

ENGLISH TRANSLATION of video 2211M (duration: 73')

Rocca di Papa, 28 February 2015

Conference Call

OPENING AND GREETINGS

Gloria Chale: The “mate” drink, for us Argentines, means dialogue, encounter, sharing, openness to others.

Diego Valle: That’s what we want to do today by connecting everyone in the world. Good afternoon to all!

Gloria: Hello! *Buenos dias* for the western part of the world! (*applause*)

Diego: Good afternoon to this wonderful hall and good evening or good night to all those who are linked from the Orient.

Gloria: A heartfelt welcome to this Conference Call from Rocca di Papa.

Diego: We are Gloria and Diego from Argentina, as you can see from the “mate”. We have three grown-up daughters who are in Rosario and Casilda, our hometown, which is at the center of the country. You can see this picture of our daughters: they are so beautiful and I take advantage to send them a kiss from dad who misses his daughters very much.

Gloria: Together with them, we decided to move here for a year at the International Center of the Movement in order to offer our service. It was not easy to leave our family, our country, our jobs... I’m a teacher and I work in 4 schools, he is a state employee. After a lengthy process, nearly at the end of the year, we were able to have a year’s leave. Therefore to leave everything in order we had to sell our car for this year’s fixed expenses, something which is not so easy in Argentina today. Instead, we were able to sell our car in three days. So we arrived here on January 3rd.

Diego: We are at the beginning of an adventure that’s like a unique opportunity, hopefully of mutual enrichment. In this adventure they asked us to host this link-up today: something we never imagined we would be doing.

Gloria: This hall besides representing the world it welcomes different groups, we take this opportunity to greet them: a group of teenagers, Gen 3, some of them with their parents. (*applause*)

Diego: There is quite a large group of young people, more than a hundred of them, they are Gen from Rome and the Lazio region. They wanted to participate in this link-up live. (*applause*) We take advantage also to greet the young people who are gathered together in O’Higgins, in the little city Lia in the province of Buenos Aires, Argentina. ...

Gloria: There are about 50 volunteers representing the almost 300 volunteers gathered together at Castelgandolfo. (*applause*)

Diego: A special greeting then goes to all the citizens of Loppiano. We especially greet the three professors of Orthodox theology from Cluj, Romania, the group of orthodox from Greece and some bishops of the Catholic Church who are visiting the little city. *(applause)*

Gloria: We would like to thank all of you who have sent us pictures, news, stories to build together this moment of the Conference Call. Thanks also to the financial contributions, albeit small, that sustain this link up. As you know, and this is great, from the time we did it with Chiara and throughout all these years, this is supported only with what arrives through each one's contribution.

For those of you who don't know the details... you can find them on the Conference call website.

Now here we have Abraham and Anita who will help us by reading out your messages.

Anita: I'm Argentinean, I'm 23 years old.

Abraham: I'm Mexican, I'm 27 years old. During this link-up, as always, you can write us via sms ...

Anita: at the number 00 39 3428730175

Abraham: or via email: collegamentoch@focolare.org

Anita: or you can post your comments directly on the webpage that is collegamentoch.focolare.org

Abraham: Or on Facebook: [Facebook.com/CollegamentoCh](https://www.facebook.com/CollegamentoCh)

Anita: Remember that you don't need to speak Italian, you can write in your own language.

Abraham: So we wait for your messages.

Diego: Thank you Anita, thank you Abraham. So let's begin our tour of the world, let's look at these pictures.

We are living new forms of poverty... Queues in Caracas, Venezuela, to buy food, scenes which have never been seen in that country...

Gloria: We don't want to show images that have gone around the world: of violence and killings. But we have chosen to show precisely this one.

Diego: 3,000 year old statues being destroyed so as to wipe out the history and culture of a people. A violence that has not spared people and symbols of a thousand year old civilization...

Gloria: And then there is this Muslim boy, Lassava Bathily, who risked his life in order to save that of many Jews during the January attack at the Jewish supermarket in Paris. When he was awarded the citizenship of France in recognition, these words of his really struck us: *"... I didn't hide Jews, I hid human beings... I'm not a hero ... because for me, the others are all equal."*

Diego: Today we would like to tell you some stories of these others.

FROM MOSUL TO LYON – A PAINFUL EXILE, A WARM WELCOME

Gloria: Let's get to know them. Let's listen to the story of the Iraqi family of Iyad of Mosul

Iyad (man, in Arabic): We have four children: Aziz, Rose, Sama and Leen.

I worked as a decorator and my wife as a hairdresser. She had a shop. We helped one another, and in this way we were able to build a house and have a car. Our life was beautiful and well-organized.

Ayat (woman, in Arabic): When I met the focolare, my life changed. I learned to love people with all my heart, everyone I meet on the street or at work, each person was Jesus.

We helped every person especially the refugees from Mosul. After the invasion of their city, the Christians of Mosul arrived in Karakosce because it was considered safer.

But after some time everything changed.

Because what happened in Mosul, also happened to us. Our city was bombed violently. One of the mortar bombs hit a house and everyone died.

This prompted us to abandon everything, we could not take anything with us, not even our official documents.

We were not alone, but more than 60,000 Christians had to flee in one night. It was a terrible thing, the cries, the crowds, the shots... We found ourselves before two difficult choices: a completely uncertain future or to leave everything and emigrate. We waited for one, two, three months, but there was no hope to go back to our city. We heard that the French government was giving the possibility to every exiled person to come to France, provided that there was someone ready to host them.

Marie Thérèse (in French): At home, we are the two of us, and our daughter Emanuelle comes home on weekends. We have a spare room for friends who pass through. So we proposed to welcome a family in our home. They arrived at the beginning of January, and since then Iyad, Ayat and their three daughters are with us. Being only the two of us, my husband and I had our habits. So we had to be able to leave room for others, accepting that there are changes in the house.

What is very beautiful is that I gradually proposed to Ayat that we could cook together. Sometimes we cook a French dish, other times I propose if she would like to make an Iraqi dish.

Iyad (man, in Arabic): This is an Iraqi dish called Maclube.

Francois (in French): We spoke to some people of the Movement that we knew. We met together in order to understand what to do with the arrival of the Iraqi people.

We went even further because we have friends in the parishes and they asked us, "What can we do?" They efficiently helped us to find accommodation for the reception of the people. The Diocese of Lyon is twinned with Mosul, so this is a big help.

Aziz (young man, in Arabic): It's true that we have lost everything, we wanted to fulfill our dreams. With Jesus and with the family of Chiara, we can always go ahead, hope in the future and not stop on the past.

Ayat (woman, in Arabic): In Iraq we had lived for more than 30 years of our lives in a state of war. In the end we were thrown out without knowing whether we could go back to our homes.

We are not able to express what we feel. At times I find myself with Marie-Thérèse and François and I'd love to express my affection for them even with words but I cannot, the language is difficult. But this is not an obstacle in loving. Thanks to them I can touch God's providence and love. We lost everything, but God revealed himself to us through other people.

(applause)

IRAQ AND JORDAN: HOPE FOR A FUTURE OF PEACE

Diego: There are those who fled overseas, looking for a new life. Instead many remained in their own country leading a normal life as much as possible in the more secure cities and welcoming many refugees that try to survive. We have received these messages from Bashar, a doctor from a city of Iraq, and Siham, principal of a school in Jordan.

Bashar – Iraq (in Arabic): Greetings to all! For several years now, in Iraq we are living a great unstable situation. For about six months now, we are faced with a new challenge: some people from the villages in the north were invaded by extremist groups forcing those fleeing to leave everything. These groups did not only threaten us Christians who have been living here for thousands of years, but also Muslims, Shabak and Yasidi.... It is a great suffering that has a name: Jesus Forsaken! Many are thinking of going overseas toward an unknown future; others have already left the country with all the consequences that this entails; still others are clinging onto their homeland with the hope to see a better future despite the daily fear that something serious could happen.

We live this experience together with the Church and we too have committed ourselves to face the challenges of welcoming the displaced persons. We have lived so many experiences in helping each other, also those who were displaced and have lost everything. We thank everyone for the material help but above all for the prayers that accompany us and give us the courage to stand firm in our faith and help us overcome the difficult moments by living the present moment. The Ideal of unity gives us confidence and makes us live every moment believing in God's love.

Siham – Jordan (in Arabic): At the same time all of us of the Focolare Movement, adults and young people, have been working hard in order to help the many Iraqi families, including several of the Movement who have moved here. We have shared in their sufferings and together with them

we tried to overcome them. In this regard, I would like to thank all of you throughout the world who have given your contribution: receiving help gives much joy to the people! We, of the Movement, feel a great responsibility because we are followers of different religions and people of good will: together we must work to protect the dignity of the human being and to build a better world, throughout the world and in our beloved Middle East!

(applause)

Gloria: This strikes me personally because I also have Syrian origins like many people in Argentina.

We have here with us Giovanna who until last year was in Syria where they are living the fifth year of war. Giovanna, [greeting in Arabic: editor's note] what would you like to tell our people who perhaps in this moment are able to hear us.

Giovanna Ogliengo: First of all I would like to send a greeting, a big embrace and an assurance that we are there with you. We will not stop helping you, supporting you, not only with prayers but with every possible form of action. I know and we all know that you are living one of the greatest sufferings also because of the cold, also because of the lack of electricity, the lack of work! I heard that there aren't any candles either.

Gloria: Perhaps we could sustain some work activities?

Giovanna: Certainly, of course! We can do this, of course, but I also think that those who are listening to us in this moment perhaps may have some ideas that could be implemented, that could be put forward but we must mobilize, we must do something soon.

Gloria: Thank you Giovanna.

Giovanna: So I greet all of you in Syria, with all my heart. I greet you, we all greet you. We are with you and we thank you. [greeting in Arabic: editor's note] *(applause)*

Gloria: For further information on Syria you can contact the conference call website.

NIGERIA: A SHARING THAT ALLEVIATES THE PAIN

Gloria: We now go to Nigeria, where the situation is very serious because of the violence of extremist groups who kidnap, burn villages, kill and sow terror amidst the defenseless population.

From the community of Abuja, at the centre of the country, we received this recorded testimony simply prepared with a cell phone/mobile of parents who live. Let's watch.

Andrew (in English): *Hello everybody, my name is Andrew Kwasari and I am from Nigeria.*

Christina (in English): My name is Christina Kwasari. I am Andrew's wife and I am also from Nigeria.

Samuel (in English): My name is Samuel Kwasari from Nigeria, Andrew's brother.

Andrew (in English): We would like to share with you some of the recent experiences our nation is passing through with the Boko Haram insurgency.

Christina (in English): When the attack happened my parents were there. But God saved them. They were able to run. They ran into the border separating Nigeria from Cameroun. ... After some few days they called us and they told us that they were fine, that they were in Cameroun and the Cameroonian soldiers and the people of Cameroun helped them a lot.

Andrew (in English): During this occupation ... our parents, who were old, could not run during the insurgency attack. They stayed back and we had no means to communicate with them. ... We heard that our parents were still alive in their home. But at that point they were already starved and our father in particular was very weak.

A few days later we received the news that he had gone to paradise.

Samuel (in English): I can say that this thing was most painful and difficult for me ... This is most difficult because if you look at the circumstances of the things, one is likely to think that this is a kind of personal fight or war between Muslims and Christians. But I can particularly say that this is not true, because while I was in school I met a friend who happens to be a Muslim and until I was done with my studies he was my best friend. ...

It is only God that can heal our hearts and heal our land and we have submitted everything to God.

Christina (in English): We have to continue reminding ourselves to pray and we pray always. And we are asking you pray for our country, Nigeria. Thank you.

(applause)

Diego: As we heard they asked us for our prayers. However they were the first to try and react in some way in order to bring aid in the zones that have been affected. Imma, of the focolare, sent us also this video-clip always from Nigeria.

Imma - Nigeria: Members of the Movement have travelled three times to the north east of Nigeria. A long, exhausting and very risky trip. The community of Abuja as well as the whole Movement in Nigeria feel they cannot be indifferent to their suffering neighbours. We wanted to do something at once: to reach them with practical help, bringing them our love as Chiara would have done. The generosity of our people fills us every time with all sorts of things: money, food, clothes, medicine; as well as a car to transport these things. For us every trip is like reliving the experience of Chiara in the early days: the war was raging. We felt Jesus' love for us as well as his protection. The situation is uncertain, there is extreme poverty, illness, hunger, anaemia, people

who had everything before but now are without a roof over their heads. They've lost everything. There are children who are born on the bare floor and others who die; medicine is not enough because of the many needs. Beyond all of this we try to give hope and believe that love conquers all and will conquer this too. The bishops of Yola, Jalingo and Maiduguri are very grateful for all that the Focolare is doing. They always give us their blessing. Since this is the year of our "yes", we continue to say "yes" to Jesus who suffers, who needs our help and our love; "yes" to Jesus who is waiting for us in humanity to be welcomed in them with joy. I would like to thank Emmaus, and all of you throughout the world, for your prayers that sustain us in this moment of darkness that Nigeria is going through. These experiences enrich us and make us live only what is essential.

(applause)

Anita: We already have some messages and we would like to read you some. They have written to us from Mariapolis Luminosa, in the US, from Colombia, from Yaoundé (Cameroon), from Argentina, from Berlin and also from Germany and Hong Kong.

Abraham: From Colombia: "We would like to assure you that we are living this moment together with a planetary heart."

Anita: "Hi to all, we are gathered together from Mina Gerais, in Brazil. There are 100 people of the different communities."

Abraham: "We greet you from Romania, we are Orthodox, Catholic and from other faiths and we are following everything."

Anita: Also the Gen 3 of Yaoundé (Cameroon) greet you from the focolare: "We are with you." Us too.

Gloria: Thank you. *(applause)*

"LIVING TOGETHER IN CANNES"

Gloria: Let's go ahead. Everyone knows about the recent dramatic events in France, perhaps what is being done in Cannes besides the annual Film Festival is less well-known. We are talking about a kind of festival of interreligious dialogue that has become part of the life of the city. Let's watch the video-clip.

Speaker: The city of Cannes in the south of France is known for its International Film Festival and as an exclusive tourist attraction on the French Riviera. However, recently, Cannes has acquired another image in the country's media.

Mustapha Dali (in French): This is the extraordinary and spontaneous image of our friend David Moyal who came to bear witness once again that fraternity in France is possible in this tragic

national situation.

Speaker: This is Mustapha Dali, rector of the Mosque in Cannes, after the emotional embrace with Rabbi David Moyal in the aftermath of the Paris tragedies.

Mustapha Dali: (Rector of the Mosque in Cannes) (in French): I think that this image should reach into every home to say that the culture of peace and love will win over the culture of violence.

Speaker: These gestures of friendship and fraternity are on the daily agenda for some religious leaders of the city who have chosen tolerance, sharing and friendship as their way of life, so as to form together the “Vivre Ensemble a Cannes” (“Living together in Cannes”) Association.

Pierre Chevallet – President of Living Together in Cannes)(in French): A few years ago, Fr. Vladimir and I were on the seashore of Saint-Honorat island. It was the 25th anniversary of the meeting in Assisi promoted by John Paul II. We said to one another, “Wouldn’t it be a good idea to celebrate this event in Cannes?”

Vladimir Gaudrat (Abbé de Lerins) (in French): This friendship began on a small island in front of Cannes. In fact we wished to extend what we were living to the entire city of Cannes, involving the town hall and the civil authorities.

Claire Ribet (Living together in Cannes)(in French): “Living together in Cannes” means: going out together in order to say that fraternity is possible; together also in everyday life, in sorrows and in joys.

We run a weekly radio programme to spread this culture of peace.

With young people of different religions, we hold cooking workshops. These are opportunities to get to know each other’s culture.

Cheikh Bentounés (Soufie Alawiyya International Association) (in French): Together, we realized that we must pass from the “culture of me, of I” to the “culture of we”, the culture that allows us to meet each other and work together so that future generations may build the future together and not one against the other.

Jean-Yves Milcendeau (Municipal councilor, Cannes)(in French): We feel that this movement is developing and especially this annual march allows relationships to be forged not only among religious leaders but also among everyone in the communities.

Speaker: The “Living together in Cannes” project received the Chiara Lubich prize for fraternity. The award ceremony took place on January 17 at the Capitoline Hill in Rome. The leaders of the project were present at the ceremony.

Claire Ribet(in French): Thanks to this little seed in the heart of each person, “being together” is spreading. Not only in Cannes, but now that we have received the prize in Rome, we want to reach everywhere!

(applause)

MEXICO: THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

Diego: Mexico, a country also struck by violence. In the last eight years the victims count over 100,000. More than the victims of the Vietnam war. From the city of Netza, at the centre of Mexico, we received an experience of forgiveness and hope.

Lupita (in Spanish): In September 2010, through a phone call I heard the news that my eldest son, Manolo, had not returned home after the night shift the previous day. More than 24 hours had passed, and he had not yet returned. At that moment I felt a chill throughout my body and I barely had the strength to offer everything to God.

Víctor (in Spanish): We went straight away to the city where he was living. We looked for him everywhere, in the hospitals, at the police station, at the Red Cross, in all possible institutions. The pain was so great because we knew of the many kidnappings and disappearances that took place in that city and across the country. We had to constantly recognize the face of Jesus Crucified and Forsaken in everything that we were living. We embraced Him in every NO we received. We looked for him all night, and at dawn the next day we reported his disappearance to the authorities.

Lupita (in Spanish): We lived through very difficult moments. The authorities were not treating our tragedy seriously enough, to the point that we decided to proceed on our own with the search. Unfortunately, when it seemed that hope was opening up before us, all doors closed upon us.

Víctor (in Spanish): Seven months had passed when we heard on television that in Tamaulipas, in the north of the country, a hidden mass grave had been found with the bodies of many young people and unidentified persons. We went there but we did not find him. Until one day, a government institution discovered a body of a young man with characteristics very similar to those of our son Manolo. They did a DNA examination so as to be certain of the possibility that it could be our son.

Lupita (in Spanish): That was ten months ago, it was a gift of the Morenita, the Virgin of Guadalupe, because it was December 12th, her feast day, and we received from the Eternal Father the gift of finding our beloved Manolo in order to give him a burial worthy of being His child. We continue to live, pray and offer for the people who have shared this senseless suffering with us, but we also offer for the people who were the instigators, those responsible for the disappearance of Manolo and of many other people who disappear every day in our country. Thank you.

Víctor (in Spanish): Thank you.

(applause)

Gloria: Thank you Víctor and Lupita for having shared this deep experience with us.

We have just received a message from Msgr. Salomone Warduni, Bishop of Caldei in Baghdad: "Go ahead, my dear friends. Do not fear, Jesus is with us and among us. Let's live charity in order to reach unity believing in the power of the Risen Lord."

Thank you Monsignor! *(applause)*

UKRAINE: NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Gloria: War breaks and divides... There are communities of the Focolare in Ukraine and communities in Russia and both of them are listening to us now, and both are suffering... Two countries at war, despite the diplomatic efforts... We spoke to **Vera of Mukacheve, Ukraine**. Let's listen to her.

Vera (in English): We've been living the last year in the state of war. It's so unusual for our peaceful Ukrainian people.

Now the situation is more dangerous and serious. We understand that we can contribute only with God's help and only if there is a big unity and love between us. ...

What is more important is to have peace and reconciliation in our hearts. Sometimes it may seem impossible .But we have Chiara's example. It was the terrible war when the Ideal started.

We felt this unity and presence of Jesus during our Mariapolis last summer. It was a wonderful experience. We had been planning it for a year but then the war started and the situation became difficult even in our small town on the west, when all our main roads were blocked on the eve of the Mariapolis and our team from Slovakia couldn't physically come. So firstly we decided to cancel it. But then in a big unity, we made a different decision - to do it. And it went well and was very successful.

We even forgot about the war, about our problems and felt a huge love and joy. There were more than 120 people. We understood that only God could give this peace and joy into our souls.

Having been inspired by this love and unity we initiated and organized the Prayer-for-peace in the centre of our town. We involved other churches into this event. Our gen together with other children were drawing pictures for our soldiers. Since war started we have had such Prayers for peace 3 times in our town.

It is also very important to know that many people have been praying for Ukraine, including our big Focolare family and we want to thank everyone for this huge support.

Thank you, Goodbye to everyone.

(applause)

WELCOME TO SZEGED (HUNGARY)

Diego: The words of Pope Francis really seem true that we are living a “third world war in pieces and chapters”. Conflicts and crowds of refugees who flee to save their lives searching for a better future. Because of the war in Ukraine, many who crossed that country trying to arrive in Western Europe now pass through Hungary. Let’s watch this video-clip taken from Szeged, in the South-East of Hungary.

(music)

Zoltán Ferenczy – Szeged (in Hungarian): *As a consequence of the European Union treaties, the southeast part of Hungary marks the Schengen border, where the immigration situation has deteriorated in recent months. The authorities have recorded more than eleven thousand refugees in the first few weeks of February.*

These people come from Kosovo partly, and partly from Middle Eastern countries. They have been traveling for months, some of them even for a year, a year and a half. They don’t have suitable clothes for the cold weather they encounter and have no means of subsistence. There are children, elderly and sometimes people suffering from frostbite.

With great human efforts the authorities try to do everything possible and within the 24 hours in which they are registered as refugees, they assure them human conditions and a minimum of assistance.

When the 24 hours have passed, 99% of them continue the journey towards Western Europe, on foot, by truck, by train or relying on human traffickers.

Erzsébet Barna – Szeged (in Hungarian): *We were struck when we heard this news in November, so we immediately asked ourselves: “How can we help?” We were able to contact the police and the authorities who allowed us to go to the reception center, which is always supervised and it is near here, in the city center.*

In a few days we collected many things and we brought them warm clothes, blankets, even carpets since we heard that many were Muslims. Several times we brought baby food and medicines. Later, the police also gave us cupboards so as to better organize the clothes distribution.

Katalin Prokopp (in Hungarian): *One time, we were allowed to enter behind the bars of the centre in order to paint the walls of a room. In this way we were able to make it a more cheerful environment, especially for children.*

We know that whatever we do is nothing compared to the seriousness of the problem, but we can give hope to someone.

We try to follow God’s Providence and understand the steps to take in each moment.

(applause)

POLITICS FOR UNITY AND UNITED WORLD PROJECT

Gloria: From what we have seen we can confirm that diplomacy is often powerless. We feel the urgent need of a Politics that definitely aims at the common good for all, rather than looking only at one's own interests or one's own country.

(brief excerpt of video "Politics for unity")

Chiara: I have a dream. Just think what the world would be like if besides among individuals, but also among peoples...

Gloria: This will be discussed in Rome, in the Italian Parliament, and in many other institutional headquarters of the world, to commemorate the upcoming anniversary of Chiara's departure and her message on universal brotherhood. In the morning, young people will also speak at the Parliament in Rome.

We have Maria Chiara Cefaloni with us today. Tell us what you will do Maria Chiara?

Maria Chiara Cefaloni: On March 12, around 300 young people from various countries of the world will go to the Italian Parliament to dialogue with the institutions on the topic of fraternity. A young person from each continent will speak to share the problem related to their own country that challenges fraternity.

Gloria: Interesting. Do you know that since we arrived here in Rome, we have heard about the United World Project. Will you present it also to the politicians?

Maria Chiara: Yes, we will present this project that tries to gather together all experiences of fraternity in the world. When we will be in the Parliament, we will launch an appeal addressed to the institutions in order to practically implement fraternity in the world, especially in Italy.

The United World Project tries to collect these experiences of fraternity, and in these days we have also received news from the youth of Stockholm who organized an evening programme to raise funds in support of the war victims in Iraq. And also from Jordan, they have recently written to us to tell us that they are also working together with the Iraqi refugees so as to work together, and they have also involved Christian and Muslim youth who are there.

Gloria: Thank you, Maria Chiara, you truly give us hope. Have other messages arrived, Anita and Abraham?

Abraham: Yes, yes, they are arriving, they are arriving right now and we arrive with them.

Anita: They arrive quickly.

Abraham: "Thank you for giving me the possibility to be with you through this great link-up. From Guinea Bissau."

Anita: "I'm moved by everything. My prayers are with you especially with the situation in Syria. Uta from Germany."

Abraham: “On behalf of the bishops present in Loppiano, preparing for our meeting on Tuesday with 60 Bishops friends at Castel Gandolfo, I express my gratitude and solidarity for your moving experiences. We are with you, Msgr. Warduni and with all of you. Francesco Kriengsak, cardinal of Bangkok.

Anita: Thank you.

(applause)

GIUSEPPE ZANGHÌ: EXCERPTS OF AN UNPUBLISHED INTERVIEW

Diego: Here we have a special photo: a photo of the first group of the World Gen Centre. Those Gen are right here next to me. Now they are no longer Gen, but they lived together with Peppuccio Zanghì that reality that Chiara entrusted to them: the Gen. Many things were said about Peppuccio during his funeral in January, but there is still a lot to say. Let’s listen to Peppuccio himself in an unpublished interview that we had recently done to him.

Giuseppe Zanghì: I never felt the vocation to the focolare as a place where I would enter, leave the world, to become a saint and so on, never. I would never have taken such a step. Therefore... it’s not a vocation like being a Dominican or Carmelite or Franciscan. It’s something else. It’s a lifestyle that you choose because it allows you to fulfil with others those necessary conditions that enable us to act upon the world. In fact, if you consider the very first generation [of focolarini (editor’s note)] they were people with a great human experience: Antonio Petrilli was an architect and he was the secretary of the Italian Architects Federation, Giulio Marchesi was the manager of Rome’s natural gas supplier (Romana Gas), I was already a teacher. All of them were already fulfilled, Enzo was a surgeon. These were people already realized who saw their jobs as something, as an instrument through which this great Ideal could pass, to penetrate human realities and to bring about a different world.

When I was sent to the Gen Centre and found myself with the Gen, things didn’t change for me. They were people from a different generation compared to mine - I could have been the father of some of them - but that’s all. I saw in them the same determination, the same energy, the same disposition, the same decision that I felt and the same desire to make an impact on human realities. I remember this very well with the Gen, and how!

However, the period that I lived with the Gen remains for me perhaps one of the most beautiful periods of my life. I remember that when I left the Gen, after 7 years, because I was asked to develop the magazine (Città Nuova), I remember, I tell you sincerely, that I cried because I felt that it hadn’t been useless, it was a life in which I had tried to understand Chiara, to understand the Gen, and to put these realities together.

If the Ideal is not incarnated, the Ideal is lost. I remember Chiara told me this when she said: “Peppuccio before I die I want to see our university,” and she saw it, before she died she saw it. But

I remember she told me on the phone: “You see Peppuccio, if our culture does not emerge” – listen to what Chiara told me – “the Ideal will spread ever more, but not in depth.” Therefore, what Chiara meant was going into depth not in a spiritual sense, but in a cultural sense, because you delve within the human being, you go within. I was amazed. I would have expected the opposite, that she expected us to go into depth spiritually, and spread widely. Instead, (if our culture does not emerge) we could spread because we say many wonderful things, people like it, they feel loved, everyone is happy and so on. But we would not reach the deepest part of being human.

This is the difficult thing. In fact what I say is: ‘Be careful! Also in dialogue with the culture of the world today, which is where we have to get to, you can’t think that you can approach that culture at any of its different levels and all you have to do is talk of the ideal and hey presto!, everything is done. No, no.

Today the concept of ‘nature’ has been completely lost. You see clearly how it’s been misused. But does God have a project for nature or not? When he made the world, did he have an intention or not? Now we can obscure this plan of God, and that is the problem, we can obscure it. And culture today has reached the peak of obscuring it, the peak of obscuring it, in nihilism. But, personally I think, this is so that we can then focus on Jesus Forsaken, because otherwise we would not have understood Jesus Forsaken. Indeed, Chiara says that Jesus Forsaken is God for the people of today.¹

(applause)

Diego: Peppuccio dedicated years of his life to the birth and development of the Abba School. Fr. Fabio Ciardi is here, you are the one responsible for the Abba School. Fr. Fabio, what is this Abba School now?

Fr. Fabio Ciardi: What is the Abba School? Here is the Abba School, behind me! They are 23 persons, in love with Wisdom, and Chiara is still drawing them along in her great adventure. And we want to do what Peppuccio said: dig down deeply. In what well are we digging? It’s the profound experience that Chiara lived in 1949 and there we find living water that can nourish all our disciplines of which we are responsible.

This is the Abba School. Through the renewed disciplines, animated by this living water of the Charism, we want to inundate the whole of humanity.

Diego: Thank you, Father, thank you very much.

Fr. Fabio: Certainly, also for us.

(applause)

1

From an interview to Giuseppe Maria Zanghi, June 2013.

Gloria: We were supposed to receive a telephone call from Msgr. Martinelli of Tripoli, in Libya. He was happy, he knew that it was an expression of unity of the whole family of the Movement throughout the world. The telephone call does not arrive, perhaps there is no electricity. All the same we would like to assure him and the community in Libya all our unity. We offer for them also our prayers. *(applause)*

DO YOU CARE? – LONDON

Gloria: “Do you care about dialogue?” This is what the young people in London, Christian and Muslim friends and those without religious affiliation asked themselves. Let’s see what they did...

(music)

Andrés Salas – student London Film School (in English): *One of the great joys I had recently is that I spent time with some Muslim friends. I think it was the first time I did come to meet people from this religion. And for me it was really interesting because they are so different from what media says about them.*

Mohammad Mozafari Islamic Unity Society (in English): *Myself and other members of IUS, Islamic Unity Society – a Muslim youth group charity based in London and Manchester – have come to meet and work with a great organization that’s the Focolare Movement. Personally I have learned that there exists so many people that are still so passionate about serving God, and working for God and serving humanity; instead of having interfaith where it’s merely an understanding perspective so: I understand who you are, you understand who I am, it’s interculturalism whereby we say that I am learning from you as you learn from me.*

Rhiannon Copeland – student (in English): *It’s different to any Focolare event I have ever been to before; I don’t know, it’s not so obvious that you know people of different faiths or cultures, it’s just You just accept them for who they are as a person, it’s not : oh you are Muslim, oh you are Christian, oh you are a non-believer; it’s just everyone is together, that’s what I like about this kind of event.*

Mark Ansell – BBC broadcast journalist (in English): *This weekend I’ve spent time with people from all around the world and from different faiths and backgrounds, and I have heard about how they, how they live their lives and how they try to do good in their community. It has been fantastic this weekend to mix with Muslims and Christians: Anglicans, Catholics a real mix of different people; and just hear their stories and hear their thoughts on the ways that we can dialogue successfully with other people, opening your heart, opening your ears, listening; knowing when to talk and when not to; and trying to focus on God, trying to focus on what is really important rather than on yourself; you know, trying to push your ego to the side and focus on what it’s important which is God.*

Sam Hayhurst – student (in English): I was brought up without a faith. It's definitely worth engaging this conversation as difficult as it may be even if you only reach one student, one person, that's one person that may or may not go on to talk to other people about this. And the only thing it can do is ...help.

Angela Graham – TV Producer (in English): And something that I've learned from experience is to try to be always ready to dialogue. So, I don't have to wait to go to a formal meeting about interfaith activity. I can be ready to dialogue with whoever is next to me in the canteen. I don't have to tell them: "I'm ready to dialogue with you", it's just about having an attitude of openness and looking for connections with people, so it might be no more than handing them a clean cup.

Conleth Burns – student (in English): Do you care? Do you care about multiculturalism, do you care about dialogue? The characteristic of 2015 REGENERATE meant that the answer was resounding. The answer was : yes we care.

(Writing: Yes, I care! Today: "Live the other")

IN DIALOGUE ON COLLECTIVE HOLINESS

Diego: Now we'll open a page of this link-up to which we give great value. Up until now we have heard about people who are giving their life for their own people. This reminds us of the bishop of Salvador, in Central America, Msgr. Romero who was killed while defending justice and the dignity of his people. This makes us think of today's "saints", of the many people who have given their lives out of love.

Holiness is a strong invitation that also comes from Chiara, and especially with the opening of the Cause for her Beatification on January 27. What is the holiness to which Chiara invites us?

Gloria: This is why we would like to pause a moment to speak with Peter Dettwiler, a pastor of the Swiss Reformed Church, Emmaus and Jesús, whom we don't have to introduce. We'll ask them some questions.

Diego: Hi.

Peter Dettwiler: Hi Diego.

Diego: Hi Peter.

Peter, you belong to the Reformed Church, you are a pastor in Zurich. What is holiness for you as Chiara shows us? Could you help us to understand this better?

Peter: Yes, I think that it is a challenge for all of us. Chiara was a genius of holiness, as Foco said, and for this reason it's a challenge not only for the Lutheran Evangelicals and Reformed Christians but I think also for the Catholics. We, of the Reformed Church, we say that the Saint par excellence is Jesus Christ; it's enough for us to trust in Him, believe in Him, follow Him. Holiness doesn't matter so much, we don't often speak about holiness; the important thing is that we follow Jesus.

I said that the holiness that Chiara proposes is a challenge also for me, because she says that holiness is important, we go ahead on this way of holiness. Also Scripture says that we are called to become saints. So I must go ahead on my Holy Journey with Chiara, I cannot say that it's not important to me. But with Chiara, together with Jesus in the midst, the Holy One among us, we must go ahead, all of us.

Diego: Wonderful, thank you Peter. *(applause)*

Gloria: Emmaus, now it's your turn. Chiara always said that in the beginning they were not interested in becoming saints. Then, it seemed that it was the most important thing, "becoming saints together", the "Holy Journey", ... How did this idea change?

Emmaus: What an interesting question. I don't think that the idea in Chiara ever changed and this whole array of news that we have seen today also confirms this to me. What did Chiara want from the beginning to the end of her life? To put God in the first place and to love God whom she had chosen and who revealed himself to her as Jesus Forsaken. Chiara lived always and only for this. After all, Peppuccio, when he greeted her in the last moment, he said to her: "Now you'll get to know, you'll enter in that Paradise that you experienced also on earth."

Chiara lived in order to encounter her Spouse. She encountered him throughout her life, she prepared herself throughout her life to meet him in the final moment. This was Chiara's holiness. The only thing is that Chiara didn't do it alone. Chiara wanted to encounter God and she wanted others to encounter God, because she had found happiness in God, she had found life in Him. And she wanted to share this life with everyone. Therefore when she consecrated herself to God she didn't do it alone, even if she consecrated herself on her own, but she drew behind her many others in this choice of God which then meant walking together – as Peter said – walking together, marching towards God to finally contemplate this Spouse forever.

I think that today too, facing this humanity that is so tormented and suffering, the only thing that Chiara tells us is: "You do it too, you do it too," that is love Jesus that you meet in these sufferings of the world and do something to console him, to relieve him in order to show him your love. What we can do is go ahead in this love together. I think it is this.

Gloria: It's very clear. Thank you, Emmaus.

Emmaus: Thanks to you. *(applause)*

Gloria: Perhaps it's not the last question, because there may be a question from the hall.

Anita, will you help us?

Anita: Here we have Luca who would like to ask a question.

Luca: Good afternoon.

Emmaus: Thank you.

Luca: Good afternoon. Today we often hear about lay saints, that is, their actions are accepted and approved and exalted by the whole of society. I wanted to ask: our holiness that comes from God, isn't it a bit limited from this point of view?

Anita: I saw another hand raised over here.

Gianna: Hi, I'm Gianna, a Gen 2. Chiara taught us to aim towards holiness, but sometimes our humanity is felt too much. How can we face our limitations day after day?

Diego: Ok. I don't know who of you... I think Peter...!

Peter: I think the fact is very simple, because Chiara showed us what to do. Holiness consists in love, so we entrust ourselves to God, we go ahead, we try to do His will and believe in his mercy.

Diego: Thank you.

Emmaus: Regarding the fact that this holiness that comes from God may limit our human commitment, I'd say that this is precisely the opposite, because Scripture presents to us a God made man, a God who became man, fully human. Therefore to love God means to love the human being. We cannot think of becoming saints if we don't live for humanity, if we don't live for people. Thus anything but disembodied! Very much made flesh! Lay and incarnated more than ever.

Diego: Thank you, Emmaus. (*applause*)

Jesús: I'd like to add something concerning the question on our limitations. It's important to keep in mind that it's not we who make ourselves saints but it is God who makes us saints. Therefore more than seeking one's own perfection, it's about allowing ourselves to be taken up by God completely. Therefore our limitations are fuel. God uses our limits in order to make us holy. (*applause*)

Gloria: We have another question here for you, Jesús.

For us who got to know Chiara or perhaps others who got to know her through a video or people, we never posed the problem of Chiara's holiness as something that must be recognized in a formal way. So opening a process of Beatification of one's own founder could seem to be a little looking into ourselves instead of going towards others. Is it like this?

Jesús: I think that this depends on us. We could be looking into ourselves, in a self-referential way, developing forms of worship to Chiara. However there is another possibility, which is precisely to see what is happening, this occasion that the Catholic Church is offering us, in terms of a donation. A process of Beatification means – at least this is how it is seen in the Catholic Church – that the person at a certain point no longer belongs to the ecclesial family they came from, they now belong to the Church. I'd rather say: they belong to God, because only God is holy, as Peter said.

Practically speaking this is an ever growing process of losing and giving that person to the Church, to God, to humanity. We can live it like this.

We must be aware that since Chiara was declared servant of God we have begun to lose her, we have begun to give her. I believe that the meaning of this, also following Emmaus' line of thought, by doing this we place Chiara fully in her vocation, because Chiara did not think of the Focolare Movement, she thought about the Church, she thought about all the Churches, about all

the religions, she thought about humanity. Therefore the more we give her, the more she is herself, and the more we are ourselves. *(applause)*

Emmaus: I thought this was also very beautiful. On the other hand, many times Chiara gave us many examples of holy people, why? Because someone else had highlighted them. Therefore in highlighting Chiara, we give the Church the possibility to get to know examples, models and messages. These messages can be good for the whole of humanity. This is for us.

Diego: Thank you.

Gloria: Thank you, wonderful.

Diego: Thank you Peter, thank you Emmaus, thank you Jesús.

THE ALL OF MY LIFE: CHIARA LUBICH TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE ON DECEMBER 31, 1980

Diego: Now let's listen to Chiara. It's taken from 1980, right here in this hall. Today there are 450 of us, in that moment there were 1,000 young people together with Chiara. She told this youth what holiness was for her.

Chiara Lubich: ... *What I have to say is brief but very important and to tell the truth, even last night I could hardly wait to come... (applause), to tell you this idea. It's brief but important. I've begun to live it and I hope you also will begin to live it. ... What I have to tell you is an experience, my own experience which is really all my life in this moment. ...*

You know, also because of the story of the Movement which is connected to me personally, how the Lord taught me from the beginning, from 1943, many, many years ago, to constantly have death before me. It was during the war, so you could die from one moment to the next, and from this came the idea to live the present moment. Having death before us has always been a very important lesson, a very great means that God used to make us reason a little - that the true life is not this one, but the next, that we must put charity first - that is, to live the Ideal in order to really live the true life which awaits us.

But having death before me wasn't just an experience of the beginning. The Lord used many circumstances - either external ones, illnesses or other things to remind me ever so often that death exists and that after death there is the true life. ...

However, at a certain point, I guess I became a little obsessed with this idea, and even though I understood this summer that death is a meeting with Jesus, and so something magnificent, I was anguished by this idea: if I die, I won't make it to become a saint, I won't have time to acquire the virtue needed to become a saint, and I understood that to be a saint means to be a fulfilled Christian. So yes, a meeting with Jesus, but what kind of a meeting will it be if I am not a saint, a meeting which is kind of... but I want a meeting that is really great! And so this idea that the years are passing, that my health is what it is, that death is approaching, gave me this anguish.

... I was in Rome and in my home the focolarine of Rome prepared a chapel for me. I went before Jesus and said, "Then maybe you're going to give me a few more years so I can make it to reach sanctity. But listen Jesus, this is the final discovery, in other words, the last opportunity. ... Give me something - an idea, something! Then I left Jesus there in the Tabernacle and I went about my various jobs.

At a certain moment I got an idea: "There is a way for you to become a saint at once if you live it: it's Jesus forsaken! It's the charism I gave you. Remember what you did in the early years of the Ideal, when you saw all this revolution coming about from nothing, suddenly spreading like fire. What did you have in your heart? Jesus forsaken. You didn't have anything else but Jesus forsaken. If you end your life the way you began it, you will become a saint." And it seemed that He said to me: "But Chiara, if you do not love me, who will love me? It is to you that I revealed myself as forsaken. I gave myself to you as the forsaken one, then you shared this with all the others. ... So if you Chiara, if all of you don't love me, who will love me?"

Before such an obvious question I said: "This is it, this is the way." Within me I felt (and this is more important than the words I am saying or the intuition I had) I felt such a joy - the joy of having found the way - I found it! In fact I said: "I will immediately write on one hand "Jesus forsaken," on the other, "Mary desolate," because Mary lived Jesus forsaken in the moment of her desolation. I wanted to remind myself of this because I had made this great discovery. I had received the answer, this thrust. I already knew Jesus forsaken, I had also tried to live Him all my life as best I could, more or less, but this was really something very strong - above all the joy I felt. And so I went to Jesus and said: Alright, let's go along this road - I will always have this one and only idea. It is true that we all become saints by doing God's will, but there is a special will of God for me and for those who are called by this charism: this will of God is Jesus forsaken! ...

Listen, I have come here to take all of you, but really all of you and to say, look, it's the last day of the year 1980. Tonight we will sing the "Te Deum." The parable in which Jesus speaks of the labourer of the last hour is true as all the Gospel is true because it is Gospel. If we begin today, if we begin now to love Jesus forsaken in all circumstances, in detachments, in personal sufferings, in external sufferings, in persons who approach us, etc., and we love Him always, each time He presents Himself to us, immediately: without waiting, and with joy, with joy, we will regain 1980, which means that we haven't lost 1980 and so this one year exists. One year exists because it's the Gospel, it's the Gospel. (applause) And so this is what we will do, we will all do it. Do you agree? We will all do it.

Then tomorrow begins the decisive year - 1981 which is when we begin to become saints because this is all something that the Lord has given to us, because He is Mercy and He forgives us for all of 1980. But in 1981 we must build with the grace of God! ...

So this is what I wanted to tell you: and inside I was on fire. I desired because it has always been my vocation - to communicate to the others my own desire. ... One thing is certain: I found the way! ... Of course, you might ask me, but Chiara, why do you want to become a saint? Aren't you satisfied with having brought this ideal?

It's not enough for me, it's not enough for me. Do you know why? Out of love for God. I have to have a meeting with Jesus which is a little worthy when I go and out of love for you, for the focolarini, out of love for the focolarini.

What will I leave you if I don't leave you sanctity? A saintly person, what will I leave you? A lot of talk, many beautiful words, a charism, but these things belong to God. But for my own part, of mine, of my flesh and of my soul, what will I leave you if I do not become a saint? I will leave you nothing. And I do want to leave you something. And this something, this heredity that I want to leave you is my sanctity. And so I am going to do it and you too! (applause)²

CONCLUSION

Gloria: This is the holiness to which we feel called, because it also responds to the sufferings of today's humanity.

Diego: Really. Could we conclude with some messages from the world?

Anita: Yes, we would like to say that today there has been a shower of messages, via WhatsApp, email, Facebook, only the dove is missing and there would be everything!

Abraham: Yes, unfortunately we don't have time to read them all, but we'll read a few short messages.

From Nigeria: "Dearest all, this link-up makes us feel that we are a real big family. We feel united in Jesus Forsaken that binds us all together. Thank you for your prayers. From Onitsha in Nigeria."

Anita: From Pakistan a message arrived that says: "The experiences and images were moving. We are with you in saying our yes to Jesus Forsaken, we are with you and we thank you for your faithfulness to the ideal of universal fraternity."

Abraham: From Pisa, in Italy: "Hi to all. There are more than 100 of us of the community of Pisa following this moving and touching link-up. We want to immediately adhere concretely to the appeal of Syria. Count also on us. We live with you for universal fraternity."

Anita: Lastly. Maddalena from Argentina: "Thank you for making us participate in this reality of fraternity in the midst of many difficulties. It's important and it gives hope to know these trees that grow silently. From Cordoba I am with you through my prayers and personal commitment in my city. Greetings from a heart that is now a little Croatian, French, Syrian, Mexican." (applause)

Gloria: Wonderful! Thank you, thank you to all those present in the hall, to those connected via internet and to all those who in one way or another make this worldwide moment possible. Perhaps we don't see them, but backstage there is the Conference Call support team: the editorial

2

Chiara Lubich: "Her experience on the thrust to holiness", Rocca di Papa, 31 December 1980. Meeting of those considering the call to be focolarini and the Gens.

staff, technicians, translators... you cannot imagine how much work there is. Thanks to all!
(applause)

Diego: We remind you that you can still send us comments. On the website of the conference call you'll find the pieces of news seen today and other video-clips that because of time limits we did not include in this live streaming. Once more we thank everyone, especially our Argentina and the whole of Latin America.

Gloria: Our next appointment?

Diego: The next link-up will be on Saturday, May 2nd, at 6pm Italian time.

Gloria: Thanks to all! Goodbye! *(applause)*