communion of Goods



### A Communion of Goods and of Good

In order to understand the value of the initiative, an important premise **must be made: as well as the amount collected, there is all the good that resulted from the many initiatives that took place locally** and were supported by many local commissions set up for this purpose.

Without considering all the good which was the result of the countless gestures of solidarity, sharing and sacrifice, the cash amount only gives a partial idea.

### Recipients

Let's outline the recipients of this worldwide communion of goods:

- families and people in severe difficulties due to the loss of jobs, housing or from contracting Covid-19 disease (Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Benin, Syria, Lebanon, India);
- vulnerable people who were able to find new ways of self-sustenance (Zambia, South Africa, Paraguay, Syria);
- support for some structures of the Movement, to minimise redundancies and maintain their basic functioning and, consequently, the use of their facilities to spread the ideal of a united world ('Mariapolis Centres' in Tanzania, Uganda, Angola, Colombia, Brazil, South America [Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay]);
- support for activities in the Movement's Little Towns that had to close and were unable to receive guests and visitors: support for the permanent residents and some of the participants in the temporary schools who were stranded there for months due to the *lockdown* (Mariapolis Lia in Argentina, Mariapolis Piero in Kenya, Loppiano in Italy, Montet in Switzerland);
- social projects in favour of the poor or of children (South America, Mexico, Guatemala, Central African Republic, India);
- scholarships for some young people to enable them to finish their studies and continue building their future (Venezuela).

### Support for individuals and families in need

In the spirit of the communion of the first Christian communities, support for families and people in financial, work and health difficulties is ongoing. Much of this support is implemented locally or through the various branches and there is only a small amount of direct help from the worldwide communion of goods.

## Listening to the cry of humanity

# ACTIVITIES FOR HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

Humanitarian emergencies, natural disasters and conflicts, call for sharing the needs of those most affected through timely and global action.

For this reason, the Focolare Movement has set up an Emergency Coordination Body with the aim of:

- Developing in an increasingly organic and more effective manner the actions, activities and interventions that the Focolare Movement carries out at an international level, in response to humanitarian emergency situations;
- contributing to making the management of funds collected by the Focolare Movement to respond to humanitarian emergencies, more effective, professional, transparent and efficient.

The operational interventions are managed by a Technical-Operational Committee, composed of representatives of AMU and AFN.

### ACTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE FOCOLARE MOVEMENT EMERGENCY COORDINATION in the calendar year 2021

COUNTRY	ACTION	PERIOD	BENEFICIARIES	FUNDS COLLECTED	STATUS OF THE ACTION
Mozambique	Mozambique Flood Emergency 2019	Mar 2019 - Aug 2021	2,750	2,867.00 €	Concluded
Philippines	Typhoon emergency Philippines - Fazenda da Esperança	Feb 2020 - Dec 2021	23	852.17 €	Concluded
Lebanon	Lebanon Emergency 2020-2022	Sep 2020 - Jan 2023	4,850	92,714.82 €	Ongoing
Honduras	Typhoon emergency Honduras 2020	Feb-Aug 2021	8,000	33,275.77 €	Concluded
Syria	Syria Emergency Programme 2018-2022	Sep 2018 - Aug 2022	4,656	252,450.43 €	Ongoing
Philippines	Typhoon Rai Philippines emergency	Dec 2021 -		400.00 €	Ongoing
			<b>20,279</b>	<b>349,284.42 €</b>	





### Mariapolis Lia's "SORRISO" (SMILE) company during the pandemic

At Mariapolis Lia, O'Higgins, Argentina, a business producing sweets and chocolates needed new space at the time of the pandemic.

**From 26,000 units produced in July 2017, they went on to produce 120,000 in July 2021.** They recount, *"To grow during a pandemic is amazing. For us it is a sign that God is accompanying His work despite the times. In order to cope with the increased production, we made some adjustments thanks to a providential contribution and our savings. In the meantime, another person appeared who wanted to invest in a community development project and, knowing what we were doing, was happy to give us a contribution"*.

Although the company has not changed its sales system, it has grown thanks to the quality of the product and the trust

that has always attracted customers. *"The quality of our product is always appreciated, and it is true to say, our "alfajores" are special! Thanks to our recipe, there is no similar product on the market and in that sense you can say they are exclusive. But the real secret ingredient is trust, because we like to do things well, to work with dedication, putting not profit but love for the customer first. That's how we generate bonds with the people who communicate with us because of our way of life and it's like a virtuous circle: you create empathy with the person who does the maintenance, with the person who helps you with the technical management or even with some of the customers and that in turn influences the design of the product"*. We could say, in tune with our way of life, that there is an added value which means that buying a box of chocolates, however delicious, also means collaborating with a wider community.



## ECONOMY OF COMMUNION IS ECONOMY OF GIVING

The Economy of Communion (EoC) was initiated by Chiara Lubich in May 1991 during a trip to Brazil. When she was there, she was struck by the contrasts and the situation of inequality in the city of São Paulo. The idea was to give life to an economic system based on the culture of giving, as an antidote to the consumerist culture of having, through the work of duly trained "new" people.

The purpose of the Economy of Communion is to contribute, in the light of the charism of unity, to give life to fraternal enterprises that feel it is their mission to eradicate misery and social injustice, to help build an economic system and a society of communion where, in imitation of the first Christian community

in Jerusalem, "there were no needy persons among them" (Acts 4:32-34). To make such a project possible, the Economy of Communion is working on a vast training project on the culture of giving through schools, meetings, and training events aimed at young people, workers, entrepreneurs and citizens.

Finally, in the original charismatic intuition of Chiara Lubich, a fundamental place in which to develop and make visible the EoC are the commercial and industrial centres within the Little Towns of the Focolare Movement, of which they are a vital and important component.

Entrepreneurs, workers, managers, consumers, savers, citizens, scholars, and economic operators are all committed

at various levels to promoting an economic practice and culture based on communion, gratuitousness, reciprocity, the common good, and integral ecological sustainability, proposing and living an alternative lifestyle to the one currently dominant in the capitalist system. The Economy of Communion involves more than 1,000 companies in the world that adhere to the project or are inspired by it; 15 business incubators for the development of new enterprises in as many countries; 6 integral development projects currently underway; and more than 400 theses.

## 30 YEARS OF ECONOMY OF COMMUNION

29<sup>th</sup> May 2021 marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Economy of Communion.

The anniversary celebration was streamed live from the Little Town of Loppiano (Florence, Italy) and was followed by about **7,500 people**. The programme opened with an evocative account of the historical and spiritual origins of



the EoC and was enriched by the inclusion of poetry, theatre and music, thanks to the artistic participation of the international group Gen Verde. The various stages were retraced, from its birth in Brazil in 1991 to the present day, and there was a pause to reflect together on what has been experienced over the past 30 years in order to understand the way forward for the future.

Starting from what Chiara Lubich often recommended: 'Let us not forget the poor', drawing on the same passion that Pope Francis has for this objective and starting from

the entrepreneurs who have embodied this dream, our way of looking at poverty was brought into focus: it is not so much a matter of fighting it but of 'touching' and 'embracing' it in order to truly understand it. Who will give us the strength and courage to do this if not the young people? "The young will be able to prophesy if the old are still able to dream," recalled Luginio Bruni moderator of the EoC international event.





# THE ECONOMY OF FRANCESCO



30 cities  
young people  
from 115  
countries

23,000  
spectators

The Economy of Communion has actively participated in promoting and implementing Pope Francis' initiative "The Economy of Francis", addressed to young economists, entrepreneurs and change-makers so that the economy of today and tomorrow is more just, fraternal, sustainable and includes a new protagonism of those who are presently excluded. After the publication of the Pope's letter (2019) and the first event (2020), in 2021 a new world meeting called the world's young economists and entrepreneurs to unite in the common commitment to revive the economy. The event, which took place in Assisi, Italy, was held online and attended by some 3,000 young people.



## EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Economy of Communion is an expression of a broader value system in which the integral formation of people plays a fundamental role.

To achieve this, scholarships have been financed, training schools and EoC congresses have been promoted in several countries and activities of the Sophia University Institute in Loppiano (Italy) in the economic field have been supported.

Among the activities we highlight:

### The School of Biblical Economics

The School of Biblical Economics is a project promoted by the Lionello Bonfanti Pole, a commercial business park located in Incisa Val d'Arno, Florence (Italy).

The courses are attended by teachers, entrepreneurs, young people and workers. There are people from all backgrounds, some re faith believers and others re not, who are interested either in economics or the Bible. This diversity makes each meeting an even more enriching experience.

The many courses in 2021 took place online.



### Collaboration with the School of Civil Economy - SCE

SCE is a training institution, which works in partnership with the EoC and is dedicated to disseminating the economic-relational paradigm of the Civil Economy, centred on reciprocity, the common good and the individual, in the market, organisations and enterprises, promoting its pursuit with efficiency and fairness.

Some courses implemented in 2021:

- Advanced training course 'Civil economy, responsible business and sustainable finance';
- Webinar cycle 'Are we still founded on work? Dimensions and horizons of work';
- Webinar 'A dialogue on the future of capitalism'.

# CREATION OF ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS

The Economy of Communion has structured activities to strengthen professional capacities, job placement, search for financial opportunities for new micro-enterprises, training in entrepreneurial skills, and support for market insertion. Again, this activity is fundamental for the widespread promotion of a new economic culture oriented towards the common good and the integral development of the person with creativity and gratuitousness. These activities are implemented in cooperation with the Association for a United World (AMU) and New Families Action (AFN).

120 people

30 people

82 people participated in the activities

910 indirect beneficiaries

234 people

- the incubation of social and communion enterprises was launched in Cuba in 2021
- income-generating activities were started in Syria
- the Sunrise project continued in Ecuador
- in Brazil, as part of the PROFOR project, more people want to start a business or improve their existing one.

# TRAINING FOR FINANCE OFFICERS

2 specific training courses and regular bimonthly online meetings and the establishment of an online platform with training material for Focolare Movement regional officers and leaders on the various aspects of finance: from spiritual and ethical to administrative, from legal to accounting aspects, from planning to fundraising.



### PTSNOA Project

**North West Argentina Sustainable and Solidarity Tourism Programme**



The programme aims to grow and develop rural and indigenous communities in the Northwest region of Argentina by looking at **tourism as an opportunity for human and social growth**, while respecting the origins, traditions and territory of local communities. Thanks to the programme, the first tourist accommodation experiences are now beginning to consolidate and become known to the market, generating work for the local population and new relationships between cultures.

### PROFOR project

**Strengthening Inclusive and Communion Enterprises in Brazil**



The programme aims to **improve the quality of life of people in socially vulnerable situations**, through the **incubation of social enterprises** that generate decent work opportunities and/or offer basic products and services accessible to the most disadvantaged population, in many regions of Brazil and particularly in rural regions or urban peripheries.

### Project MAKING A SYSTEM OVER WELCOMING

**Integration in Italy**



The project was set up in Italy with the aim of **fostering the social and labour integration of Italian and migrant citizens**, with particular attention to unaccompanied foreign minors, in vulnerable conditions, especially those in the phase of leaving communities and reception centres. **More than 200 young people benefited from this programme, which involved over 100 families and about 80 companies.**

# DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION PROJECTS

The Focolare Movement runs many social projects to promote development. They are mainly carried out through non-governmental organisations linked to the Movement. The aim is to bring relief to disadvantaged populations and to promote development through networks of solidarity. In recent years there have been thousands of development actions undertaken. These are the main ones in 2021:

## EoC collaboration with AMU and AFN

Over the years, the profits shared by Economy of Communion member companies have supported numerous projects in cooperation with AMU and AFN. The projects supported are:

- Brazil:** Community development of communion in Zumbi dos Palmares (Branquinha)
- Brazil:** Inclusive Enterprise Development and Communion Programme with the Brazilian EoC Association Anpecom
- Argentina:** Sustainable and Solidarity Tourism in the Argentine Northwest
- Bolivia:** Microcredit in Cochabamba
- Paraguay:** Strengthening family micro-enterprises
- Cuba:** La Ventura Farm
- Cuba:** EnCuba Microbusiness Incubator
- Philippines:** Golden Thread
- Portugal:** Alternative Response of Social Integration and Entrepreneurship
- Italy:** Building a system beyond reception
- Italy:** Social Farming: The House on the Rock
- Italy:** Female micro-entrepreneurship in Sicily

200  
scholarships

### Scholarships and assistance to family:

500

Families  
Assisted

200 scholarships in Brazil, DR Congo, Chile, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Romania, Moldova

500 families assisted in Brazil, DR.Congo, Lebanon, Syria, Italy, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia





### **CASOBU, BURUNDI - Associative Framework of Solidarity of Burundi**

The 82 members of this association carry out **Family Production Generating Activities** through the promotion of Community Microcredit groups. The commitment for the coming years is to **increase from the current 150 groups to 450, with about 52,500 beneficiaries**. In Rukanda, the Water Source of Life project has seen the construction of a **24.8 km aqueduct to serve the local schools and 1,150 families**, who will be properly trained to take care of it and thus improve their sanitary conditions.

### **SYRIA - Physiotherapy Services**

This project offers physical therapy, rehabilitation services at home, support for social inclusion and psychological well-being for people with physical disabilities caused by war-related impairments and injuries. It includes support for the patient's family and friends, the identification of a network of associations to which patients can be referred, and the purchase of equipment. The beneficiaries are **816** evacuees, **641** children and young people in the 6-17 age group, children with hearing problems, **803** destitute people suffering from common or chronic illnesses and 70 unemployed women and men of working age.

### **BAIRRO DO CARMO, BRAZIL - Community Bakery**

Bairro do Carmo, until a few decades ago an isolated neighbourhood of 100 wooden shacks in São Paulo, is **now home to some 200 families**, promoters of countless initiatives: from land regularisation for residents, to courses for bricklayers, home gardening, cutting and sewing, and the distribution of powdered milk for children and nursing mothers. A 'community bakery' was set up and a school that grew from 40 to **400 students**, classified by the mayor as a 'model school'.

### Central African Republic - Bangui

Four years ago, in a suburb of Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic, a nursery and primary school called St. Claire (Santa Chiara) began. It currently accommodates 514 pupils. It was a response to an appeal made by Pope Francis and also by Maria Voce, President of the Focolare Movement: to go out to meet the needs of the people, particularly to the peripheries. Bernadine, a member of the Focolare and headmistress of the school explained, *"For us, the most urgent need was education, because, after a long war, many children had missed several years of school. We wanted to help them catch up, to reach the level of their peers"*. As it was located in a suburban neighbourhood, many children from families that had fled the city where the war had destroyed their homes were the first to attend the

school. *"They come here to start a new life"*. At the moment, the war in the country is over and the political situation is calmer. However, the population still suffers from the consequences of the war and there are many complications related to economic and social factors. Then came the pandemic. In 2020, the school had to conclude the year in March. This had a major impact on the education of the pupils, who were again left without a school. Despite the ongoing difficulties, the school has now been able to resume activities: *"During this year's United World Week (1<sup>st</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> May 2021), the children helped to prepare a sports field, planting the seeds for the lawn, so that it can be used as a place to play sports together in a few months' time."* Education, therefore, does not stop, not even in the midst of difficulties: it still allows new seeds of hope to be planted, for a better future.







## PHILIPPINES

### Bukas Palad Foundation

Providing sustainable development strategies, education, livelihoods, information and communication to children, the elderly, the poor and victims of disasters and calamities, the Bukas Palad Foundation serves the community through comprehensive programmes and services geared to promote the holistic growth of its beneficiaries. Living the motto: 'freely give, freely receive', it has reached out to **over 10,000 families in the communities of Manila**, the country's capital; Cebu, in the centre; Davao, in the south; and San Fernando, in the north.

### A School in the Andes, Peru

The St. Francis of Assisi school offers quality education, a better lifestyle and a healthier diet to over 250 students at primary and secondary levels in a small village in an inaccessible region of the Andes. The school is considered among

the best regional schools, with a learning quality about three times higher than the national average.

## ITALY

### **Project "Always People"**

Aimed at inmates and ex-inmates of a prison in Rome who are in serious economic difficulties, this project provides assistance to families, work reintegration and help in the relationship between inmates and their families. Volunteers, professionals and ex-prisoners are involved, **it involves more than 200 families.**

## DOMINICAN REP.

### **DOMINICANA**

### 'Café con leche' School

Inaugurated in 2001 in one of the poorest areas of Santo Domingo, the school has over **700 students**. It is supported by the production of wooden objects and clothes made by the students. The government contributed to the project. Its name - Coffee with Milk - was chosen to signify that racial diversity does not have to be a barrier to education but can be an advantage.



# LIVING FRATERNITY





*“Always transcend in thought and affection of heart every limit set by human life and constantly strive for universal brotherhood in one Father: God. Jesus, our model, taught us two things that are one: to be children of one Father and to be brothers to one another”*

Chiara Lubich, *All One. Scritti Spirituali/3*, Citta Nuova, Rome, 1996, p. 78.



Living evangelical love not only makes goods circulate, but also urges us to open ourselves to others and build relationships of communion, so that fraternity is lived out and spreads, in ever-widening concentric circles, until it reaches the whole of humanity and makes it a family of peoples.

This love, which is rooted in the Gospel, is lived by Christians, belonging to many Churches and ecclesial communities, and it is also implemented by and with people of many religions, by and with those who do not recognise themselves in a religious belief. The community dimension is its direct concretisation, implemented in everyday life: from the simplest things to the most demanding dimensions. This lived reciprocity is an active ferment that involves, transforms and spreads hope.

The beating heart of all the realities of which the Movement is composed are the 'focolares', small communities, spread all over the world, made up of single and married people, all given, though in different ways, to God. By living mutual love, they strive to keep alive the 'fire' of the presence of Jesus, hence the name 'focolare'. Focolarini support themselves through their work, they can be found at the United Nations or alongside the sick and the poor in the suburbs of metropolises or in factories and in 'frontier' territories, in skyscrapers and favelas, in villages and capital cities. This profound experience of unity with God and self-giving to their brothers and sisters is the force that leads them to build bridges of peace, to ignite lights of hope in the darkness, to respond to violence with love. Every split, every division is like a magnet because it is there that unity is more urgent and necessary: they dedicate their lives to this.

**There are a total of 7,160 focolarini (men and women) in 742 focolares in 83 countries.**

# LOCAL COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD

The philosopher Emmanuel Mounier said: *'The first experience of the person is the experience of the second person: the You, and therefore the we comes before the I, or at least accompanies it'*. This means: to be community.

And because 'we are' community, we want to 'build' community. The effort, which is not easy in our times, is to overcome individualism, to look around us and to strengthen ties with those with whom we share the geographical space of a city or a neighbourhood, a work environment, a school... This is the challenge that Focolare groups are trying to carry out in all over world, from big cities to mountain villages or in the middle of the great plains of the planet.

We could really go around the world. The Focolare's local communities are born precisely where two or three have made the spirituality of unity their own and, inspired by the first Christian communities, want to bear witness to reciprocal love: "By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn. 13:35). Thus, together, they contribute to transforming their own reality, with a special focus on our most disadvantaged brothers and sisters.

There are now communities in over 180 countries. Sometimes they are large groups, sometimes they are just a few people, but they are a real network that, starting from the local, from the people close to them, from listening to the needs of that place, build ever growing fragments of fraternity.

## LIFE STORIES

For years Silvano Roggero, Ofelia Torres and others in Peru have been involved in welcoming the many Venezuelans who are forced to leave their homeland in search of a safe place that becomes 'home'. There are currently 6 million people from Venezuela in Peru, more than from Syria, with dramatic repercussions on the social situation of Peru, which has generously opened up to this totally unexpected migratory flow.

Silvano Roggero recounts, "In December 2017 when Ofelia Torres, Armando Molina and Anita, an interdenominational family (he evangelical-Pentecostal and she Catholic) arrived, a completely new adventure of welcoming and accompanying migrants began, one that has gone on over the past four years and has engaged us more and more, also involving us in the ecumenical and interreligious field thanks to fraternal collaboration with

members of many Churches and religions.

Nowadays we are not talking about migration here, but about people fleeing. And when you run away from a place, the only thing you do is collect the few things you have at hand. People arrive here with just a few clothes, a little something to eat, and money counted for the journey. I remember how we helped the first Venezuelan families to by finding them accommodation. It belonged to a couple from the Focolare community who made it available for a month and we also gave them some euros for their very first needs. This is Ofelia Torres and I started what has basically been our main commitment for the last four years: to welcome, accompany, stay close to, help with the most urgent needs (food, medicines, clothing, documents, transport...), including economic aid from the communion of goods.

In the province of **Namibe, Angola**, local communities have joined together to carry out activities in order to meet the cry of suffering humanity, encouraged by the guidelines which emerged from the Focolare General Assembly of 2021.

The young people have become promoters of a **centre for street children**, over 30 children aged 5-17. They collect food and household items on a monthly basis. Other teenagers, responding to the cry of the planet, collect plastic bottles which have been discarded on the streets of the city and give them to those who, in the midst of difficulty, have made this a real business. They receive help from adults in mobilising families, colleagues in the neighbourhood and work colleagues in delivering the empty bottles free of charge.

In the region of **Limburg, in the south of Holland**, the local Focolare community started to distribute food to the most in need. After a year, despite Covid, they were able to distribute 400 meals a day and the number continued to grow, so much so that they could no longer sustain the activity on their own. And so collaboration began with other associations and with some entrepreneurs who contribute by providing their surplus products. They recount, "Every fortnight, in the evening, we

also have a moment of prayer together. Everyone is invited: the friends who receive the meals, the volunteers in the kitchen and those who distribute the food. There are Christians of all churches, people of other religions and others with no particular faith". **About 2,000 people are assisted each week**, but the community does not stop there. A new project is starting. The **Heerlen Council** has provided an initial financial contribution to establish a **culinary vocational school for young people from disadvantaged areas**. They will lend a hand in preparing the meals. They conclude, "In all this the Word of Life is of great support. We can truly feed Jesus in the hungry."

The commitment of a small community in **Murcia (Spain)** has given rise to many activities which open spaces for dialogue and solidarity: meetings between citizens and politicians, cultural events, activities for social and humanitarian emergencies. The association is called ACLF Aljucer and started as a way to take help take care of the city.

They recount, "The first experience we had as an association was to bring the mayors who had previously administered the city together. It was not easy to issue the invitations, but in the end everyone agreed to participate. They had the opportunity to introduce them-





selves, to recall the times when they held office and, in some cases, to be reconciled with one another. In the end, they thanked us and encouraged us to continue along this line". Then there was an experience that gave rise to an idea: to hold annual meetings to bring politicians and citizens closer together. This is how 'In Our Hands' and 'The Speaker' were born. They explain, "The first event, now taking place for the twelfth time, is held before the elections and offers a serene environment that encourages dialogue between citizens and candidates. In the second event, on the other hand, a topical issue is chosen and politicians and citizens are given the floor'. The speeches and proposals are collected, published on the Association's website and offered as input to the City Council. Some of the proposed topics are discussed in depth and, from this experience came the idea of a Cultural Centre under the authority of the Council. The Association also collaborates in initiatives promoted by other organisations in support of humanitarian emergencies, and even when emergencies have come close to home, they have not held back.

With reference to 2021, they recount "Last year, our priority was to collect water and food for those affected by the floods in our

region. We also organised volunteer activities and collections of school supplies for a school in our area with a high percentage of people at risk of social exclusion. In the past year, we have supported three families affected by the pandemic by providing food, medicine and financial aid. We publicize all these activities through the Association's website and Facebook profile, which helps us to promote a culture of solidarity on a large scale".

And moving to the **small town of Las Parejas, in the Province of Santa Fe in the middle of the Argentine countryside**, where there is a **centre for disabled children**, you gradually sense the presence of a living community, united by strong bonds of brotherhood. The community is active and present in many aspects of the town life: the sports club, the parish, the town hall, the school. Adults, young people and children work together, without distinction. The adults prepare and **distribute a monthly 'solidarity' soup** to those most in need, sharing the tasks among the members of the community. This is an activity, carried out together with the local Church and includes a collection of clothing and household utensils, to be given to those in need..



## THE MARIAPOLIS DESPITE COVID-19

Once again this year, the Mariapolis, or “Cities of Mary”, took place in many parts of the world. Since the beginnings of the Focolare Movement, these have been gathering people of diverse backgrounds and ages for a few days, encouraging them to experience a workshop of universal fraternity in the light of the spirituality of unity.

In the last two years, due to the pandemic, they could not take place as before, but virtual Mariapolis took place in many places, finding new ways to experience the temporary cities governed by the law of mutual love.

### LIFE STORIES

In the **Philippines**, the Mariapolis in 2021 attracted more people than the traditional ones did. It lasted three days and those who participated said that even virtually you can experience mutual love.

In **Paraguay**, the online Mariapolis reached people from other parts of the world. *“We were able to see the inequalities and intolerances in our society and how we can respond to these cries of suffering,”* said Silvia.

In **Venezuela**, the Mariapolis was described as ‘an oasis in the desert’ because of Covid and the uncertainty for the future. *“It filled us with hope and we all recognised that we belong to Chiara’s family,”* they said. There were also children present who adhered to the promise to become ‘superheroes’ by always caring for the planet and setting an example with their lives.

In **Brazil too**, the Mariapolis, entitled ‘New Culture, Establishing Dialogues’ took place online with more than 1,300 people connected and over 4,000 views on YouTube. *“The theme of ecology with the presentation of the Earth Cube broadened my vision of how to care for and improve our common home,”* said one participant.

In some locations around the world, it was possible for people to be physically present at the Mariapolis.

*“Gaining momentum ... to live fraternity today’* was the title of the Mariapolis in Ressins, France. *“There were more than 300 people from all parts of France, and many expressed their joy at rediscovering personal relationships and rediscovering that unity can be lived in spite of an uncertain future,”* recount the participants.

In **Slovenia**, the Mariapolis entitled ‘Love - medicine for everything’ took place with 200 participants. A participant who has been ill with cancer for three years recounts, *“Walking with my children, I heard the voice of Jesus telling me: ‘I did not send you this illness because I do not love you, but because I love you even more’”*.



## TOGETHER FOR A GREATER GOOD

The Gen, the young people of the Focolare, strive for holiness. They are young people like everyone else: with joys, sorrows, dreams, difficulties. They know that such a bold goal cannot be reached overnight. It is built moment by moment and not alone, but together.

The Youth for a United World together with many friends, even in the midst of the pandemic, did not stop their action to build a united world, as you will also read in other parts of this document.

It was precisely this theme that was the focus of the meeting held in December 2021 when they virtually reunited in an exchange of life testimonies, songs and stories from several countries around the world.

In her message, Margaret Karram, President of the Focolare Movement, invited them to be attentive to building true, deep relationships with everyone, pausing before their neighbour to discover him or her 'here and now'.

### Unity in diversity

The Republic of Indonesia recognises a number of official religions: Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism and traditional beliefs. The largest population is Muslim. This diversity makes interreligious dialogue a dialogue of everyday life.

I am currently studying for a Master's degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences and at university I meet many friends from other islands, who belong to different religions. Among them, some girls are very close to me, they are like my sisters. I am a Catholic Christian, the friend next to me is Hindu and the others are Muslim. During the month of Ramadan, I often accompany them to break their fast and once I invited them to break it together in the Focolare. They felt very loved. After the meeting, one of them wrote on her Instagram profile: *'We don't have the same background, religion, age or even come from the same country, but we have a dream: to create a better home for all, to hope and pray for a prosperous future. We long for a universal world, as our country's motto says 'Binneka Tunggal Ika' - 'Unity in diversity'.'* Tika (Indonesia)

### Between war and hope

I studied computer engineering and since childhood I have been trying to live the spirituality of the Focolare Movement. In the last period I felt a distant relationship with Jesus and Mary. I wondered where God was and how He allowed the difficulties we experience here in Syria, such as the lack of electricity, the high prices and the harsh economic situation. Moreover, all this was having an effect on my relationship with others. Recently I went to London for a month to visit my sisters and there I participated in a weekend with the Gen. This experience helped me to find many answers and to find myself living the spirituality of unity. I will never forget the love I found among the Gen, a love that filled my heart...it was as if we had known each other for a long time. As soon as I returned to Syria, I participated in a Gen Congress here. For the first time in 10 years, because of the difficult situations of the war, we were able to meet each other. I experienced that inner peace was growing in me day by day. The experiences I had over the two weekends with the Gen and the people I met left a deep impression on my heart and helped me to become again that positive person who looks forward with courage. Paul (Aleppo, Syria)





### Meeting with the most suffering

After the earthquake two years ago in Croatia, we decided to do something by going to the epicentre sites. Looking for the best way to be useful, the parish priest of Sisak surprised us by asking us to work with him to prepare a group of Roma children for their First Communion. We agreed to go every week for a few months to the village of Capranske Poljane where Muslim and Christian (Orthodox and Catholic) Roma live. We did catechism, skits and games with them... From this meeting beautiful relationships were born that continue and grow today. Through the focolarini we also got to know and visit a family from Petrinja, who live in a very difficult situation (both because of the earthquake and the socio-economic reality in which they find themselves) With the help of Caritas we managed to buy materials and tools both to repair the house and to help them resume work. They have found new hope! *Thiana and Peter (Croatia)*

### Loving beyond our strength

I have a sister who studies architecture. For the past three months she had been working on her degree, also pulling many all-nighters. She had to present one of her city projects which included preparing the presentation documents and models. Usually junior students help senior students, but because of covid-19, my sister had to do everything herself. At one point, she asked Mum and me for help. I happily replied, "Of course, I'll help you!" So, every night I helped her wholeheartedly with her homework, as if it were my own. In the end, she was able to deliver the work, on time and successfully. She thanked me very much and was happy that this work was completed not only by her, but with everyone's strength. It would be a lie if I said that I helped my sister without complaining one hundred per cent, but I did not regret doing it, my heart was relieved and happy. Moreover, inside me, there was a small joy. I was reminded of a phrase from the Gospel that says: "He who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him," and I thought: "Perhaps God has come to dwell in me?" *Rosa (Korea)*

### "INCONTRI ROMANI"

The Incontri Romani (Roman Encounters) Centre was opened in 1965 by Chiara Lubich with the aim of establishing a tourist centre in Rome that through tourism, would give the opportunity for people to rediscover the authentic face of Christian Rome, combined with the testimony of her own Christianity. Today, the Centre is self-supporting. Five people work there (4 are qualified tourist guides) who between them speak a total of 10 languages.

As the Covid-19 pandemic continued, all bookings were cancelled in 2020 and, as a result, revenue was 85% lower than in 2019. This continued in 2021 with revenue 76% lower than in 2019. Even with the help of State contributions received in both 2020 and 2021, there were still substantial deficits, which were made up for by drawing on a small fund. However, they took advantage of this time to carry out a much needed and already planned renovation of the premises, the work on which lasted from February to October 2021.

## IN DIALOGUE

Together for Europe is a free coming together of over 300 Christian Communities and Movements of many Churches from across the continent. They maintain their autonomy while acting in a network for shared purposes, each bringing the contribution of their own charism.



On 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021, Europe Day, there were many events in European countries. Together for Europe in **Belgium** invited the Bishop of Liège, Bishop Delville, and the Flemish MEP, Cindy Franssen, to the '**Chapel for Europe**' for a dialogue on the Encyclical "Tutti Fratelli".

Europe Day 2021 was supported by the **prayers of** many. Young people met for 'My Europe - We pray for Europe'. In the Czech Republic a prayer novena in view of 9<sup>th</sup> May connected the Schoenstatt Movement, the Community of Sant'Egidio and the Focolare Movement, who are all present there. In Switzerland, Christians from various Movements prepared six evenings of prayer to ask God for strength and mercy in the difficult time of a worldwide pandemic. An ecumenical evening of prayer was also held in the Gospel House in Klagenfurt (Austria).



From 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> September 2021, 170 bishops from 44 countries of the world and 70 churches and ecclesial communities participated in the international conference entitled 'Dare to be One. The courage of unity in a divided world'. A title that successfully expresses the urgency that the Bishops feel in these times when the pandemic has aggravated rifts, violence and old and new forms of loneliness throughout the world. Bishop Brendan Leahy, Catholic Bishop of Limerick (Ireland) who is the coordinator, explained, "This meeting was promoted by the worldwide network of Bishops from many Churches who are friends of the Focolare Movement. They have been meeting regularly for 38 years to deepen communion among themselves on the basis of the spirituality of Focolare unity. The objective is to be united in Christ and if there is the presence of Jesus among us, the journey towards unity is assured". The programme included in-depth studies on the spirituality of unity, testimonies of life offered by Bishops

of many Churches on the Word of God, the mystery of Jesus crucified forsaken and risen, the charism of unity and its incarnation in the wounds of contemporary humanity. The central moment, which is the most characteristic of the conferences of the Bishops Friends of the Focolare, was the "Pact of mutual love": a solemn commitment to love one another on the basis of the invitation that Jesus makes in the "new commandment" (*Jn. 15:17*). The Bishops committed themselves to accept the gifts offered by the Churches of the others and to share their sorrows and joys, feeling them as their own in order to make the process of unity between the Churches ever closer and more visible.

The meeting took place in mixed mode: 10 bishops were physically present in Castel Gandolfo (Rome), while 160 followed the meeting online, alone or in small groups. On 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021, they were received by Pope Francis in an audience that reached all connected participants worldwide via a streaming link.

**Interreligious dialogue** has continued in many parts of the world (Korea, Philippines, India, France, Germany, Belgium, Macedonia, Italy). Activities testifying to the *dialogue of life* with people of several religions have multiplied: moments of sharing, welcoming refugees, caring for people and the environment. There have also been meetings to share spiritual experiences (Thailand, Middle East and North Africa), conferences and symposia (Austria, Switzerland). Initiatives that have helped grow a culture of trust and encounter to be builders of fraternity and peace together.

The network of Muslim (Sunni and Shia), Jewish, Buddhist and Hindu 'collaborators' adhering to the Movement was strengthened, and two meetings were held with about forty of them to deepen their understanding and communion. Three formation meetings on the various religions were held for a group of young people interested in interreligious dialogue. There were two meetings for about 250 people involved this dialogue in several parts of the world. They embarked on a path of getting to know other religions.



# IN DIALOGUE WITH THE ABSOLUTE





*“The Holy Journey. What journey does Scripture speak of? Certainly of man’s journey towards God, towards Heaven. Thus the journey of one’s own sanctification, which opens up Paradise for us. ”*

Chiara Lubich, *Conversazioni in collegamento telefonico*, Città Nuova, 2019, p. 61.



Life of communion is first and foremost communion with God, with the Absolute. People nourish their life of personal and community prayer according to their vocations and traditions. Evangelical love lived in us and among us makes us Jesus and is therefore the principle and source of our inner life, of our union with God.

It is 1980, Chiara Lubich is 60 years old. A long stretch of life is behind her, the idea of death is in her thoughts, but it seems to her that she is not yet ready. She looks back over her life. She thinks back to when, in 1944, it seemed to her that Jesus revealed his innermost wound, the one hidden in the cry of abandonment: 'It is to you that I made myself known as Forsaken. For twenty centuries I have set my sights on you. If you do not love me, who will love me?' That question resounds inside her insistently. She feels she cannot waste any more time. She asks Jesus to give her the decisive push to bring her life to a successful conclusion. On 31<sup>st</sup> December, speaking to a thousand young people, Chiara invited them to set off with her on a journey, a race, with the aim of loving her abandoned Jesus 'always, immediately and joyfully'.

Thus began what, a few months later, she called the 'Holy Journey', a journey undertaken by all the Movement, with eyes fixed on the goal of an encounter with God. Soon thousands of people, from all continents, joined those who had already began, making up a single group of people eager to 'sanctify themselves together', loving one another for love of God.

# LIFE OF THE WORD



23 languages  
1,000,000+  
people reached

The Focolare Movement was born with the Gospel in hand, when Chiara Lubich and her first companions realised that the Gospel offered words that could be translated into concrete life. Their whole commitment consisted in living the Word. To help themselves they chose a Word from Scripture to live each month. From that initial experience came the **Word of Life**, a short explanation of a sentence from the Gospel, accompanied by facts. Living the Word continues to be one of the foundations of the spiritual life of the members of the Movement. The monthly Word of Life commentary is translated into 23 languages, adapted to all ages and transmitted in diverse ways. Two examples:

- **Loppiano:** in the so-called ' operation radio ' the Word of Life has been reaching 26 local Italian radio stations every month for years. Today, through podcasts, it is spread all over the world.
- **Indonesia:** the Word of Life video in Indonesian is available on Youtube.



## TIME-OUT



For years now, Focolare communities have strengthened their common prayer for peace through the **daily “time-out” at 12 noon in each time zone.**

Born from an idea of the young people of the Movement, it was proposed by Chiara Lubich to the whole Movement in 1991, during the first Gulf War. In the face of the numerous and absurd wars that continue to stain the planet with blood, the Time Out continues every day: a minute of silence or prayer to ask for peace and refocus personal commitment to build it.

### LIFE STORIES

#### Lilia and Paul in Syria

Lilia and Paul live in Aleppo, Syria. Because of the situation, many have had to emigrate, like Marian, who left for Belgium. She did not want to, because all her friends remained in Syria, but she had to follow her family. They write, “The Time Out is a very heartfelt moment for all of us”. We try to pray not only among ourselves, but also with our relatives and friends. One of us proposed it to a Muslim friend and so now at 12 noon, we all pray in our hearts, each according to his religion’.

#### Misael and his dream of peace in Argentina

“I teach in a Catholic school in northern Argentina. At the beginning of October 2015, I met Misael, a 10-year-old pupil. After a

moment of prayer for peace in Syria, he showed me a flyer he kept in his folder. The text read: ‘Syria is us, let’s pray for peace?’” I encouraged him to talk to the school management. The result was the idea to organise, for the first time at this school, an ecumenical prayer for peace. I contacted those who could represent Catholics, Orthodox, Lutherans and then some diplomats, press organisations and other schools. The first step was to build peace in our daily relationships, and this gave rise to many new experiences among the children, including the Time Out. The moment of prayer for peace expanded our hearts, making us feel members of the one human family, leaving fraternal, bonds previously unimaginable in everyone’s heart. The school leaders called it an historic day”.

### LATIN AMERICAN ROSARY

The pandemic led us to a planetary unity and to also intensify our moments of prayer, at least in the online mode. This is how the Latin American Rosary was born, from families, breaking the loneliness that many people were experiencing, creating communion and praying for those who have fallen ill or died. Currently, families from north to south of the Americas and from other continents participate in this Rosary. Every day, for two years now, the Rosary is held on Zoom and then made available on the YouTube channel.

# PASSAPAROLA

## Thought for the day

In order to live the Word of Life better, there is a custom among Movement members to summarise the monthly commentary on the Gospel in the "Passaparola" (Password): a short daily thought for reflection, a motto to help live each moment of the day well, a tweet to make fraternity concrete in daily life.

This worldwide phrase, which is translated into at least 23 languages, is communicated via text messages and WhatsApp groups, e-mail, social networks, TV and radio and is followed by thousands of people. It has been defined as "an invigorating daily practice". It is a short phrase, a motto, which reminds us to fulfil God's will with ever renewed impetus.

23 languages 10 channels 100,000+ people reached

# FORMATION IN SPIRITUAL LIFE

As well as nourishing our spiritual life, there are opportunities for members to enrich this through personal and community formation. This Formation is for all the members of the Movement and is realized through conferences, spiritual exercises, refresher courses and the sharing of experiences.

## Formation Material

Special attention is paid to the preparation of the formation material.

Audio and video material to explore **aspects and tools of collective spirituality** is regularly produced and made available to members of the Focolare Movement.

**In 2020, a collection of the points of Spirituality was published by Città Nuova publishers around the world: 'Light that envelops the world. Reflections on the spirituality of Chiara Lubich'.** In this text, Maria Voce, former President of the Focolare Movement, reflects on the points of the spirituality of unity. This book is addressed first of all, to members of the Movement, but is relevant to all those who wish to know more about the fundamental points of the spirituality of unity.

## Schools for Accompaniment

A first school on spiritual accompaniment was held in 2019 at international level, following which several schools took place in 2020 and 2021 in several countries.

3 weekends

In **France**, 3 weekends on accompaniment were organised under the title: "Listening to listen - listening to oneself, to others, to the Word".

159 listening points

220 people

11<sup>th</sup> November 2020: 159 listening points enabled 220 people to connect. There were many 'volunteers of God', focolarini, couples, adherents, a few young people, a group from Congo and from the Reunion Island.

18<sup>th</sup> February and 20<sup>th</sup> June 2021: the programme, carried out entirely via zoom, reached people from all over France and groups from the Ivory Coast, Congo, Reunion Island, Lebanon and Algeria.

1 workshop

45 people

A Workshop on Accompaniment in Spiritual Life was organised in **Ottmaring, Germany**, from 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> September 2021, attended by 45 people.

A team of different vocations continued to work intensively and passionately in an enriching way. In an initial 'accompaniment workshop', experiential and listening spaces gave the opportunity for personal reflection, deep sharing, practice and thinking. In the various forms of accompaniment, one can practice Trinitarian life, i.e. lived mutual love.

In **Ecuador** there is an ongoing formation initiative entitled: "A moment with Chiara". It is a weekly 30 minutes space via zoom for formation and communion, open to all. The journey began with an in-depth study of collective spirituality.

5 training modules

236 enrolled

A school on accompaniment was launched in the **South America** on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020. It is structured in 5 modules and has 236 people enrolled.





5 training modules  
400 people

In Sao Paulo, Brazil, the Movement's "Volunteers of God" held a school on accompaniment in an online format, divided into five modules with strategically chosen dates well-spaced out, to allow the participation of the entire target audience. The school was attended by about 400 people.

100+ people

In Great Britain, from January to June 2021, an on-line school on accompaniment, structured with one and a half hour sessions every three months, was organised. Over 100 people from all vocations participated including participants from Malta, Ireland and the Nordic countries.

# COMMUNION AND LAW



'Communion and Law' is a network of jurists from various nations of the world, who wish to dialogue with those who study and work in the field of law, in order to bring the charism of unity into the legal culture.

It acts through research, in-depth studies, publications, conferences, summer schools dedicated to young people and through the testimony of those who are engaged in this field with concrete actions, for example:

**1,312** people  
 276 in Portuguese  
 182 in Spanish  
 373 in Italian  
 481 in English

**8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> June 2021 - Brazil online: "II Congress of the IEDF"** - Brazilian Institute of Education for Rights and Fraternity - and the "VII Seminar of the Communion and Law Group of the Centre-West of Brazil", in which the future of Justice was discussed on the themes of 'Technology, Education and Fraternity'. The congress took place online.

**1,312** people

**11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 - Philippines: 'Together in Combating the Scourge of Online Child Exploitation'** - 1,312 people participated. The conference was held online.

**888** people  
 179 in Portuguese  
 252 in French  
 242 in Italian  
 215 in English

**31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 - Webinar:** 'Dare to care when corruption denies rights'.

**5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 - Webinar:** "The story of migrant youth". In collaboration with United World Project prepared by young people. 888 people participated.

**100** persone

**25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 - Zoom: "Human Dignity: a question of justice"**. The event was attended by about 100 people, from Italy and Latin America.



## FOCUS AMAZONIA

### A JOURNEY THAT BEGINS

On 22<sup>nd</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021, through the "Communion and Law" network, the Focolare Movement, held the third meeting of the project "Protect Childhood and Adolescence" for the prevention of violence against minors, addressed to children, parents, educators, teachers in the city of Parintins, in the heart of the Amazon rainforest, 20 hours by boat from Manaus. The project, launched in 2019 and focused on sexual violence harassment, was supported by the Diocese of Parintins, the municipality, the state government and local authorities.

120 girls and boys between the ages of 11 and 17 participated in a workshop on the prevention of bullying, harassment, sexual exploitation and a reflection session on the art of loving. Other activities were aimed at educators and parents.



Parents understood how to relate to their children, talk with them, pay attention to certain things and help them feel closer to them than to other people.

The teachers learned how to act in the event of rights violations, how to prevent these and how to take care of children.

This is just the beginning of a series of trips that will take place throughout the Amazon.



# CARING FOR HUMANITY AND CREATION





Every circumstance and experience of our life, including illness, old age and death, can be seen as a gift from God, to be lived fully, in communion with Him and with others. Just as this life of ours can only be more and more in communion with everything around us, with the entire planet. This changes the way we care for others, eat, rest, work, live together with all the living beings around us, care for the planet.

And with this perspective it is easier to see that people, united by love, form a social body, whose well-being is precisely this love, which binds, unites, heals.

# CARE FOR CREATION

## EcoOne



EcoOne is an international cultural initiative promoted by a network of teachers, academics, researchers and professionals working in the environmental sciences. They are united in efforts to enrich scientific knowledge with a wider humanistic and insightful reading of environmental problems.

Today, EcoOne takes the form of an international network of people concerned about environmental issues and the natural environment: men and women of all ages, cultures and religions, who tackle environmental issues motivated by the desire to contribute to the search for solutions.

In the cultural/educational field, EcoOne has promoted several conferences, participates in ECEN (European Christian Environmental Network) and carries out projects in schools, such as one recognised by the Italian Ministry of Education 'Giving to Safeguard the Environment'..

Every year Earth Day Italy and the Focolare Movement



organise the **Village for the Earth** in Rome to celebrate Earth Day (22<sup>nd</sup> April). Earth Day is the most important awareness-raising event for the protection of the planet in the world, involving 1 billion

people in 190 countries every year. This important day has also been celebrated in Italy since 2007. The health emergency prevented the organisation of an in presence event in recent years, but there was still a desire to hold a major event that would share the story of **Integral Ecology** as the key to understanding this and the most pressing humanitarian emergencies of our time. Hence the idea of the **#OnePeopleOnePlanet Multimedia Marathon** with important, cultural content

and a strong media impact, calling everyone to unity. Science, Economy, Environment, Climate, Governance, Culture, Sport, Art, Tradition, connections and interconnections with homes and many countries around the world, between health and climate challenges, between social, economic and environmental factors, between peoples. An appointment to denounce the many environmental issues that are still unresolved, but, at the same time, to recount the many initiatives that citizens, schools, associations, companies, and all the components of society, are putting in place to put Italy and the world back on a path of sustainable development. **In 2021, the #OnePeopleOnePlanet Multimedia Marathon** for the celebration of the 51<sup>st</sup> Earth Day, World Earth Day, was broadcast **live on Rai Play** from 7.30 am to 8.30 pm.



## United World Project

The United World Project was launched in 2012 during the Genfest with the title "Let's Bridge". Its objective is to bring out, give voice to, establish networks of the many initiatives of fraternity underway in many countries to build a united world. It is coordinated by the NGO New Humanity in partnership with the Movements Youth for United World, Teens for Unity, New Humanity.

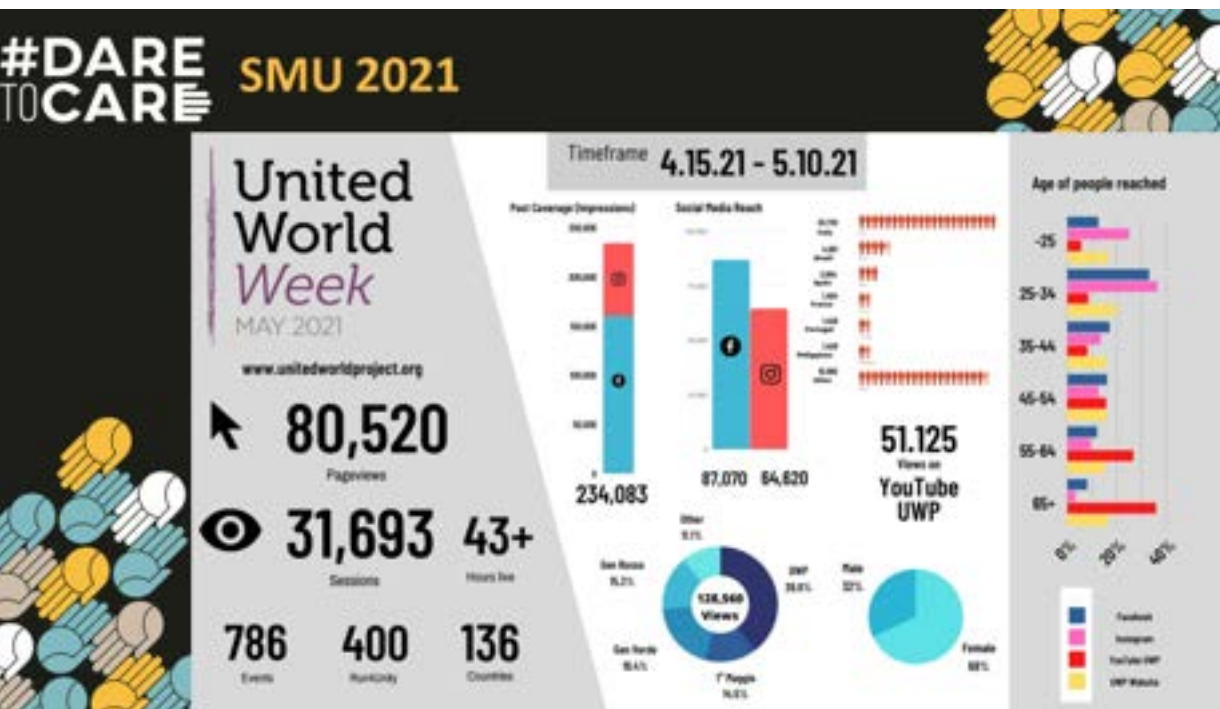


As part of this, Pathways for a United World was launched in 2018. It is a global programme spread over 6 years, covering 6 different themes and offering over 1,200 events. Taking into account the most critical issues of the world, each year, it explores an aspect of life, from economics to politics, from justice to art, from dialogue between cultures to sport, giving rise to actions, collaborations and projects based on fraternity and reciprocity, with a dimension and impact that goes from the local to the global.

1,200+  
events  
8,000  
Connections  
2,016  
hours of  
streaming

Pathways aims to contribute to the 'Global Goals', the 17 Sustainable Development Goals defined by the United Nations to end poverty, fight inequality, injustice and halt climate change by 2030.

In 2021/2022, Pathways launched 'Dare to Care - People, the planet, and our ecological conversion', which aims to promote and implement integral ecology, through initiatives involving associations, organisations and institutions. The campaign starts with simple everyday gestures, endeavouring to break the logic of violence, exploitation, selfishness and combating a culture of waste. Everything is inter-connected and the solution to today's problems in the various spheres requires a



wide-ranging, all-encompassing approach that takes into account all aspects of humanity's challenges. Because a world that knows how to take care of itself is a better world, a more united world.

An international live streaming #daretocare convention was held in 2021 in Europe, in Brussels, as the central and concluding event of **United World Week**, a series of events to promote fraternity, that takes place every year in the first week of May.

It was an opportunity to develop relationships and meetings between people, organisations and initiatives from all over the world that work for peace, dialogue and culture. At [unitedworldproject.org/daretocare](https://unitedworldproject.org/daretocare) there are video clips, articles, webinars, projects, proposals and practical actions that offer insights for action and sharing experiences and good practice.

Established in 1995, the **"United World Week"** is an annual event promoted by Youth for a United World together with the communities of the Focolare Movement around the world. It involves professionals, families and institutions. Eight days of events and symbolic actions to more actively focus world public opinion on care for people and their needs and the need for peace and a united world.

Many ecological activities have sprung up all over the world to concretely care for creation and to promote greater awareness of this issue.

## LIFE STORIES

In some African countries such as **Nigeria, Burkina Faso, South Africa, Tanzania, Burundi** and **Madagascar**, young people and adults took action, planting trees in schools and public places, cleaning up dirty corners in cities, starting organic farming projects, and doing other ecological actions. Many of these activities took place during and after United World Week, and as part of the international GATO (Greening Africa Together) project.

The Eco-One **South American** Commission gave a significant contribution to the thematic forum at the preparatory stage of the Ecclesial Assembly for Latin America, which led to participation in the Laudato Si forum in **Argentina**. For several years "Mariapolis Lia" has been working with the O'Higgins Municipal Delegation to develop an ecological city. This year a photovoltaic park was inaugurated, which is estimated to save the emission of 81.3 tons of carbon

dioxide annually.

In the Little Town, "The Diamond" (**Mexico**), a project on integral ecology started in May 2021, involving a group of young people from the M-I-L-O-N-G-a project.

They report, "It started with an analysis of our environmental impact as a little city: air, energy, water, food, waste, etc. We improved composting and collaborated with a reforestation campaign, distributing 16,000 trees in the surrounding municipalities. At the same time, we presented projects for rainwater collectors, water reservoirs, photovoltaic panels and bio-digesters for gas to international bodies. We are also starting a small community garden and many people have revised their eating habits and personal water consumption".

To confirm this common commitment, the inhabitants unanimously signed a declaration 'On the way to ecological conversion' on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021.



## New Humanity at UNEP



In May 2021 the NGO New Humanity was accredited as an observer at UNEP, the United Nations Environmental Programme, the UN agency that deals with all global environmental issues.

New Humanity carries out its environmental protection activities in particular through the United World Project and the EcoOne cultural initiative.

The “New Humanity International Association” is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) of the Focolare Movement founded in 1986 and active in over 100 countries worldwide.

The aim of the Association is to contribute to the unity of the human family while fully respecting the identity of each of its members.

In 1987 New Humanity was granted Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and since 2005 it has enjoyed General Consultative Status. Since 2008, it has also been recognised as a partner NGO of UNESCO.

New Humanity has its headquarters in Rome and representatives in New York, Geneva, Paris, Brussels, Vienna and Nairobi.

## Collaboration with the Laudato Si' Movement



The Focolare Movement is a *partner* of the Laudato Si' Movement (formerly the World Catholic Climate Movement), a worldwide network of people working together for ecology and the environment.

**Founded in 2015** by a group of 17 Catholic organisations and 12 exponents of academic institutions and civil society from all continents, committed to helping the faithful respond to the exhortations of Pope Francis' encyclical on the care of the common home, today the Movement includes more than 900 associations from around the world.

These members collaborate in synodality and ecclesial communion, **on a path of ecological conversion.**

Seeking unity in diversity, members come together to pray, collaborate and **mobilise in response to 'the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor'**. The poor are certainly not responsible for the greenhouse gas emissions that cause emergencies, yet they are the most affected by the climate emergency.



## Collaboration with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

In 2020, five years after the publication of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis asked for a year of in-depth study to find ways to make the message of the encyclical have a real impact. This led to the idea of a platform for families, young people, businesses, parishes, schools, universities, hospitals, religious institutes and organisations to begin a journey of ecological conversion. The Dicastery invited the Focolare Movement to contribute. In November 2021, Pope Francis launched the “*Laudato Si'* Action Platform” (LSAP), inviting everyone to sign up to begin a multi-year, practical journey towards a lived and fully realised integral ecology.

## Collaboration with Faithinvest

The Focolare Movement is a partner of Faithinvest, an international organisation that works to help religions develop long-term strategic plans for the environment.

**During the COP26 conference**, held on 31<sup>st</sup> October-12<sup>th</sup> November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland, the religious leaders present took part in events which were occasions for growing in mutual understanding and dialogue. These included an event held at the Mosque and one hosted by the Focolare Movement.



*“The great religions, including Christianity, are the four largest investor groups in the world. Christians must realise that they have a responsibility to be a major driving force for change through civil society, not just by working with government” (Martin Palmer, Founder and President of Faithinvest).*

*“I truly believe that this moment we are living through is a crisis, but as Pope Francis said, it can also be a kairos, that is, an opportunity, a moment to rethink, to convert, to undergo that profound ecological conversion and start moving in a different direction” (Lorna Gold, President of the Laudato Si' Movement).*

# HEALTH CARE

## Health -Dialogue -Culture

The international network HDC, Health -Dialogue -Culture (formerly called MDC - Medicine -Dialogue- Community), was established in 2003 and involves health professionals from a wide range of disciplines, geographical and cultural backgrounds.

It brings the spirituality of unity into a constructive dialogue with contemporary science. Through an authentic dialogue, HDC aims to contribute with scientific culture, to a medical anthropology that supports a conception of science and care based on a constant respect for the life, dignity, integrity and identity of each person, in a perspective of health promotion at an individual and social level. It offers as a space for cultural reflection, always linked to practice and to professional experiences in the various contexts, from which to draw confirmation of theoretical assumptions and new lines of thought.

In 2021, HDC participated in the campaign ‘#daretocare People, planet and our ecological conversion’, with the project ‘AEIS: Accessible environment, inclusive society’. It also promoted the webinar: ‘A church for all. People with disabilities in the community’, organised by the Diocese of Sassari (Italy) in collaboration with the Fondazione Academia - House of Peoples, Cultures and Religions.

In the **Philippines**, the association ‘Sinag’, animated by the Focolare’s “Volunteers of God”, has been doing valuable work throughout 2021, providing frontline psychological care in overcrowded hospitals since due to the pandemic, mental health has become a major concern. The local secretariat of New Families also organised some webinars on this topic.

**All over the world**, immediately after the start of the pandemic, families felt an even greater need to keep in touch, and so Zoom meetings were held weekly or fortnightly throughout the year. The virtual meetings often included a **psychologist** and a financial **expert**, to help the families in these aspects, addressing the difficulties that arose because of the pandemic.

In 2021, the initiative ‘**A Vaccine for All**’ was launched. It was inspired by the international appeal to the European Parliament and the Italian Government at the G20 Health Summit, to contain Covid-19 during the global pandemic. A special experience, promoted in this context, was the ‘Marathon of Solidarity’, organised in May 2021, with the support of the University of the Sacred Heart in Rome, with the aim of raising funds to enable the poorest and most vulnerable in countries such as India and Brazil to be vaccinated. During the marathon, which lasted eight hours, medical researchers and gynaecologists from all over the world presented their research work, while crowdfunding involving major pharmaceutical companies took place. At the end, much to everyone’s surprise, there was a phone call from the Holy See. Pope Francis himself wanted



to contribute by donating the amount remaining to reach the goal. It was a creative experience of great cultural and educational value, and at the same time of great social impact, reaching people in need in the villages of the Indian region of Coimbatore. Since then and to this day, there have been many vaccination weekends at the Shanti Ashram, a Centre for Peace in the spirit of Gandhi, with companies, schools and paths of interreligious dialogue.

In 2021, we also supported the '**donate a vaccine**' campaign, a fundraising campaign promoted by the Apostolic Almsgiving, following the Pope's appeal, for the vaccination of the homeless in Rome.

## Safeguarding: new "CO.BE.TU." established

### Central and National Commissions

In 2014, the Focolare Movement set up a Central Commission for the promotion of the welfare and protection of minors and vulnerable people, made up of experts from many disciplines and nationalities. Since then, zonal and national commissions have been established throughout the Movement.

Since their inception, the commissions have played a key role in implementing the Focolare Movement's commitment to training its members in the specific area of child protection, child abuse prevention and reporting.

The Commissions are made up of people from different professional backgrounds: lawyers, psychologists, educators, developmental experts, paediatricians, etc.

In 2015, in order to promote the integral protection of the person, and to prevent abuses of all kinds (spiritual, of conscience and of authority) the President and Co-President set up the "Commission for the Protection of the Person", which then became the "Independent Commission for the Protection of the Person" (C.I.T.P.), with the specific aim of preventing and managing reports of abuse of a spiritual, conscience and authority nature.

In June 2021, the President and Co-President of the Focolare amalgamated the two commissions into a single commission (Central Commission for the Protection of the Person), which retained the initials CO.BE.TU. The new commission, made up of 14 professionals of several disciplines and nationalities, took office in September 2021.

It immediately addressed the demands that emerged during the General Assembly of the Focolare Movement, defining its internal regulations and starting to implement the established programming, prioritising the revision of the Guidelines, training, and case management.

Together with other European partners, it joined a project that obtained approval for a permanent chair at Unesco on the topic of child abuse and maltreatment.

It has regular contact with experts and perpetrators of abuse at both church and institutional levels.

# SPORT, RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

Sport, recreation and entertainment are present in many of the initiatives and events organised by the Focolare Movement and are an integral part of its life. The presence of young people and teenagers guarantees the importance of this aspect.

## Sportmeet

**Sportmeet** is a **worldwide network of sportspeople**, practitioners and professionals, men and women of all ages, cultures, ethnicities, languages and religions.



They regard physical and sporting activity as important and positive realities for the integral growth of the person and the community and are motivated by the desire to contribute, through it, to development, to peace, to building a more united world.

In 2021, Sportmeet implemented several initiatives including:

- **Can sport dare to care (#daretocare)?** This was the focus of the live streamed event on 4<sup>th</sup> May, on care in sport during United World Week.
- **The city in sport.** During the Zoom webinar on 13<sup>th</sup> March, they reflected on the value of sport in cities as a means of promoting social inclusion and personal well-being.
- On the **International Day of Sport for Development and Peace** (6<sup>th</sup> April 2021), a major initiative was started: to get the word 'sport' written into the Italian Constitution and to legislate the right to sport.





## Run4Unity



6,114 Km  
800  
activities  
400  
Run4unity  
100,000  
participants in 5  
continents

**Run4Unity**, relay race for unity, is an annual activity that takes place in hundreds of cities on 5 continents, on the initiative of the Youth for Unity, the teenagers of the Focolare Movement. Hundreds of thousands of boys and girls of different cultures and religions run together to witness their **commitment to peace** and promote a method to achieve it: the **Golden Rule**, “**Do unto others as you would have them do unto you**”. On the first Sunday in May, from 11 a.m. to noon in all the time zones, the young people organise sporting, social and artistic activities, involving their peers, but also young people and adults, to symbolically extend a rainbow of peace over the world. Over the years, the sports activities have become more linked to actions of solidarity and to concrete gestures of commitment to peace and fraternity. Through the Run4Unity, the Focolare Youth are also particularly committed to the United Nations 2030 Agenda Goals: to achieve a world without hunger. **#Zero Hunger**. **The baton passes from time zone to time zone**. In 2021, the event **took place during United World Week**.



# PLACES OF BEAUTY AND COMMUNION

Look at the lilies,  
how they grow:  
they do not spin,  
they do not weave:  
yet I say to you that  
not even Solomon,  
with all his glory,  
dressed like one  
of them.

(Mt. 6:28-29)





*// God is Trinity: an expression of the love that welcomes, that makes a home, that enables us to experience the beauty of diversity, to seek harmony together.*

*Harmony and environment, love that makes home: the structures, the Little Towns, the Mariapolis Centres, art, beauty, society and social works. //*





# CITIZENS

The Movement has 26 “**Little Towns**”. Each one is different according to its cultural context. The first one was founded in 1964 in Italy in Loppiano, while the most recent, born in 2018, but not yet inaugurated, is under construction in Korea. They are models of cities, workshops demonstrating how the spirituality of unity and fraternity can transform all areas of life.

In 1962, in Switzerland, when Chiara Lubich was admiring the Benedictine Abbey of Einsiedeln, she had the intuition that “Little Towns” would also emerge from the spirituality of unity. They would have the main elements of a modern city with houses, churches, shops, industries, schools. The Gospel would be lived in them: prayer, work, study and other concrete aspects of life would all be present.

The Little Towns are cosmopolitan centres where distinctions of religion, culture and traditions are not ignored but are valued as a means of encounter with each neighbour, closely united with others by the commitment to see Jesus’ dream realised: “Father, that all may be one, as you and I are one” (Jn. 17:21).

2021 was a challenging year for all the Little Towns of the Focolare Movement, due to the pandemic and periods of closure and/or lockdown that interrupted the influx of the many visitors. They therefore had to rethink their lifestyle and deal with the challenges of sustainability. Below is a focus on some of the activities implemented in Loppiano (Italy) and in Mariapolis Lia (Argentina).



## FOCUS ON LITTLE TOWNS

### Loppiano (FI) ITALY

#### Over 900 inhabitants, 57 nationalities

Among the initiatives promoted in Loppiano, the "Loppiano Experience" and "Summer School" were held in August 2021, two summer programmes for young people from various countries who wanted to have an experience of fraternity.

The young people came to Loppiano from countries such as: Bolivia, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Colombia, Paraguay, Congo, Croatia, Portugal, Switzerland, Italy, Slovakia, China, Honduras, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, Chile, Egypt and Korea. Although the two initiatives were very different, the Summer School was centred on a deepening of the spirituality of unity, while Loppiano Experience simply intended to offer the possibility of a concrete experience of fraternity, the effect was the same for all the participants: a profound change in the one hundred or so young people who at the end, didn't want to leave.

Here are some of their testimonies: "If each one of us took even a small piece of what we experienced here with us, the world would be better. "I don't want to leave Loppiano, but I was convinced by a person who told me: 'To stay here, you must take Loppiano with you'". "Here I experienced love, the possibility of all being one even if we are very different. We must bring this to our communities". "Come on guys! Breathe with joy always!"

#### 100 young people, 20 countries



## Mariapoli Lia (Buenos Aires) ARGENTINA

220 inhabitants,  
44 Youth School participants

Mariápolis Lia, located in the municipality of O'Higgins in the district of Chacabuco (Province of Buenos Aires), runs a Formation School, the Mariapolis Lia Youth School, which brings together young people from all over the world who wish to have an experience in the culture of unity. Each year, the young people are fully integrated in the many activities: work, study, cultural and recreational activities, sports and personal interests. All these activities are regarded as aspects of the same complete formation.

4th January 2021 marked the end of the course, which for the first time received UNNOBA (Universidad del Noroeste de Buenos Aires) University Certification.

44 young people from the countries of the Americas completed the entire Programme

which lasted 11 months. The graduates had access to the University Extension and Work Training accreditation and were able to choose between three possible orientations: Eco-responsible Education and Multicultural Management; Community Leadership and Participatory Process Development; and Art, Communication and Multimedia Production.

They said: "During the final event, when we experienced a deep communion by sharing sketches, songs, poems, etc. that expressed the richness of the experience, there was a gesture of great symbolic value: the planting of a Constantinople Acacia. This is a special tree, with transparent leaves that do not interrupt the view of the landscape but, on the contrary, give it prominence and embellish it. Moreover, its bark is used to heal wounds, the seeds as food for wildlife, and the flowers are a source of nectar for bees. It sums up the things we have learnt: to heal wounds, to nourish those at our side, to give our best".

## LITTLE TOWNS

	Country	City	Name
EUROPE	Belgium	Rotselaar	Vita
	Germany	Ottmaring	New Law
	Great Britain	Welwyn G.C.	Bernard Pawley (Centre for Unity)
	Italy	Loppiano	Renata
	Switzerland	Montet	Foco
	Czechia	Vinor (Prague)	The Pact
	Croatia	Krizevci	Faro
	Poland	Trzcinka	Fiore
	France	Bruyeres (Paris)	Arny
	Ireland	Kildare	Lieta
	Holland	Nieuwkuijk	MarienKroon
	Portugal	Abrigada	Arco Iris
	Spain	Las Rozas (Madrid)	Castle Outer
AMERICA	Argentina	O'Higgins	Lia
	Brazil	Belem	Gloria
	Brazil	Recife - Pernambuco	Santa Maria
	Brazil	Sao Paulo (Vargem Grande Paulista)	Ginetta
	Mexico	Acatzingo	El Diamante
	United States	Hyde Park (New York)	Luminosa
AFRICA	Cameroon	Fontem	Chiara Lubich
	Ivory Coast	Man	Victoria
	Kenya	Nairobi	Piero
ASIA	Philippines	Tagaytay	Peace
	Thailand	Nakhon	Golden Rule
	Pakistan	Dalwal	Hope
	Korea	Saenggeuk-myeon, Imgok-ri	Harmony



## THE MARIAPOLIS CENTRES

The Mariapolis Centres, places for ecumenical and interreligious meetings, spiritual and social formation to a culture of unity, are open both to members of the Movement and to those who wish to get to know it.

In 2020-2021, all the Mariapolis Centres faced new challenges from the covid-19 pandemic.

Many activities were cancelled or scaled down. On the other hand, there was always a high level of virtual presence at the meetings, which required the use of high-quality technology, both for translations and for effective connection and intervention.

In several cases, the uses of these facilities were reviewed in order to open up to the needs of the local area: reception of people in need, refugees or even people in quarantine, etc. For example, in José C. Paz in Argentina, a school was set up for children and young people from at-risk neighbourhoods.





## MARIAPOLIS CENTRES

AFRICA	Country	City	Name
	Angola	Luanda	The Risen One
	Kenya	Thika	Wim
	Madagascar	Antsirabe	Firmament
	Uganda	Kampala	Grain of Wheat
	Cameroon	Bamenda	Great Comforter
		Fontem	Mary of White Light
LATIN AMERICA			
	Brazil	Belem	Gloria
		Brasilia	Maria of Light
		Recife - Pernambuco	Marie-Claire
		Sao Leopoldo (Porto Alegre)	Arnold
		Vargem Grande Paulista (São Paulo)	Ginetta
	Argentina	Alta Gracia (Cordoba)	Alta Gracia
		O'Higgins (Buenos Aires)	Arco Iris - Bethany House
		Paraná	El Salvador
	Chile	Cunaco	Amore
	Paraguay	Mariano Roque Alonso	Mother of Humanity
	Uruguay	Montevideo	The Pelican
	Colombia	Tocancipa (Bogota)	Alegria
	Dominican Republic	Santo Domingo	Paradiso
	Venezuela	Caracas	Nuvoletta
	Guatemala	Mexico	Santa Maria dei Focolarini
	Mexico	Acatzingo	Guardian of the Flame
	Ecuador	Puembo (Quito)	Concordia
	United States	Hyde Park (New York)	Luminosa
ASIA			
	Korea	Seoul	Mary Mother of God
	Philippines	Tagaytay	Our Lady of the Cluster
	Thailand	Nakhon	Sedes Sapientiae (SEA)
	Pakistan	Dalwal	Hope
EUROPE			
	Austria	Vienna	Edelweiss
	Germany	Ottmaring	Magnificat
		Solingen	Peace
	Switzerland	Baar	Eckstein-Unity
	Belgium	Rotselaar	Unity
	France	St. Pierre de Chartreuse (Lyon)	People of God
	Great Britain	Welwyn Garden City (London)	Centre for Unity
	Ireland	Kildare	Lieta
	Portugal	Abrigada	Arcoiris
	Spain	Las Rozas (Madrid)	Luminosa
		Castel D'Aro (Girona)	Loreto
	Czechia	Vinor (Prague)	The Covenant
	Croatia	Krizevci	Faro
	Poland	Trzcianka	Emmaus
		Krakow	Unity
	Slovenia	Planina	Spes
	Italy	Cadine (Trento)	Chiara Lubich
		Bra (Cuneo)	Ray of Light
		Castelgandolfo	Mariapolis Centre International
MIDDLE EAST			
	Algeria	Tlemcen	Ulysses
	Lebanon	Ain Aar	The Source
OCEANIA			
	Australia	Melbourne	Marilen

## Art

"If the content of philosophy is truth, of art is beauty, and beauty is harmony, and harmony is highest unity...Unity is harmony...and there is no unity without beauty, and there will be no united world without harmony between individuals and peoples." (Chiara Lubich, *La dottrina spirituale*, Mondadori, 2001, p. 348)

The Movement Includes many artistic expressions (from musical ensembles to theatre, from ballet to singing, from arts to poetry and music).

**"Clartè - artists in dialogue"** is a network that connects artists who, through their work, contribute to bringing art back to its social vocation; their experience is of mutual love, a reflection of the Beauty of God that is Love, a love in which the Beautiful, the Good, the True coincide.



### Art Campus in the Holy Land

An example of how art can be a privileged vehicle for peace and dialogue is the "Campus D'Arte" activity in the Holy Land. It was started in 2014 by the "Armonia fra i Popoli" (Harmony among Peoples) project promoted by Antonella Lombardo's "DanceLab" (in the province of Pistoia).

It is mainly aimed at children from refugee camps and the Palestinian Territories including the Israeli side. Campuses are held in Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Janin, involving hundreds of children and their families, in a relationship established with religious and civil institutions in the Holy Land.

The network that has been built up over the

years has ensured that this experience has continued during the pandemic, through virtual initiatives, including the 'Virtual Peace March', which attracted videos from schools of all levels, from many countries around the world.

One of these initiatives, an activity with Catholic high schools in Marseille (France) came to an end after a year of work: there were 4 performances at the Palais de Congress with 100 young people on stage, attended by over 4,000 young people. The pupils of the Catholic schools were mostly Muslims, so this action made a significant contribution to inter-religious dialogue, as also emphasised by the Bishop and the Imam.

### A unique exhibition

From 25<sup>th</sup> September- 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 in Naples, in a unique exhibition entitled 'Travelling through the Paradise of Chiara', Michel Pochet exhibited 53 large canvases (100x100) at the Complesso Museale di San Domenico Maggiore.

The impressions left in the exhibition's "golden book" express the understanding that the artist succeeded in his intention to translate what Chiara Lubich had seen with the eyes of her soul into images. A non-believer wrote:

'He brings even those who do not believe in God, to imagine God', and another person: 'Art always brings us closer to Paradise, but here there is something 'extra''; Donatella Trotta wrote in the Naples daily newspaper, *Il Mattino*: "Michel's paintings are a special vehicle to bring everyone into that mystical experience, which is certainly not reserved for the small group that experienced it first hand, but is intended for everyone, who through Pochet's art can have the opportunity to savour an experience of profound imagination and intimacy".



## GEN ROSSO AND GEN VERDE

"It was 1966 when all the young people wanted a guitar. Seeing how many of them came to Loppiano attracted by the life that was led there, I thought of giving a guitar and drums to those two groups that would become Gen Verde, because the drums were green, and Gen Rosso, because they were red; then things developed on their own". This is how Chiara Lubich recounted the birth of what would become two international musical groups that bear witness to their experience in music.

The pandemic forced them to suspend all concerts in the town squares, arenas and theatres, which meant that they were no longer able to really meet people and lost the source of the main income for their economic sustainability.

However, this did not stop them getting involved in many activities, developing the social platforms as never before. Live streaming became increasingly popular with thousands and thousands of people, especially young people. Finally, in the summer of 2021, the concert season resumed.

### Concerts

**Gen Rosso** inaugurated the long-awaited live concert season in Loppiano on 7<sup>th</sup> August.

A very important event for the group took place in October: a concert and workshop in the Bihać refugee camp in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Says Tomek: "The idea came from Pope Francis' invitation to do something for those living on the margins of society. We thought of the migrants on the Balkan route. So we prepared a project in cooperation with the Jesuit Refugee Service of Bosnia and started looking for ways to support it financially".



The 'Gen Rosso Contest' continued in 2021. This is a music contest aimed at young musicians, with the objective of offering a valuable musical experience geared towards the growth of the participating artists and promoting newcomers and new artistic projects in the world music scene.

**Gen Verde**, through a communications strategy on social media (FB, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube) and on their website, was able to maintain contact with 'followers' and also with the media, which increased significantly during the pandemic. Revenues from listening on digital platforms increased by 27%.

The two singles released in 2021 'Called by name' and 'God with us, Emmanuel' have had around one million views to date.

September 2021 marked the date for resuming live shows, with a new desire to meet people personally and renew the hope and commitment to believe in and transmit the culture of fraternity.

In this period, 46 live events and 13 online events took place.



### Gen Fuoco - Congo

There are many musical and artistic ensembles linked to the Focolare Movement all over the world. Among them is Gen Fuoco, from the Democratic Republic of Congo, which in 2021, following the destruction caused by the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano in the province of North Kivu and the displacement of thousands of people, composed a song in just a few hours, a call for unity and to build a more united society.



## NETWORKING and SOCIAL WORK

Throughout the world there are hundreds of social projects at the service of people, of the least, for the protection and promotion of human dignity. These are ongoing initiatives in response to local needs and emergencies: social centres, hospitals, dispensaries, nutritional centres and other activities in the field of health and of education: schools and initiatives for different age groups; building houses for the poor and even the construction of entire villages; work activities at the service of teaching new professional skills to young people and others, courses for learning how to work and cultivating abandoned land.

An experience that has been consolidated in Latin America is UNIREDES: a network of social projects that offers training support to foster continuity and sustainability, to develop new projects, and to improve impact in responding 'to the cry of the poor'.







# FOR A CULTURE OF UNITY



*“Wisdom, a gift from God, has always been taken into account within the Movement from the very beginning. It means Christian Wisdom accompanied by study in all areas of knowledge. The promotion of a culture imbued with Wisdom is one of the aims of the Focolare Movement. Since the charism is centred on unity, it has been called a ‘culture of unity’.*  
*A basic culture, a way of thinking and living centred on the primacy of unity over division and conflict, is fundamental when interpreting reality and undertaking projects of social, economic and political transformation. It is also the necessary platform to enter into dialogue with contemporary society. ”*



# CHRISTIAN FORMATION

## Sophia University Institute



The Sophia University Institute is an **academic institution founded in 2008** on the initiative of Chiara Lubich, to encourage interaction between all the disciplines of knowledge in a perspective of wisdom, without eliminating their single autonomy but getting to the roots and common goals.

450

students

and teachers  
2021/2022

50

countries

30

languages

90%

of  
the students  
achieved  
a qualified  
academic or  
professional  
engagement

From a young age Chiara always saw study as the path to truth. This academic project focuses on the experience of a community which studies, in which research, thinking and life are shared, not only between students from different backgrounds, but also between students and teachers and among the staff of the Institute.

Sophia's main campus is located in the International little town of Loppiano. Accommodation is available in the **university campus**, a shared living opportunity that allows students to apply what they have studied.

In 2017, in addition to the traditional degree in Culture of Unity, a three-fold proposal opened up: three master's degree programmes in English, to encourage international participation: "Economics and Management for a civil and sustainable economy"; "Political Science"; "Trinitarian Ontology with a philosophical and theological focus".

On 27<sup>th</sup> February 2021, the first activity of the Sophia University Institute in Latin America and the Caribbean started. The course, 'Diplomado en liderazgos comunitarios' (Diploma in Community Leadership), consists of 120 hours of interdisciplinary classes, and aims to meet the needs of all those people who find themselves in leadership roles.

In a globalised and fluid society in the midst of a digital revolution, Sophia Web Academy, an e-learning platform, offers an extremely flexible and academically based educational method for anyone who feels drawn to a vision of life and intelligence based on the 'Culture of Unity'.

## Popular Marian University (UPM)

Founded and inaugurated by Chiara Lubich on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1980 in Rocca di Papa (Rome), the Popular Marian University (UPM) is divided into multi-year courses entrusted to different teaching teams.

Its aim is to offer basic theological and catechetical training, especially to people who are members of the Focolare Movement. It has a central secretariat in Rocca di Papa and regional secretariats throughout the five continents. Since its foundation, it has more than 45,000 members. Due to its popular character, the texts of the lessons are as simple and universal as possible. The training programmes, translated into several languages, are the same in all the countries.

Each local secretariat, with local teachers, offers content that responds to the needs of the local area.

Each year of study ends with "conversations" lived as moments of communion in the line of the spirituality of unity.

In 2020, UPM adopted the moodle platform for course delivery.

For the **academic year 2021/2022**, there were 5 lessons in the course entitled '**Where we are Alone with God: Conscience**'.





## "Abba School" Study Centre

The **'Abba School' Study Centre**, founded by Chiara in 1990, is an **interdisciplinary** workshop for the elaboration of the new elements contained in the charism of unity. It is currently composed of 72 experts from different disciplines, from 14 European countries and 7 non-European countries, who meet regularly to study specific projects carried out by individual members or by the group as a whole, assisted by a wider circle of about 250 scholars from 22 disciplines who contribute to the Movement's formation activities in the ecclesial and civil spheres. The studies produced are published, in part, in the Focolare Movement's cultural journals "New Humanity" and "Claritas. Journal of Dialogue and Culture" and in the series "Studies of the Abba School" published by Città Nuova.



Publications in 2021:

- *Unità. Uno sguardo dal Paradiso '49*, Studi della Scuola Abbà 7, Città Nuova, Roma 2021. Translations into English, French and German.
- *Chiara Lubich. In dialogue with the world. Prospettive interculturali linguistiche e letterarie nei suoi scritti*, Rubettino Editore, Soveria Mannelli 2021.
- *Together for Jerusalem, Seminar of biblical scholars*, in "Claritas. Journal of Dialogue and Culture" 9 (2020) No. 2.
- *Elements of the sociology of love. The agapic dimension in society*, Natan Ed., Benevento 2013. Portuguese translation 2021.
- *The paths of the jurist in the footsteps of fraternity. Ordinamenti a confronto*, Giappichelli, Turin 2016. English and Portuguese translation 2021.

## OTHER COURSES

Some other courses aimed at adults and young people are worth mentioning.

### FormaT: Formation of formators

FormaT is a training course for formators of young people between the ages of 18 and 30. A network of 60 formators has been established on all continents and the first modules are underway.

### Up2Me: Relationship education

For some years now, the Focolare Movement has chosen to invest resources and energy into seeking to understand how to respond to the request for help and accompaniment that comes from many families, educators, children and young people, on the issues of emotions and sexuality. **Up2Me** is a programme about **emotions and sexuality for children and young people** and it actively involves communities starting with the families and educators of the Movement.

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021, a worldwide *live streaming event* was held, which Included an input from Margaret Karram, President of the Focolare Movement. She said: "Up2Me draws on the experience of the Focolare Movement In building relationships, on the educational methodology inherent in the charism that animates it, referring to the indications offered by Chiara Lubich in the spirituality of unity, including 'becoming one' and 'listening more deeply to the other', which are particularly effective as an educational model for relationships. This formula is appropriate for today and it is confirmed by the somewhat unexpected interest that Up2Me has aroused all over the world". The meeting was an opportunity to hear experiences and testimonies of those who have already participated in the training course. To date, about 2,000 boys and girls have participated in the programme.

The initiatives implemented in 2021 were:

- Monitoring of Up2Me worldwide, 6 online conferences with collaborators in several countries (Lebanon, Egypt, Portugal, Brazil, India, Spain).
- Completion of the application for the copyright of the material prepared for the children's course: a volume was published by Città Nuova publishing house containing the training material.
- Translations of the educational material: French and Portuguese version completed for both the children's and the parents' course. Translation Into Arabic and Croatian (12-14 year olds) has started.



- Setting up a website.
- Commencement of the scientific research project conducted by a psychologist at Sophia University to carry out a qualitative survey of the Up2Me training courses.
- Completion of an online course for Up2Me tutors over 5 weekends in September, October, November 2021: 301 participants (tutors and observers), from 31 countries. There was a large number of observers from countries where the Up2Me course has not yet been activated.
- Work continued on preparing teaching/training material for ages 4-8 and over 18.
- A process is being developed for young people, that started with a survey through questionnaires and focus groups, involving more than 1600 people.

## LIFE STORIES

**Belen and David** are from Ecuador and live in Spain. They both trained as Up2Me tutors.

They said, *"Being able to participate in the education of the new generations is a way of collaborating in a concrete and active way in the search for a better world. It is enough to think back to our past, to see how many of us would have liked a doctor or a psychologist to explain all the changes we experience at that age and even more, to be part of a group that has adequate information to share and discuss these topics and not, as often happens, through the classmate 'who knows best' or worse still through television programmes, films, etc."*

**Julia and Grisha** from Russia add: *"There were three motives for us to go on the Up2Me course. First of all, our children, especially the eldest 17-year-old who was in a romantic relationship at the time.*

*Then our friends who were parents from the parish and schools: all those we told about the course expressed genuine interest in the programme and wanted their children to participate.*

*Finally, the current education system does not offer pathways that adequately help adolescents to process the psychological and physiological growth issues typical of this delicate phase of life"*.

## Beyond the crisis

### Accompanying couples in difficulty and those who are separated

51 countries  
400 people  
WESTERN ZONES  
380 people  
EASTERN ZONES

In 2021, the first course was held for couples who make themselves available to accompany families in difficulty, who are separated or separated in a new union. It was organised by the International Secretariat of New Families and consisted of three weekends of lessons. At the end, an additional module was added, requested by the participants, for dialogue and answering questions.

### Paths of Light

10 couples  
in Italy  
11 couples  
in Croatia,  
Serbia &  
Romania  
11 couples  
in Slovakia  
& the Czech  
Republic  
12 couples  
in Spain

Also in 2021, the "Percorsi di Luce" (Paths of Light) course continued: a one-week residential courses for couples in difficulty who want to invest in their relationship and try to give a new fervour to their love.

It is an experience that started over ten years ago in Loppiano, in the Loreto School (an international school for families) and is now present in other nations: Croatia, Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Switzerland. It will start next year in South America.

In 2021, 44 couples were accompanied.



**Beatrice and Paolo** (fictitious names) share how a light has been rekindled in their story which was marked by lack of communication, infidelity and separation and finding new ways of relating until the dream of past years was rekindled. Beatrice recounted, "I dreamed of a perfect family, an open and sincere relationship. When we married, I was very much in love and full of confidence. Then two children arrived immediately and absorbed all our energy. My husband, who devoted the whole day to work, was no longer interested in what I was living. I became more and more closed in on myself and little by little everything fell apart". Paolo continued, "I thought she was no longer interested in our relationship and this only increased my negative opinion of her. This whole situation distanced me and led me to set up the relationship as in a business, where what matters is only the practical things. We could no longer even tell each other that we were angry. We kept quiet, sulking, harbouring negative thoughts and emotions inside. Then Beatrice left and everything that I felt I had built in 25 years of marriage, a happy, fulfilled family, living peacefully, was

gone. My pride led me to think that I had done nothing wrong and that it was all her fault".

The "Paths of Light" experience for Paolo and Beatrice came somewhat by chance. It was an attempt to find out whether they were still together. During the course, the couple started talking again, saying things to each other that they had not said for a long time, without holding back on outbursts of anger which had been stifled inside for years. "One morning I found Beatrice in the kitchen, sitting on the floor, crying. Something snapped in me: I couldn't leave her there, suffering alone: I felt I was the offended party but I also had my responsibilities towards her and had made mistakes. I simply moved closer. I bent down. I hugged her and, helping her up, I told her: 'come on... let's join the others at the 'Paths of Light'".

"That gesture, that bending down to 'pick me up', changed something," said Beatrice, "The situation, the difficulties, were the same, but I saw a glimmer of light. That gesture, which could not erase all the hurt we had caused each other, was the first step on a new path together".

## Other International Initiatives

**"ZoomTonCouple"** is an online course dedicated to couples. It was created in France for French-speaking countries and has aroused great interest in other countries. It includes sessions conducted in a different way with short themes, dialogue and interaction between participants.

82 couples  
10 countries

82 couples have participated, mostly young. From: Reunion Island, Canada, Great Britain, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Slovakia, Mozambique, Lebanon, France

It was later translated into Dutch and developed in the Netherlands and Belgium, with 42 couples participating.

60 young people  
10 countries

**"GPSAffectif" Pathway** is an online pathway of "discernment" for young people aged 20-35 (three sessions + one weekend).

Participants: about 60 young people (Ecuador, New Caledonia, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Senegal, Lebanon, Belgium, France)



# DIALOGUE WITH CULTURE

*"As the Focolare Movement developed, first in Italy, then in Europe and then throughout the world, a true and proper people was formed, the people of unity (...) And if from the earliest times there has always been an awareness that the charism of unity is the bearer of its own culture, it was the growth of this people that highlighted the specificity of this culture, making it necessary to deepen its doctrinal understanding: theological, but also philosophical, political, economic, psychological, artistic, etc. As a novelty, then, in recent times, the encounter between the people of unity and its increasingly explicit doctrine has provoked what we call 'inundations', a term suggested to us by St John Chrysostom: the development, that is, of real new movements" Chiara Lubich, Trent, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2001 (in Chiara Lubich, *Discorsi in ambito civile ed ecclesiale*, Città Nuova, p. 91)*

## Projects of Dialogue with Culture

Following Chiara Lubich's intuition of 'inundations', several projects for dialogue with culture are ongoing:

**Transversal Dialogue Project (DIALOP)**, is a project for dialogue between socialists/Marxists and Christians, involving intellectuals, academics, politicians, activists and students from European countries. It stems from the conviction that dialogue is the best way to bring about real change and works to transform the world into a better place to live in.



On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021, **the conference "Looking at all the flowers"** was held in Innsbruck (Austria), in the prestigious setting of the Theological Faculty that is identified with the name of Karl Rahner, who is buried in the large Jesuit church that divides the two wings of the Athenaeum. About one hundred people attended with 150 listening points on other continents.

**The EduForUnity S.T.E.P. Project**, is an international 'laboratory' made up of educationalists, experts in educational sciences and educators committed to deepening the teaching methods that emerge from the thought and spiritual experience of Chiara Lubich and the Focolare Movement, in dialogue with the rich and exciting debate on education in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. A fruit of EduForUnity is S.T.E.P., a journey in stages that indicates the steps to be taken together traced out by Chiara Lubich. In 2021, three meetings were held on a web platform: 16<sup>th</sup> January, 20<sup>th</sup> March and 30<sup>th</sup> October. It has been translated into Spanish, English, Portuguese and French.

## Dialogue and Cultural Events

Every year countless events of dialogue with culture are organised by the Focolare Movement all over the world.

The following are just a few that were organised in 2021, many of which were implemented only in online mode due to the pandemic.



### "From now on"

A path designed by young people and for young people, bringing together generations to understand together how to deal with everyday challenges.

The course, divided into four stages, was a moment of inter-generational dialogue. The topics covered were:

12/12/20 Civic Vocation

13/02/21 Law, Sport and Sociology

10/04/21 Education, Architecture, Economics

6/05/21 Ecology, Medicine and Psychology



### "Education of Communion & Global Compact on Education".

A cycle of webinars organized by Education of Communion. A teaching method to generate unity dedicated to the five thematic areas that constitute the cornerstones of Pope Francis' idea of education: dignity and human rights; fraternity and co-operation; technology and integral ecology; peace and citizenship; culture and religions.

27/02/2021 'Global Compact on Education' Education of Communion

27/03/2021 'Thinking. How? For an ecology of the mind'

08/05/2021 'Peace and inter-culturalism, between rights and education'

12/06/2021 'Educating community and the socio-emotional development of the child'.



### Brotherhood for World Peace

A conference organised by Unedi (CEI's National Office for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue) at the Sophia University Institute in Loppiano, attended by Christians and Muslims.

Expert speakers offered a Christian and Muslim reflection on the theme of the day: "Environment and Care for Creation. Brotherhood for world peace and common coexistence". Abdellah Redouane, Secretary General of the Islamic Cultural Centre of Italy (Cici), was present.



## CENTENARY FOCUS

### Centenary of Chiara Lubich

The centenary of the birth of Chiara Lubich (1920-2020), founder of the Focolare Movement, was celebrated in 2020. This anniversary was marked by a packed programme of events and initiatives, including publications, conferences, exhibitions, publication of stamps and competitions.

On the occasion of the centenary, on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021 on Rai 1 (Italian television) a TV movie on Chiara Lubich was aired on prime time. The film, which covers the early years of Chiara Lubich's life, from 1943 to 1946, was viewed live by more than 5,600,000 people.

To conclude the centenary events, on 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at the National Library in Rome (Italy) a conference entitled "Beyond the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Chiara Lubich in dialogue with our time" was held. This was an ambitious title, aiming to explore the charismatic figure of a protagonist of the 20<sup>th</sup> century who approached the new millennium and the ongoing change of epoch by proposing the ideal of universal brotherhood, in the certainty that 'unity is a sign of the times'.

The proceedings, attended by scholars from all over the world, were introduced by Miguel Angel Moratinos, UN High

Commissioner and historian Andrea Riccardi, founder of the Community of Sant'Egidio. The conference was closed by the theologian Piero Coda. The President of the Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella awarded the conference the Medal of Representation, in recognition of the particular cultural interest of the initiative.

The Conference was broadcast live on the web with translations in four languages and is available on YouTube.

It was also an opportunity to present the first critical edition of Chiara Lubich's work *Meditations*, edited by Maria Caterina Atzori. Since its first publication in 1959, over a million copies have been printed in 28 languages. It offers contemporary society a way to realise Jesus' testament on earth 'That all may be one'.

As a 'corollary' to the conference, the closing ceremony of the Italian national competition 'Una città non basta. Chiara Lubich citizen of the world', dedicated to the world of education, attracted the participation of numerous secondary schools.

In 2020, the text *Discourses in Civic and Ecclesial Affairs*, edited by Vera Araújo was also published in the series 'Works of Chiara Lubich'.

# COMMUNICATION THAT UNITES





*“Exactly now, when the world seems to be rolling into the abyss of new wars, of calamities, of previously unimagined evils, it is instead paradoxically supported by an idea that manifests itself here and there and expresses ‘Unity’. Unity, a sign of the times in which our Movement also has its full meaning; right now when people want a more united world, when universal brotherhood is demanded, right now these powerful means of communication are available to humanity. In all this, is there not, the hand of God? ”*

Chiara Lubich, Lecture given on the occasion of the conferment of an honorary degree in the Science of Social Communications at St. John's University, Bangkok (Thailand), 5th January 1997.





# MEDIA

## Communications Office

To improve communication skills and avoid fragmentation, the International Centre of the Focolare Movement has established a Communications Office. A modern *newsroom* that collects news and presents them in a variety of forms, methods and channels according to the targets to be reached.

## Website

The website [www.focolare.org](http://www.focolare.org) is the Movement's international website. It offers content covering: the identity of the Focolare Movement, its organisation, its inspiration (golden rule, art of loving, communion, dialogue), the culture of unity, the Little Towns and where they are, the NGOs with which the Movement collaborates in the realisation of humanitarian and solidarity projects, the contacts to access the General Archives of the Focolare Movement. Many news items have been published over the years with testimonies, events and in-depth studies, with the contribution of members of the Movement from all over the world.

The content is accessible in 5 languages: Italian, English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.

There are 47 national websites of the Movement (Focolare Movement Worldwide)

47 national  
websites

5 languages

761,030  
users

2,889,508  
pages



## Social networks

Over time, the Focolare Movement has activated a number of social channels used by groups or individuals to build a united world.

Subscribers are notified daily about news on the site via: email, WhatsApp, Telegram.

In 2021, there were 9,065 subscribers.

 9,270 followers

 10,1 thousand followers

 8,541 followers  
12,612 tweets

 15,230 subscribers

## Link UP

10,000  
contacts

40,000  
deferred  
connections

9 languages

One of the most important communication tools of the Focolare Movement is the Link Up. It started in 1980 when an opportunity arose to connect the Focolare Centres around the world by telephone. With the evolution of technology, the mode of transmission has also changed: today it is transmitted through our Youtube channel. It has a **bimonthly** frequency. It is translated live into 5 simultaneous languages and has 10,000 contacts. Soon after its transmission, translations into 9 other languages are inserted in the YouTube channel; it attracts 40,000 deferred connections. In this way, the Link Up contributes to the realisation of Chiara Lubich's dream expressed shortly before her death, that the Movement might always "Be a family".



## CSC Media

**The Communications Office team works in close collaboration with CSC media, the Centro Santa Chiara Audio-visual Centre, which is the design and production centre for all the audio and video material of the Focolare Movement.**

## Translation Office

The translation office consists of a central coordination team of 20 people, each of whom manages a team that routinely produces translations in five languages: English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Korean and in other languages for conferences or other specific occasions.

## IT Department

The IT department looks after all the media technology management, which is essential for the realisation and dissemination of communication products.



# NEW CITY PUBLISHING GROUPS

An important contribution to the promotion and dissemination of the culture of unity is offered by the **Città Nuova Group**, founded in the 1950s to spread a culture linked to the values of dialogue and inclusion, with a view to building a society based on respect, sharing and unity. Over the years, publishing houses have developed in several countries around the world.

The wide variety of books, periodicals, platforms, services and technologies that the Città Nuova (New City) publishing groups present, is a tool at the service of the individual and society, for a promoting a culture directed towards a renewed humanity a framework for dialogue between the components of civil society; a space for cultural debate to offer a contribution of ideas and proposals capable of substantiating the commitment to building the common good.

A project that, yesterday as today, is brought ahead on a daily basis by those who work directly within the publishing groups and by a significant number of readers who believe in the mission and contribute to the dissemination of the publications.

## FOCUS ON NEW CITY

An important initiative launched in 2021 to support the development of media and journalistic projects that share ideas and solutions for the common good and to build a more united global society is the New Global Initiative, which has 4 goals to be achieved in 5 years: Renew Città Nuova, re-energise the magazines and publishing houses in many countries by building networks and giving voice to Focolare communities from the perspective of a more united world.

Build a global network, strengthen-

ing the media presence of the Movement internationally, putting people more and more in the network and with local agencies.

Establish a communication platform, especially addressed to leaders in politics, business, civil society and dialogue at all levels. Establish a foundation to act as a fund-raising instrument to support the development of the Little Towns and the new communications platform.

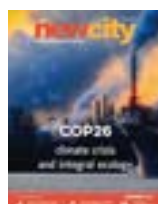
**37** magazines in many countries

As well as the books and magazines published by Città Nuova, there are several other important magazines:

**"Ekklesía. Paths of communion and dialogue"** is a quarterly periodical. It is an international project with 8 editions in several languages. It is an invitation to search together for ways to communicate the Gospel in today's world and is addressed in particular to workers and animators of ecclesial life as a source of inspiration, a tool for formation and a support for action.

**“New Humanity”** is a magazine of history, politics, economics, theology, philosophy and sociology that, in the light of the charism of unity, dialogues with the cultural perspectives of the contemporary world. It endeavours to be a meeting place for all by promoting open thinking aimed at reconstructing the fabric of unity.

**“Sophia: Research on the foundations and Interdependence of Knowledge”** is a biannual international academic publication dedicated to the wisdom of dialogue. It welcomes contributions that are interpersonal, interdisciplinary and intercultural.



## NetOne



### Journalism in dialogue

The Democratic Republic of Congo is experiencing a difficult socio-political situation. This is the context that led members of the NetOne network in Congo to organise a communication conference in December 2021 in Kinshasa on the theme: “The role of the journalist and opinion maker in the handling of information for the public before, during and after elections”. Members of the NetOne network from Benin, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Nigeria connected Via the Internet. The event was broadcast by 53 radio stations.

### Digital Communication/Sophia University Institute

Digital Pact. October 2021. A seminar was held to develop the action plan to promote an ethical pact for professionals involved in digital programming at an international level.

### Audiovisual Communication

TV and Cinema: dialogue with cultures and religions. Rome, 2021. Film-makers from Italy with network members from all over Europe. They met in Rome to share experiences and create training spaces to stimulate dialogue in fraternity from their own areas of expertise.



# GENERAL ARCHIVE

The General Archive of the Focolare Movement (AGMF) preserves the paper and multimedia documents concerning: the foundress Chiara Lubich (1920-2008); the co-founders, Igino Giordani and Pasquale Foresi; the first collaborators; the history of the Focolare Movement from its birth to the present day; and its development and worldwide diffusion.



On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019, the Archival and Bibliographic Superintendence of Lazio declared the Archive “of particularly important historical interest”, recognising its value as “an extraordinary testimony, a source of new inspiration and life” (from the Official Declaration of the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities, General Directorate Archives, Archival and Bibliographic Superintendence of Lazio, Italy. Rome, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019). It documents the path of universal fraternity generated by the charismatic figure of Chiara Lubich and her first collaborators.

Three major multi-year projects were carried out:

**Massive digitisation of audio and video, at the** Memnon company in Belgium: a 5-year project approved by the Movement’s Governance and the Lazio Cultural Heritage Superintendence, to prevent the destruction of material due to obsolescence and deterioration.

**Renovation and retrofitting of the air-conditioned archive rooms.** Construction work began in October 2021, according to the plan approved by the Fire Brigade and the Superintendence, with completion scheduled for the end of April 2022. It was possible to carry out the work without having to transport and store all the documentation elsewhere, with considerable cost savings.

**Digital management of the Historical Archive with the product Ark-ki-Mosaic** from the company Media Power. A three-year project which, following a one-year free trial period, started in February 2021. To date we are in the full construction/implementation phase.

# ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP FOR THE COMMON GOOD



# POLITICAL MOVEMENT FOR UNITY (PMU)

The Political Movement for Unity is an international network of politicians, citizens, diplomats and civil servants who work at various levels: administrators, academics, researchers, young people interested in political issues, of different inspirations and parties, a laboratory of political activity at a personal and at a collective level immersed in the big issues that humanity is facing today. They recognize in universal fraternity the specific content and method of their political commitment.

**The Political Movement for Unity was founded in 1996. It** developed in response to the democratic crises in many countries. **Today, it exists in Europe, Latin America, Africa and is** growing in Asia, the Middle East, and North America.

Since 2020, the Political Movement for Unity has been considered as the political department **of the International New Humanity Association**.



## FOCUS 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

In 2021, as part of United World Week, a streamed event was held to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Political Movement for Unity.

Eight simultaneous languages, more than 500 listening points from all over the world and 4,000 live views.

The live programme presented some witnesses of the birth of the Political Movement for Unity, the moment when the foundress of the Focolare Movement, Chiara Lubich, constituted it on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1996, when she met a group of politicians of different affiliations in Naples, Italy. This was followed by a number of events in the journey of the Political Movement for Unity around the world, leading up to the initiative that came to fruition

on this very occasion: the Appeal for Quality Politics. Citizens, administrators, legislators, officials and diplomats, scholars and members of civil organisations in 25 countries of the world cooperated in the drafting of this text: a 'call for action', to all those engaged in political action, to support the irreversible path of peoples towards unity and peace.

8 languages in simultaneous translation

500 listening points from around the world

4,000 live views

## Congress Co-governance

**The Second International Co-governance Congress** promoted by the Political Movement for Unity and New Humanity with the collaboration of numerous organisations, was held in Brazil in 2021. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was held in virtual mode, from 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> October.

Growing urbanisation, in an irreversibly global context shaken by regressive reactions, is increasing the importance of studies on cities and their future. The challenge is to understand how cities should be governed today: what role is required of administrators in a context of pressing interdependence? What space does the participation of citizens and collective actors occupy in the design of urban governance, to respond to the demand for a more mature democratic quality?

### GOVERNANCE CHALLENGE

Within this framework, a number of innovative concepts are emerging; **one of these is the idea of Co-governance**, which today, on the basis

of internationally shared research, identifies a process, an experience of participatory governance, that aims at a high level of inter-subjective and multi-sectoral collaboration in the complex contexts of contemporary cities.

*"The 'best government' is no longer that of the 'enlightened autocratic leader' who organises power in a virtuous manner, but one that allows the city system to collectively devise a common social vision and then act in co-responsibility."*

The collected contributions have been published by the Brazilian publisher ASCES, in an E-book entitled: "Co-governance as a method for building fraternity in politics starting with cities". The E-book contains 22 articles written by 28 authors.



# ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP PROJECTS

**"LIVING PEACE"** is a pathway to education for the culture of peace and universal brotherhood. Over 1,000 schools and groups participate with over 600,000 children and young people involved and 60 partner international organisations.

**HOMBRE MUNDO** is an international project open to adolescents aged 13-17 years old, from many cultures and religions. It provides two-week "workshops" for a "Form-Action" (learning-by-doing) to world citizenship, allowing the participants to open up to the knowledge that each culture and each person brings and then concretely gave themselves to the service of the common good.

245 volunteers      30 registered organisations      5 years of work

**Project MilONGa** is a free, international volunteering platform that selects, trains and accompanies volunteers with the aim of satisfying the desire of young people aged 18-35 years to have social and global experiences. Promoted by a network of organisations inspired by the charisma of unity, MilONGa offers opportunities for "fraternal", intercultural and quality volunteering in synergy with the work of social organisations already engaged in different peripheries of the planet and with the communities and Little Towns of the Focolare Movement.

245  
volunteers  
30  
registered  
organisations  
5  
years  
of work



**Together for a new Africa - T4NA** is a training course designed and implemented by young people from several African countries for responsible and participatory governance. It enables them to address key challenges on their continent by promoting and developing a culture of unity. In 2021, the first 3-year cycle of the course was completed in 7 countries and the second cycle, due to start in late 2022, is about to begin and will involve 14 countries.





# FINANCIAL REPORT

## **Methodological Note to the Financial Report**

The Focolare Movement is present in various countries through legal entities that represent it, such as the numerous associations that are inspired by its values and aims and are subject to local civil laws and tax regimes and therefore have their own accounts. This, together with the vastness of the actions and activities that are carried out locally, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, does not allow the presentation of a single set of accounts that includes everything that is carried out in the individual branches, zones and regional centres.

Therefore, this accounting statement, as already specified in the initial methodological note, refers to those activities supported, in whole or in part, by the internationally shared communion of goods.

The output items concern the mission of the International Centre to support and serve the unity of the Focolare Movement and to achieve its specific purpose through the priorities identified.

For further information, the total income and expenditure of the Covid-19 extraordinary communion of assets for the years 2020-2021 is shown separately. The distribution of grants for this purpose has already been reported in this Annual Report and is ongoing at the date of publication.

In addition, other information, aggregated income and expenditure figures as at June 2021, broken down by geographical regions, is presented and taken from the submitted annual statements of the zones.

## Focolare Movement Financial Report 2021

<b>Work of Mary - Focolare Movement - International Centre</b>	
Profit and Loss Account	Total
<b>INCOME</b>	
Communion of members' extraordinary assets, donations and legacies	5,040,531
Ordinary communion of goods of members	2,568,053
Sale of Property	912,616
From External Institutions for Educational Projects	114,581
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>8,635,781</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Management and Services of the International Centre	2,408,271
General Assembly	86,776
Educational Projects	710,259
Purchase, management and maintenance of property	1,482,735
Media-IT-Translations	670,022
Cultural and social works	1,359,335
International Little Towns	850,556
Youth Centres and Projects	86,802
Support to the Zones (regions)	572,406
Dialogues	31,133
Extraordinary support for people in need	173,587
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>9,491,882</b>
<b>Deficit covered by the Communion of Goods in previous years</b>	<b>856,101</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNION OF GOODS COVID-19 2020-2021</b>	<b>1,039,234</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNION OF GOODS COVID-19 2020-2021</b>	<b>739,955</b>

## REGIONAL Zone Reports 30th June 2021

**Income (communion of goods and miscellaneous)**

AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST	189,766,00	
ASIA AND OCEANIA	238,353,00	
AMERICAS	380,985,00	
EUROPE	2,455,858,38	
	Total	3,264,962,38

**Expenditure**

AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST	265,486,00	
ASIA AND OCEANIA	342,997,00	
AMERICAS	299,852,00	
EUROPE	2,426,041,38	
	Total	3,334,376,38

<b>Deficit covered by the Communion of Goods</b>	<b>-69,414,00</b>
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## WE CONTINUE TOGETHER

Dear friends and readers of "Communion in Action, a Lifestyle of Sharing",

First of all, **we would like to thank** the people and communities of the Focolare Movement, the true protagonists of these pages, all the institutions, associations, ecclesial and civil realities with which we collaborate passionately for universal brotherhood and all those who have sent data, reports and contributed in various ways to the publication of this document.

It has not been easy to collate into a single document the richness of life, of the commitment of thousands of people: this document is a first attempt that is certainly incomplete. However, we felt it was important to try to do this in order to fully live out this sharing of life with transparency, somehow giving back the life it is generating, a current of hope that silently transforms the world.

At the same time, in order to continually improve our mission, we would like to know your opinions, expectations, suggestions and proposals so that the next version may be more complete and a better expression of the vast family of the Focolare Movement.

You can write to us at this email address: [bdc@focolare.org](mailto:bdc@focolare.org)

This Report has been prepared by the Communion of Goods, Economy and Work Office in collaboration with the Focolare Movement's Communications Office.





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