

**Rocca di Papa, 25 October 2014**

**Conference Call: “Our Goal: That all May be One”**

**OPENING AND GREETINGS**

*(music – images taken from the film “Winged Migration” by Jacques Perrin)*

Speaker: In autumn, looking at the wild geese taking off for the south, flying in a V-shape, we can reflect upon what science has discovered in regards to the reason why they fly in that manner.

By flying in V formation, the entire flock increases its flying capacity by about 70% compared to a bird flying solo.

When a goose breaks away from the flock, it suddenly feels the aerodynamic resistance in trying to fly alone and quickly rejoins the formation in order to take advantage of the lifting power of the goose in front.

When the lead goose tires, it slowly moves laterally and another goose takes its place in the lead.

The geese cry out from behind in order to encourage those ahead of them to keep up their speed.

Finally, when a goose gets sick or is wounded by gunfire and falls out of formation, another two geese fly out together with it and they follow it to give it aid and protection.

They remain with the lame goose until it is able to fly again or until it dies, and only then do they begin flying solo, in order to reach their group again.

*(ambience and applause)*

**Salvatore Lamagna:** Greetings to everyone in the world! I think this applause truly expresses, better than words, the joy of meeting again, to live together this experience of the Conference Call.

**Adriana Rodolico:** The beautiful images we have seen express our life. This sharing of experiences in all the various parts of the world strengthens our bond and helps us in our journey, just as the flight of the wild geese.

**Salvatore:** Let’s start connecting with the world, with some of the places where you are present. I’d like to start with Vancouver, Canada. Let’s call Carlos and Nova Freire, are you there?

**Nova:** Yes, hello, we’re here. Hi to all!

**Salvatore:** In these past days we have shared with you the dismay of the Canadian people for the brutal act towards your Parliament ...

**Nova:** Yes, thank you, yes! A heartfelt greeting from the Pacific coastline. We are here in

the focolare of Vancouver, a wonderful metropolis containing about two and a half million people. It is situated between the sea and the mountains. We are an enthusiastic little group of twenty people.

**Carlos:** We greet you also on behalf of those who are not with us because of the distances, but they are certainly following the live transmission of the link-up. They are not only from here, the various neighbourhoods of Vancouver city, but also from other places on the Western side of Canada: from Victoria, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon and others. We are truly in this worldwide unity with everyone. Ciao!

**Adriana:** Thank you! Now, from Canada we fly to Sweden. There is Valentina Gucci on the line.

Valentina, are you there?

**Valentina:** Yes, I'm here, hi! We greet you on behalf of all the Gen girls of Stockholm and all those here in the focolare who are following this link-up together. Today we wanted to share with you the event that we organized two weeks ago, us Gen and Youth for a United World, in order to raise funds to send to Fontem. What can we say, the dinner was a huge success even if here we are a "little flock." Well, 93 people came! The great success of the evening was thanks to the indispensable help from the community and unity was enkindled even stronger among us. We are sending a huge hug to the whole world and count on our unity!

**Salvatore** – Thank you , Valentina! (*applause*)

So much of the world is also represented right here in this hall, but we'll get to know each other as the Link-up unfolds. However, I would like to present just one person so we can greet him. It is Fr. Bonaventura who is here with us! Fr. Bonaventura is one of the first religious who met Chiara in the early years. (*applause*) Thank you, Fr. Bonaventura.

Perhaps now we should introduce ourselves.

**Adriana:** I'm Adriana, he's Salvatore. Until a few weeks ago we were in Naples. He's an engineer and I worked as a bank teller for 40 years. We have three children. Then we decided to give our contribution here, to the Movement, but here at the Centre. Our 3 adult children approved and partly also shared in our choice.

**Salvatore:** I would also like to introduce to you Federica and Mikaela... there they are at the back. They will help us and will collect and read your messages during this live transmission.

**Federica Comazzi:** Yes, hi, you can send them as sms/text messages to 00 39 342 873 0175. Or by email, the address is: [collegamentoch@focolare.org](mailto:collegamentoch@focolare.org).

**Mikaela Comazzi:** Or you can write to us on Facebook: CollegamentoCH.

**Adriana:** Great, thank you.

Now we will connect with Loppiano, the first little city of the Movement, established 50 years ago. Online we have Stefania Tanesini and Davide Viganò. Are you there?

**Stefania Tanesini:** Hi, we're here!

**Adriana:** Hi, welcome! So, in these past days you have lived a very important event: you had the visit from the head of the Italian Government, a video message from the Pope and a television network that broadcasted the event for all of us who were connected! What do you want to tell us about this and what is expected and awaiting us for this celebration year?

**Stefania Tanesini:** Yes, precisely so. We are the ones answering you but there were many of us working for this event. The opening of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was held last October 4<sup>th</sup>. Around 2,000 people were present and it took place during LoppianoLab. Then thousands of people were following through live streaming throughout the world. We also received very many messages from everywhere, from old and new citizens of Loppiano. Can you imagine that in 50 years over one million, two hundred thousand people have visited Loppiano!

I must say that one of the greatest and unexpected gifts that we received was the beautiful video message from Pope Francis, recorded on purpose for this anniversary of the little city. You can imagine the emotion when in conclusion he greeted us all with: "Arrivederci! See you soon!"

**Davide Viganò:** With this a year of celebration, appointments began that will end in December 2015. These appointments consist of an itinerary of eight events that hope to express the history, experiences and prospects of fraternity of Loppiano.

A special moment will be on February 27<sup>th</sup> when the Sophia University Institute will confer the honorary degree in "Culture of Unity" to Bartholomew I, the ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople.

Who knows if in this 50<sup>th</sup> celebration one of the conference calls could be hosted from Loppiano. What do you think?

**Adriana:** Fantastic! (*applause*) What a great idea and we'll keep it in mind! Thank you Stefania and thank you Davide and thanks to all the citizens of Loppiano!

**Davide Viganò:** Bye from all of us, bye!

**Adriana:** Bye!

We also saw the images of Loppiano and there was the flag of the little city, the blue flag with the yellow star. This is the symbol of the little cities of the Movement.

However, now we will show you what will henceforth be the logo of the Focolare Movement. This came out from the work done by an international team and from this moment onwards it will be used throughout the world in 44 languages. (*applause*)

## **FOCUS ON THE FAMILY**

**Salvatore:** Let's change topic. The Extraordinary Synod of Bishops of the Catholic Church, which Pope Francis dedicated to the family, recently concluded in Rome. The challenges of the family truly call for an answer from the whole of humanity. The media have gathered and

amplified the voice of the family especially in this period. Let's watch a short report broadcasted by RAI 2 (Italian State TV) on the eve of the Synod, with the testimony from some people of our Movement.

**TG reporter:** .... *Catholic believers too face family difficulties and failures which are even more painful because they are inconsistent with their faith convictions. Let us listen to some testimonies gathered by Laura Gialli.*

**Laura Gialli:** *It's easy to say family but sometimes life puts you in situations that you would never imagine you would have to face: there are those who manage to remain faithful to the Yes said on their wedding day and those who have to deal with different situations. This also applies to those who are keen to live as Christians.*

*Paolo Ricci never wanted to leave his wife whom he married in 1981 and with whom he has three children. However, she asked for her freedom, and so in 2007 he agreed to a divorce. Since then Paolo remains faithful and lives alone.*

**Paolo Ricci:** *I'm not a Martian, I'm not a hero. I'm simply a person who is doing his part; I'm doing what I pledged to do.*

**Laura Gialli:** *Paolo feels supported in his choice by the communitarian spirituality of the Focolare Movement. This is also an experience shared by Mascia and Mario who are in their 40s, living in Rome and married for 10 years. They had everything: a monthly salary each, a house, and a son who was born after a long wait. But the crisis shattered them: in a short time, both lost their jobs and their relationship fell apart.*

**Mascia Consorte:** *We no longer found spaces of time together as a couple: space for dialogue and discussion, sleepless nights and even the salaries were no longer there. In short, many practical difficulties that seriously endangered even our stability as a couple.*

**Mario Santoro:** *What helped us a lot was that we were not alone in all of this. We had some friends who had already gone through the same difficulties and they had also found a solution to them.*

**Laura Gialli:** *On the other hand, Tiziana, 54 years old from Naples, was not able to save her family. She got married at 22, had a daughter, but the marriage lasted 13 years, years in which her husband went away and returned several times; then continuing on like this no longer made sense. After a period of solitude, Tiziana found a new companion who was divorced, another love that brought forth a son.*

**Tiziana Giuliani:** *Due to my irregular situation, I stopped receiving Communion and for me that has always been very difficult. I don't ask the Synod to bring a great revolution, but I would especially like that we be recognized as a vital part of the Church.<sup>1</sup>*

**Adriana:** Emerthe and Dieudonné Gatsinga participated as auditors at the Synod. They are a couple from Rwanda belonging to the Focolare Movement. They have eight children, four

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<sup>1</sup> From the Italian TG2 news broadcast at 8:30pm on October 3, 2014 - coverage at 22'40'' - on RaiDue TV channel.

of whom are adopted because they were orphaned during the 1994 genocide. Dieudonné is a gynaecologist and Emerthe an economist. Together they run a clinic specializing in the field of fertility. They also take care of the formation of engaged and married couples in Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and Kenya. They brought to the Synod one of the voices of Africa.

Now they are connected with us. Are you there?

**Dieudonné:** We are here, hi!

**Adriana:** Hi Dieudonné, hi Emerthe!

**Emerthe:** Hi! (*applause*)

**Adriana:** What experience did you take from the Synod to the couples in your Region?

**Dieudonné** - The Synod made us discover how great the love of the Church is for families. The Synod fathers' simplicity, openness and capacity to listen made us discover the richness and beauty of the Church as a family. The Pope's presence and his attentive listening was a life lesson for us.

**Emerthe** - We feel called to commit ourselves more with the committed members of New Families so as to evangelize families and engaged couples. It is important to give more time to the others, to strive to live for them and with them, to support one another; to identify families in need of assistance and to be close to them. Thank you.

**Adriana:** Thanks to you! Bye Emerthe, bye Dieudonné, greet everyone for us. Ciao!

**Emerthe:** Bye-bye, here everyone greets you all, ciao! (*applause*) The community went to Burundi for the updating.

**Adriana:** Thank you, ciao!

**Salvatore:** Anna and Alberto Friso, you are the delegates for the New Families Movement and also members of the Pontifical Council for the Family. With who else could we continue talking about this reality other than you? Before, the challenges faced by families today were mentioned. Alberto, what are the most significant points that emerged from the Synod?

**Alberto:** I would say that it was a grand event where we saw the love of the Church for the family, that the first Synod on the Family was proclaimed. Secondly, I would say that it was also an occasion to canvass the whole world with a questionnaire, and therefore reproduce a worldwide picture of the situation of the family today. This was the foundation of the first session of the Synod. Then, it was grand for the fact that 13 married couples were invited to participate and collaborate with the Synod Fathers, and among these was the Gatsinga family who was proposed by New Families.

All this was reflected in the final document, truly an expression that highlighted collegiality, that brought this great, new vision, also fruit of this presence of lay, married people and priests immersed in this reality.

**Salvatore:** You spoke of collegiality. In the various phases of the Synod, the media – I must say: with an excellent job of visibility – however reported about divisions that formed between the Synod Fathers, but do you think this was true?

**Alberto:** No. It was the impression of some... of a certain sector of the media. However, before the vastness of the problems of the family today, it was impossible to have uniform vision and ideas. Actually, the great result obtained was precisely that from this collegiality emerged a clearer guideline of an itinerary to offer to people who are searching for a new encounter with God. This was also the fruit of this work done to combine truth and mercy.

**Salvatore:** Thank you, Alberto, thank you very much. Anna, it's your turn! If you would have to express the experience that New Families has, does and will live in the field of the family in one word, what word would you use?

**Anna:** Welcome! But also accompaniment. Because you cannot ask people: "Are you married in the Church? Are you separated? Are you in a new relationship? What is the sexual orientation of your child?" We must accept and welcome, without any judgement, first with facts then with words, announcing to everyone: God loves you immensely.

Welcome because today we find a growing number of couples who are in crisis. So we have to give them hope that it is possible, with a network of families, to come out of isolation, find themselves again, find again the joy of forgiveness and the ability to understand each other. When these crises are very serious there are courses precisely for them, which New Families organizes, where the spirituality of unity, together with serious work done by experts, is able to lead these couples to look to their future together again. Then there is a very important accompaniment for people who are separated, we saw it before. In their solitude that they did not choose and in the heroic choices that many make to remain faithful to the Sacrament. Or even unconditional welcoming of those who are separated and are now in a new relationship. With them we can share a leg of their journey and we can give them the warmth of the family, which is the Church and especially the love of God.

**Salvatore:** Anna, Alberto, thank you very much! (*applause*)

So, Federica, Mikaela, how is it going with the messages?

**Federica:** Great. They write to us: "Greetings to the whole planet. It's a great joy being linked together and getting to know these pieces of news. We experience that we are a family. A hug from Beto and Adriana in Panama."

**Mikaela:** There are 100 of us linked from Fontem. We are very happy to live this special moment with you. We send you our thanks and a very special greeting to Emmaus and Jesús from Mariapolis Mafua Ndem Chiara Lubich."

Instead from Dallas: "There are thirty of us gathered together for a retreat and we are following the link-up. It's great being linked with the whole world."

**Salvatore:** Great, let's go ahead. *(applause)*

## WITH THE NEWLY ELECTED

**Salvatore** - I'm right next to – I hope to pronounce your name properly – Patience?

**Patience Lobe:** Patience.

**Salvatore:** Lobe?

**Patience:** Lobe.

**Salvatore:** And Paolo Mottironi.

**Paolo Mottironi:** It's easier to pronounce.

**Salvatore:** Yes, easier!

They have just been elected, the elections were yesterday, at the Assembly of the men and women volunteers which is taking place right in these days. You have been accompanied by a big group of Volunteers, about fifty of them, who represent *(applause)* more than 400 Volunteers who are now together at Castelgandolfo, whom we want to greet. There they are! *(applause)*

We cannot resist having you share something with us. Let's start with Patience. Are you from Cameroon?

**Patience:** I'm from Cameroon.

**Salvatore:** I know that your life was rather adventurous. You were also committed in politics and you lived through many things, isn't that right? Tell us something

**Patience:** Yes, perhaps it will take too long to say everything, but I think that in that whole adventure, I see myself as an instrument of God's love, who prepared this instrument for something, for a plan of love that I did not know. This is what I can truly say.

**Salvatore:** Very well, thank you. But yesterday... I think that here there are some images of when you were elected. They are really moving images. Tell us something about yesterday.

**Patience:** I'm truly... the natural returns, because I had no feelings, truly none, besides the natural feelings that returned, perhaps I'm like this. What immediately came to mind was the meditation we had in the morning. It was a preparation for me, because in that meditation Chiara said: I'm the foundress of the Movement, but I'm not Chiara, I'm Jesus in the midst. Only this came to my mind. I was chosen as the central delegate of the women volunteers but I'm not Patience Lobe, I'm Jesus in the midst with the whole Movement bringing ahead the branch of the women volunteers.

**Salvatore:** Wonderful. All the very best, we are with you. *(applause)*

Paolo Mottironi. I believe you are well-known to many people, moreover this is the second election for you; you were re-elected.

**Paolo:** The second as if it were the first. It was a strong, emotional experience, a strong and very profound emotion. It was a moment of God, receiving from God a second task as an instrument for the Movement. Many people wrote to me, even today SMS/text messages and

emails are arriving. I'll spend a week answering. The first was a Whatsapp message from my daughter who said: "Congratulations dad, but aren't they tired of you?" (*applause*)

**Salvatore:** Very good, all the very best.

Now in this roundup of presentations, it's time that I introduce you to Fr. António Bacelar. Fr. António Bacelar was also elected last week, because the Assembly of the priests and deacons who are focolarini took place precisely last week. He was elected by their Assembly. May you also tell us something.

**Fr. António Bacelar:** It was a moment of fear and trembling, because I really wasn't expecting it. Then I thought first of all also of the vigour of my brothers. When we presented ourselves to Emmaus together with the other two who were eligible for election, we told her: "We are three but we are one." Emmaus told us: "We are four but we are one," and there we felt the whole Movement that was bringing all this ahead.

Then in those days I was also reading about St. Teresa, that when we are in God's love, in loving our neighbour, we do a lot in a short time and without any effort. It worked in this first week.

**Salvatore:** Wonderful, great. All the very best to you too, António. (*applause*)

#### **GEN 4: LET'S TAKE LOVE HOME!**

**Salvatore:** As you have seen since the last conference call in June, a series of events have taken place: Mariapolises, schools of the Economy of Communion and many others. However, for this Conference call we decided to give space to the little ones, the Gen 4.

*A Gen 4 boy (in Italian):* What does it mean for you to be a Gen 4?

*A Gen 4 boy (in Italian):* To be a Christian ... in a few words, to be a true Christian. (*music*)

*A Gen 4 girl (in French):* They love, share and do many acts of love. (*music*)

*A Gen 4 boy (in Slovak):* For me it's difficult to forgive and to start all over again. (*ambience*)

*A Gen 4 girl (in German):* For me to be a Gen 4 means to love even those who don't seem so nice. (*music*)

*A Gen 4 boy (in Italian):* We should not offend, we should not say that something is gross. (*music*)

*A Gen 4 boy (in Italian):* The first thing that ... What was the question? (*music*)

*A Gen 4 boy (in Italian):* To be a gen 4 for me is something important, because it means to live beside Jesus. And then I like to help people.

*A Gen 4 boy (in Italian):* Someone hurt themselves and I told them: "Look, don't worry." (*music*)

*A Gen 4 girl (in German):* The Gen 4 love a lot and they love even those who do not believe in God.

*A Gen 4 girl (in Italian):* I have many friends who do not believe in Jesus and so sometimes it happens that they make fun of you or they do something else; but – you feel bad about it – but I don't answer them back; I keep on loving.

*A Gen 4 girl (in French):* I am cutting paper to make a beautiful light, to tell God that we love Him more than anything else in the whole world.

*A Gen 4 girl (in Slovak):* We want to pray together for peace in all nations.

*A Gen 4 girl (in Italian):* For me, peace is to pray to Jesus and to love everyone. (*music and ambience*)

*A Gen 4 boy (in Italian):* At the back of my shirt I drew a special car. It runs on the petrol (or gas) of our acts of love. (*music*)

*A Gen 4 girl (in Italian):* We are making bracelets to sell and the money we will collect will be given to the very poor children.

*A Gen 4 girl (in Italian addressing another Gen 4):* Could you give me that, little girl? (*music*)

*A Gen 4 boy (in Slovak):* I love staying here, because the races are really super!

*A Gen 4 girl (in English):* From this congress, what I take home is LOVE! (*ambience and music*) (*applause*)

### “GLOBAL PERSON” PROJECT

**Adriana:** Another important event in these last months was the Global Person Project. 530 teenagers from 23 countries, 7 days lived together in the Mariapolis of O'Higgins, near Buenos Aires. Then another week was lived in 24 places of Central and Southern America, where they rolled up their sleeves working on different concrete projects. They are the Teens for Unity who in thousands, at the same time and in many parts of the world, found the way to share their life with those who suffer.

Let's now watch the video coming from Argentina on the “Global Person” Project in O'Higgins.

(song)

Angelica, Argentina (in Spanish): Hi!

Jose, Colombia (in Spanish): Hi!

Angelica (in Spanish): The project began with the arrival of teens from 20 different countries. Every day we faced various challenges.

Jose (in Spanish): The challenges were breaking the language barrier,

Angelica (in Spanish): opening ourselves up to those we didn't know,

Jose (in Spanish): giving what cost us most

Angelica (in Spanish): and knowing how to forgive.

Jose (in Spanish): On some evenings different countries presented their own culture, offering typical foods and information about their country. There were many workshops and each one

could choose to participate in sports, politics, dance, or music workshops. The important thing was to be active in establishing a sense of brotherhood.

Angelica (in Spanish): There were various moments where we could discuss current topics. We, the Teens for Unity, could ask ourselves about the choices we should make and how to behave in these situations. (music)

Pablo, Bolivia (in Spanish): What struck you the most, the most important thing you gathered from what they told us about Jesus Forsaken?

Louis, France (in French): The greatest thing about Jesus Forsaken is knowing that, like Jesus, every time we doubt, that we question the existence of God, we can start loving again all the time. After Jesus doubted, he rose from the dead and he still did many things. We can also do this: start loving again and love always. (music)

Angelica (in Spanish): And this is not all...

Jose (in Spanish): It will continue... Bye!

(music and writing: The adventure continues... – applause)

**Adriana:** Here with us there are 3 leaders of this project. Will you introduce yourselves?

**Gabriele:** Gabriele.

**Silvia:** Silvia.

**Emanuele:** Emanuele.

**Adriana:** Gabriele, what did you do in the second week? And where did you go?

**Gabriele:** During the second week they split us up into groups and we went to 24 different cities of Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico and Colombia. Our group went to Mendoza, in Argentina, and we came in contact with some very poor communities. The very strong experience that we lived there was truly having helped a poor community who lives on the outskirts. This really impacted us a lot.

**Adriana:** Thank you, Gabriele. Now let's also watch two impressions precisely from two Argentinean teens.

Alfonso, Ábba Guaraní community, of Yacui - Salta - Argentina (in Spanish): I lived a very beautiful and moving experience today. People came to visit our community, to get to know our culture, how we live, work and earn a living every day. Now we can hope again: that our little hall may function as it did before. Our experience today was to paint the little hall.

Clara, Argentina (in Spanish): It's striking how the great unity we experienced among everyone encouraged us. Everything, the activities, conversations, everything gradually nourished me. Everything contributed to our inner enrichment and now it prompts us... Going back home I'll

*try, however I can, to promote a united world in little things, but I know that there is someone in another part of the world who is trying to do the same. (applause)*

**Adriana:** Silvia, from what you have told us, we can understand that it was an unforgettable experience. What are you working on now?

**Silvia:** Certainly, once we got back home the so-called third phase started. We know that in Malta the teenagers told their experience to the President and they said that we returned as 500 global persons, but we want to become 7 billion. Then in Buenos Aires they did an ecological activity that involved also the municipality of one of the neighbourhoods of Buenos Aires. In Ireland they started sharing this experience in different schools and they are trying to raise funds to send to Paraguay so that they can continue a social activity they had started during the project.

**Adriana:** Thank you, Silvia. Emanuele, what can you tell us?

**Emanuele:** We Italians, in order to organize our third phase, we met together in Loppiano shortly after we had returned. We got organized, we met and some concrete proposals emerged, like for example a travelling workshop that goes through the whole of Italy, or other events to unite the whole of Italy. We are also keeping in contact with other communities; for example, the community of the Gen of Salta, where we began some practical activities and who we are now helping them with material goods from here.

**Adriana:** Great, thank you Emanuele. We are with you, also in all that you will do. Thank you.

Mikaela, Federica, are there any novelties?

**Mikaela:** Yes, from Liverpool they say: "There are about 40 of us with a group of Gen 3, happy to be a part of this big family."

**Federica:** Then they write to us: "Hi, I'm Lisa, a Gen. Greetings from Russia. ONE with you."

"We feel that we are in the heart of the Movement. We are from Burundi, Rwanda and Congo."

## **CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS OF THE FOCOLARE AFTER THE ASSEMBLY**

**Adriana:** September 2014 was a month characterized by the General Assembly of the Focolare Movement. Here we have Giancarlo.

Giancarlo, hi! You were co-president of the Movement for six years. This allowed you to get to know many realities of the Movement, many countries and also to see their variety and complexity. What do you have at heart today, after this task?

**Giancarlo:** The first word is gratitude. Gratitude because getting to know the Movement further, as you were saying, also in its geographic diffusion was to live the experience of a

charism that travelled through the years and, being lived out again, it exploded according to many cultures. This was also an encounter with many brothers and sisters. Therefore many moments of unity, many all together but also personal ones.

What do I have at heart? This experience made me live an experience within the experience: my heart was called to expand on the measure of Jesus' heart. So you could ask me: "And now? What now?" Now I feel that what counts is what Jesus said to his apostles after the miracle of multiplying the bread, when he said: "That nothing may be lost." So I feel that this expansion of the heart must continue, it must be alive. I feel that my life must be a gift in this moment, as it has been, I hope, even before, but even more so in this moment at the service of the Movement, moment by moment, minute by minute. This gives me a great joy.

**Adriana:** Thank you, thank you! (*applause*) It's as if you are giving us a mandate. Thank you very much for all that you have given us in these years. Thank you.

Now, just imagine this hall 42 years ago. There was nothing of all this. There was a sheet metal roof, the latticework and a gravel floor. It was the summer of 1972 and I was there. There were 500 of us and Chiara came to speak to us. Her words were powerful and strong. She left a mark, which for me was like a milestone. What she launched to us then has become today's programme.

Chiara Lubich: «... We may wonder how to live in this terrible present day when a mysterious earthquake seems to shake-up the noblest of values, like enormous skyscrapers that crumble and crash into one another. ... Is there a type of global-person ... [who] was able to overcome this terrible trial, paying for a new world which he found anew within himself and which he generated for the others? Yes, such a person exists. But it is easy to understand that this person couldn't be merely a human being, but had to be the Human being: it's Jesus Forsaken. ...»<sup>2</sup>

Speaker: This excerpt was taken from July 22, 1972. While speaking to the young people, Chiara Lubich uses the expression "Global person" for the first time. Precisely those words which Pope Francis cited during the audience on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the conclusion of the General Assembly of the Focolare Movement.

Pope Francis: "Chiara Lubich coined an expression which is especially relevant today. She said we must form "*global persons*": men and women with the soul, the heart, the mind of Jesus and therefore capable of recognizing and interpreting the needs, the concerns and the hopes which are harboured in the heart of every person."<sup>3</sup>

Speaker: Three keywords came out from the work of the Assembly. They summarize the path that the Movement will take in the immediate future: "going outwards,"

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<sup>2</sup> From a speech of Chiara Lubich to the Gen 2 Meeting, Rocca di Papa, 22 July 1972.

<sup>3</sup> From the speech of Pope Francis at the private Audience with the participants at the General Assembly of the Work of Mary, Vatican City, 26 September 2014.

“together,” “suitably prepared.” This is the synthesis of the work done in the 32 groups and plenary sessions on the 3,650 comments that arrived from the “Focolare people,” so as to respond to today’s sufferings and hopes of humanity.

The almost 500 people, from 137 countries, of different ages, cultures, vocations and religions, lived a fascinating experience of communion. They were three weeks that stirred up capacities for listening, frankness, acceptance, trust and mutual love. There was a stimulating contribution from the young people and the participants of different Christian Churches, of different religions and of non-religious affiliation.

Agustín Steinbach, Argentina (in Spanish): *One of the most important moments of this Assembly for me was to be able to work in the groups on the proposals that had arrived from the whole world. The age and cultural differences was not an issue, but at the same time was very enriching. We were able to come up with guidelines and courses of action as the Focolare Movement, in order to respond to today’s problems in the world.*

Dagmar Haake, Germany (in German): *Our working together was characterized by Jesus in the midst and, for me, hearing the theme of the year on the Eucharist was a fruit of this reality. I felt that I had to give everything, everything of myself - thoughts, limitations, plans - so that we could understand together how the Work of Mary could go ahead.*

Bernardette Ngabo, Democratic Republic of Congo (in French): *It was truly a school of listening to the Holy Spirit: in the moment of the elections, the proposals and the motions. I always had to question my idea and in my constant listening to the Holy Spirit, this idea was purified or enriched. However, the most important thing was the final result: joy and freedom.*

Glauco Venuti, Italy (in Italian): *My very profound experience here was to put together unity with plural thinking. When we asked for the Holy Spirit’s help at the beginning of the Assembly, someone said that He manifests himself not only in the results but also during the process. The moments in which we were not able to reach a vast consensus were fundamental. In those moments it was important to pause and have a very deep sharing where each person could say their different viewpoints and choices. The decisions that we made then, in a certain way, contained also those who thought differently. I think that having lived this experience at the Assembly, where there were representatives from the whole world, was an enormous enrichment for each person.*

Noreen Lockhart, Great Britain (in English): *I think I was particularly struck when Emmaus and Jesús came out together and Jesús said: “You know it’s not that Emmaus represents a continuation and that I represent something new. But that actually it’s together that we represent something new.” We all represent this something new because*

*we've been here building this Assembly together, building that presence of Jesus among us, and that's what we take out: this newness that each one of us is and we build it then for wherever we are.*

Peter Grimheden, Sweden *(in Italian): It was very important when we spoke about the wound that we all feel within because of the separation of the Churches. Here at the Assembly, we are from different Churches and we are all fully participating in the work of the Assembly. A person told me: Jesus also had wounds and even after the Resurrection the wounds remained, but they no longer hurt. So we too, we have our various differences, but we are fully united. We are a prophetic sign, we are Church, we are one and we want to go ahead like this.*

Laura Maria Van Dun, Netherlands *(in Italian): To sum up in one word what the Assembly was for me, I'd say "trust." I discovered how great my trust is for the future of the Movement and how much trust Emmaus gives to us young people. And the trust for all that will start now in this new adventure of the Movement.*

*(applause)*

## **DIALOGUE WITH MARIA VOCE (EMMAUS) AND JESÚS MORÁN**

**Salvatore:** Almost a month has passed since the Assembly. We're almost tempted to say: what else is there to be added? I don't think that is the case. I feel that the best part starts now, right? This is the reason why we asked Emmaus and Jesús to continue to speak about this. So this evening we would like to ...

**Emmaus:** go in-depth.

**Salvatore:** ... go in-depth. Emmaus, I'll start with you.

**Emmaus:** All right.

**Salvatore:** You saw that at the beginning we started off with the image of the flight of the wild geese and I know that this image is very dear to you, because you mentioned it also at the conclusion of the recent Assembly. Now I have the opportunity to ask you as if there were just the two of us: what is behind that image that you use? Because I feel that there is something that you would like to tell all of us, isn't that right?

**Emmaus:** Well, I think that this image speaks to me more and more. Even today, looking at it, it was speaking to me even more than it did the other times, because we could truly see this fruit of flying together, this capacity that each person acquires from the flight of everyone to be stronger, to be supported by the flight of everyone and therefore to be able to look afar and to go ahead with certainty.

I felt this very strongly during the Assembly. I really felt that the image of these geese was the image of all these people coming from all over the world, who had already taken flight. They hadn't come to understand the direction to follow but they were already flying. So we gathered together in the Assembly and we experienced this flight together, this flight that has a goal to be reached. However, this goal becomes easier to reach if we look at it together. And we look at it together from wherever we are: the one who is at the rear points to the goal, the one who is in the front points to the goal, the one who is on the side points to the goal. And it doesn't matter our position because the important thing is to fly, to go ahead towards the goal. *(applause)*

**Salvatore:** It makes me think that this is really a time of great changes. We are living in a society - before we were talking about the family but there are many other areas – that places huge challenges on us. Some are positive, others... if I think of these attempts to isolate oneself, to fall back on oneself, so very present in so many situations. And it's a time of change for us of the Movement as well. We have spoken about resetting, renewal, transfers of focolares, nations even with different languages merging together. What comes to mind is that perhaps in all of this it's as if the Work of Mary, the Movement has something to say to humanity. A society that changes and we who have the opportunity to say something that aims at fraternity, a united world. I would like you to comment on this.

**Emmaus:** I think that it is truly so. I think it is so because the world changes and we change together with the world. We don't change on our own, we change together with the world. It really struck me and still strikes me a lot, to see the certainty of the young people, the certainty of the teenagers, to hear these young people who, at a certain moment, said beyond any barriers: I love the other's country as my own, beyond the language difference or any other thing.

Today I received an email from a group of Gen from Geneva. They announced to me that they are preparing a meeting for all the Gen of Switzerland, Austria and Germany. And they will hold it in Switzerland. There will be many challenges, because there will be different languages to coordinate and there will be different social situations to put together, but they don't stop at these things. They are already beyond the challenges. I think that we must learn from them to see beyond the challenges. Of course, challenges exist, we also have them, but if we look at the goal, if we look to where we want to reach and if we think that this "where we want to reach" is universal brotherhood, that it is what Jesus asked the Father, then surely it is His desire, His dream. God is Almighty, we don't work with our own strength, but we work for a Work of God with the strength that God gives us. So even with these differences....

What I think is beautiful is that... the important thing is that we are all aware that we are accomplishing a wonderful project, God's project. And we are carrying it out by taking our little steps. This meeting of the Gen in Switzerland, if you think about it, may be a very small step, but it is a step that says: a united world, that says: relationships with others, that says: over-

coming differences, that says: going ahead together. And I think this is very important, a prophetic sign in this world in order to tell the world: it is possible, it's possible, it's possible! And we don't do it alone. It's possible, we do it. Let's do it together! You also do it, let's do it together.

Naturally, the steps will be different because there will be a place where it will be easier to meet together. If I think of Africa, certainly the challenges are not lacking: language differences, financial differences, barriers, borders that prevent one passing from one country to the other, epidemics that block people and that perhaps prevent them from even shaking hands, while they have in their hearts this desire to meet together and to build a united world. Without a doubt, there are challenges, but together with the young people, like the teenagers, let's look beyond the challenges, let's take courage as our young people have who lived in Argentina, who went throughout the world without worrying about anything.

**Salvatore:** Wonderful, fantastic! (*applause*)

**Adriana:** Jesús, with you I would like to ask you about the three keywords. Let's start with the first two: "going outwards" and "together." Going outwards, because were we closed in before? And together. Is there something new that we should do?

**Jesús:** Well, I think that now, after having heard Chiara speaking with that power, it's obvious that we need a new charge of enthusiasm. I'm not sure if we have that same thrust as when Chiara launched the global person. So it's not that we have been closed in, but that we need a new going outwards, this is the point.

This morning we were with the Pope. We went to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Schönstatt. Eli and others were also there. The Pope spoke in Spanish as the official language of the whole meeting was Spanish, not English! (*laughter*) The Pope said: Christians are persons who don't have the centre within themselves; decentred, he said, decentred because the centre is Jesus. The Pope said that the centre is not the Curia, not the Church, not the Movement. So surely we need a new thrust, a new going outwards so as to recuperate...

Then, after all, going outwards is nothing other than carrying out the specific goal of the charism which is *ut omnes*, unity. This is going outwards. So, when we speak about going outwards, we are talking about accomplishing the core of the charism today. This is the most important thing. We need to acknowledge that the Movement has lived a long season in which it had to take shape even structurally and institutionally. Without doubt, this forced us to concentrate a little on ourselves. This morning the Pope said: it's like combing sheep, it's as if we were there combing the sheep. Well... we mustn't stay there combing the sheep, we must go with the sheep and take them seriously.

The structures exist so that we can have a more mature, more radical way of going outwards. This is 'going outwards.' But we will discover it together throughout the year, because it's a fundamental word.

Then, together. Well, we are the Movement of unity, so we have our style of going outwards, which is together. Perhaps today we have understood it even better that it's not only us together, but together with all those we meet as we go out, that is, together with others.

For example, today after the meeting with the Pope, with Iride and Severin, we were with some members of the Steering Committee of Together for Europe and I lived the experience of what it means going outwards together with others. In this case it was to give back to Europe its soul in the Christian sense. Therefore, us together definitely, because we are those of unity. Together with others who are going outwards just like us, and with all those others who we will meet on our way going outwards: the culture of encounter.

**Adriana:** This is wonderful! (*applause*)

The question on "suitably prepared": I must say, this "suitably prepared" struck me a little because I thought: but what does it mean, that now we will all start studying? Or perhaps that we should pause a moment to form ourselves? What did the Assembly mean with this "suitably prepared"?

**Jesús:** The Assembly certainly did not want to say that we will now fill our programmes with courses to be formed. The Assembly expressed it very well in one of its parts, in one of the parts of the final document. Today we need to acquire a new intelligence of the charism, a new understanding of the charism, based on wisdom and culture. These are the words of the document, this is what "suitably prepared" means.

Obviously this self-awareness of the charism leads us to going outwards in a better way, because if we understand the charism properly, which is what Chiara said, we will obviously go outwards. Therefore, it's not a kind of "suitably prepared" to keep on preparing ourselves, no, no! We need to understand better what Chiara meant when she coined the term 'global person.' We need to have a new self-awareness on these fundamental things. With this, our going outwards would be more radical, mature, fruitful, efficient and incisive. (*applause*)

**Adriana:** Wonderful, thank you! (*applause*)

**Salvatore:** The things that have emerged confirm to me that it's appropriate to continue speaking about this. (*laughter*)

**Emmaus:** Especially to live it.

**Salvatore:** To live it, you're right, Emmaus. However since time is scarce and the link-up...

**Emmaus:** Ends.

**Salvatore:** ... so now there is Chiara's spiritual thought. More than a thought it's an answer that Chiara gave to Luciana Scalacci in September 2000. Now Emmaus, even because of the things that you were saying, I think that you should be the one to introduce this video.

**Emmaus:** Well, to tell you the truth, Chiara introduces her own self.

I would say this: Chiara gives an answer to a person, whom we got to know also in the Assembly: Luciana Scalacci, a person without a religious affiliation. She questions Chiara on the meaning of them being in the Movement. I'd say that Chiara, with this answer, doesn't tell us what to do with people without a religious affiliation, but she tells us what to do with all human beings, all people, with any person we meet.

She takes us back to that dialogue that also the Pope spoke to us about in the Audience, when he said: it's not something that is learned cheaply. It's evidently difficult, it's an art; Chiara spoke about art and she speaks about art also here... But she tells us that if we don't have this vision of the human being, that vision that she gave us when speaking of the global person at the beginning of this piece on the Assembly, if we don't have this vision of the human being and we don't go and meet each person with this open heart, with this welcoming spirit that came out many times this evening, to place ourselves alongside each person and walk together towards the goal that God gives us, we will never reach there. Only in this way can we hope, not only to take steps today but to continue our adventure all the way to reaching our goal.

This is what Chiara wants to tell us this evening with that rediscovery of the charisma that Jesús was speaking about. The charisma is always the same. Chiara lived it in a charismatic way, the first focolarini lived it in a charismatic way, we mustn't live it any less. We must relive it in a charismatic way today. Chiara is calling us to this and we want to respond to her.

**Salvatore:** Thank you! (*applause*)

**Emmaus:** Thanks to you!

**Salvatore:** Let's watch Chiara then.

### "THAT ART CALLED DIALOGUE"

...

*Chiara:* A question from our Luciana. Where are you, Luciana? I saw you, I saw you. Ciao!

*Eli:* "How do you think the structure of the Movement should evolve so that 'men and women of good will' may fully become a part of it?"

*Chiara:* Let's talk this over now very frankly, and you will be happy. We succeeded... well, it just happened because God is at work here... we have all these expressions of humanity, that is, Catholics, Christians of other Churches, other religions, all the religions – we're in contact with all the most important religions, and with people without a religious affiliation, because this Movement is not the work of human beings. In other words, if this Movement were mine, of Chiara, of Silvia Lubich, as I was called before, what would have happened? I would have said: but, build unity with Protestants, how is it possible? With those opinions different from ours! With those ideas different from ours! ...

*With the other religions, we would have said: "What a difference there is!" Because there's an enormous difference between our religion and the other religions! ... We would have said: "Oh, it's impossible!"*

*With people without a religious affiliation, we would have said: "But, we want God as our ideal. What can we do? What do we have in common with people of other...?" Instead, it was God who brought about this Movement. God, who is the Father of all, is the only one capable of loving everyone and of bringing everyone together, and of telling us, as Pope John XXIII said: "Seek what unites, not what divides." And so we found that many things unite us to other Christians: baptism unites us to them, the Scripture, the Old Testament, the New Testament, the early Councils, lots of things unite us to them. St. Francis lived in times when we were united, so we have the saints in common... Benedict, all the way down through the centuries; we have all this in common. And so we find lots of things to talk about, to imitate: if we all imitate St. Francis, we'll already be one. Let's leave to one side the things that divide us.*

*Likewise, with the other religions: we discovered that there is this famous "golden rule" in all religions, because everyone is called to love. It's the DNA of all people for the very fact that they are human beings: everyone is called to love. The "golden rule" says: "Do to others what you would like them to do to you; do not do to others." ... Consequently, instead of saying: "You Muslims believe in Mohammed, and so on," we don't say this. We say: "There are marvellous things in the Qur'an. For example: do not do to others..., but we have this too: let's live it together." And because this means: love, we love one another and love brings a light! We see many things, we see the "seeds of the Word," which means truths, because there is a chosen people, there was a chosen people, the Hebrew people, the chosen people, but no people has been forgotten. The Lord sent down some truths and we are discovering them. And so we bring all this patrimony together.*

*Similarly with those who do not have any religious affiliation or who have different convictions. They underline the human part in such a stupendous way, perhaps because they're not interested in the supernatural part. They emphasize it very well and they know that we also value the human part, we want it, because Jesus became Man. ... We feel an enormous need to have you, to be with you, to stay with you, to be all together. For one thing, you are a vast part of the world, people who have other convictions, people who either have no religious belief or people who are searching, and so how can we work towards universal brotherhood without you? It would be a utopia – yes, that would be a utopia! Instead, you are present, and together we highlight the human part. You say something nice here, which I liked ...: "The human being is the answer for the human being." For us too, the human being is the answer for the human being, but which human being? For us, it's Jesus. In any case, a human being. Take him for yourselves as well, because he's one of yours, he's a man.<sup>4</sup>*

*(applause)*

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<sup>4</sup> From an answer by Chiara Lubich during the community meeting of the zone of Florence, 17 September 2000.

## **CONCLUSION**

**Salvatore:** We have reached the end. Let's hear two more messages before we conclude.

**Federica:** Yes, we'll read just some of the many messages that have arrived.

"My wife and I are following this link-up. We've been married for more than 61 years. We will spread the link-up in our community in our city in Mexico. Rafael and Lucila."  
*(applause)*

**Mikaela:** "Despite the situation of Ebola that we are living in this part of Africa, we feel all your love. From the little city of Mann, Ivory Coast."  
*(applause)*

**Adriana:** Thank you.

**Salvatore:** Now we have really reached the end. Greetings to all. Continue sending us messages, sms, because we will continue publishing them on our website.

So, truly greetings to all.

**Adriana:** Yes, we meet again in the next Link-up. In the meantime we really would like to thank everyone, those present in the hall and also those who are connected, a warm embrace to all. Ciao!

**Salvatore:** Bye to all! *(applause)*