

CH CONFERENCE CALL

Rocca di Papa, 17th June 2017

“Set love in motion”

1. Opening and greetings

- Video greetings from Puerto Rico
- Greetings from Jesus

2. Loppiano – The Loreto School: let’s go to school ... as a family

Four families from the Philippines, England, Vietnam and Russia talk about the fruits of their experience at a school that has been welcoming thousands of families from all over the world for over 35 years. (6’38”)

3. United world week: life, courage and peace ... is us

Flash mob at Loppiano and the words of Giusi Nicolini, the former Mayor of Lampedusa, who received the UNESCO Peace Prize. (2’11”)

4. Run4Unity: the 2017 global relay race

We hear news from New Caledonia, Malaysia, Guatemala and Mexico about the “race for peace and unity” that went around the world. (6’10”)

5. Hungary: breaking stereotypes in Ózd

150 Km from Budapest, Hungarians, gypsies and people of other nationalities meet to get to know one another, to share and ... discover they are brothers and sisters. (4’02”)

6. The Sophia University Institute: taking stock and looking ahead

A short interview with the University Rector, Piero Coda on the new developments at Sophia and the witness of two former students from Cameroon and Italy. (2’54”)

7. Journeying together: Christians on the path to unity

About 700 people from 42 countries and 69 churches and ecclesial communities took part in the Ecumenical Week at Castel Gandolfo near Rome from 9th-13th May. (6’02”)

8. Italy: Basma and Tatiana: strangers become sisters

A deep experience of sharing in daily life between Tatiana, a Christian, and Basma, a Muslim. This story speaks of an encounter between peoples, who recognise one another as family through openness and receptivity to one another. (5’48”)

9. **Message of Emmaus after the recent ecumenical events + video clip of Pope Francis with Emmaus at the Circus Maximus, 3rd June 2017**
10. **Marco Tecilla, the first focolarino: a life of light and radical commitment**
Short but very meaningful parts of his story that Marco told during an interview in 2011. (3 video 28'' + 2'34'' + 42'')
11. **Set love in motion**
On 1st May 1999, Chiara Lubich sent a video message to the Youth for a United World giving them a task: her charism, her aim. (2'55'')

Greetings and next appointment Conference Call CH in September 2017

1 Opening and greetings

Patrik Hrmó: Good evening and good day from Rocca di Papa! We are happy to be with you for this Conference Call.

We greet everyone here in this room, and all of you following us via the internet, in small or large groups, and those following us on their own.

My name is Patrick, I'm from Slovakia. I am a seminarian and am here having a community experience together with other seminarians and priests from various parts of the world.

Maria Laura Apostolo: Hi everyone, I'm Maria Laura, I'm 17 and I come from the south of Italy. I just finished my 4th year in high school and I'm preparing for university entrance exams, because my dream is to be a doctor.

Carlotta Raimondo Hello to everyone and welcome to this room that extends to the whole world. I'm Carlotta, I'm 23 years old, and I too come from the south of Italy. But for the last 5 years, I've been living in Milan where I study Dramatic Arts.

Luigi Muraca: I am Luigi, I'm 16, living and studying near Rome. I greet the communities and people who are following us from all over the world, and I invite you to send us greetings and impressions via email to the address collegamentoch@focolare.org, through WhatsApp, the number is 00 39 342 873 0175 or via the Facebook page: Collegamento CH.

We have just had a greeting from Patagonia where they say that despite the snow, rain and cold there are here with us (Applause). And just before the link up, we got this short video of greetings from friends in Puerto Rico.

A young person *Hi everyone! Greetings from Puerto Rico! We are a group of 20 young people who have come here after the Mariapolis ... (song) Bye! Always one! (Applause)*

Luigi Muraca: Heartfelt thanks to our friends in Puerto Rico and now we will link up with another community following us live in Loppiano in Tuscany, Italy, the first little town of the Focolare Movement. Andrea should be online now. Hi Andrea, can you hear me?

Andrea Cardinali: Hi Rocca di Papa, hello from Loppiano! In the last few days, along the streets of Loppiano, there is a special joy in the air, because Emmaus, Jesús and some members of the Centre of the Movement are here. Jesús is now beside me, and let's ask him to speak to us.

Jesús Morán: Hello everyone! As you can see, I am here beside Emmaus. A few of us came from the Center of the Movement to spend a few days in Loppiano. It has been a very intense week and boiling hot! But we are very happy with all that we have experienced here; it has been fantastic to enjoy Loppiano, the city on the hilltop. Thanks and bye.

Andrea: Thanks Jesús.

2. Loppiano, the Loreto School: let's go to school ... as a family

Andrea Cardinali: Since we are in Loppiano, we would like to introduce the little town; you can see that I am here with some families who come from different parts of the world and who are having a very special experience here at Loppiano, at the school for families, the Loreto School. Let's watch this short video.

Nathalie, Philippines (in English) *Then last year, all of a sudden, he just said to me one day, what do you think about going to Scuola Loreto for a year? And I said, yes! Of course!*

Eugene, Philippines (in English) *Families from all over the world come here and make experiences, as a life of a couple. Therefore, we thought it would be nice to come!*

Music

The most difficult for me, is really this deepening the relationship between us. The more time we have together, the more we know each other, the more friction we have. It's gonna be like, "what happened? I thought I know her already for some time..."

Nathalie, Philippines (in English) *At a certain point this created a conflict between us because he always wanted to go out and do something for everybody. And I would feel, "yah, but what about the family?"*

Eugene (in English) *People, families, our community here, help us to understand what to do next, how to resolve family problems like this.*

Paul, Great Britain (in English) *We left London with the intention of really doing a family experience, of coming to Loppiano, and seeing if we could live in a community but also together as a family in terms of formation of our children...*

Elisangela, Great Britain (in English) *We have particularly enjoyed the spirituality in Loppiano, because that's what keeps vivid this place, that makes it so special is the spirituality, the people's choice to love one another, going beyond the difficulties. That's what we found, that there's no place in the world where there's no difficulties.*

Paul (in English) *Essentially as a new family, we have the opportunity to share the sense of living in community and the values of that community*

Van, Vietnam (in Vietnamese, *What struck me is the difference in climate, food, language, culture ...*

Education is also very different from ours in Vietnam. We learned many new things from each lesson here and this helps us educate our children better. We educate them according to Vietnamese culture but also according to Western culture. We combine these two cultures to find the best way to educate them.

Chau, Vietnam (in Vietnamese) *it was a big challenge for me when I started working here in Loppiano. My income was not enough to support the whole family, to send our children to school. We have received help from others: our community, our family, our friends. I am very grateful for this support from everyone!*

Grigorii, Russia (in Russian) *it was not easy to make the decision to come here. We had to solve a lot of organizational problems, first linked to work, and then how to leave the house, how to tell our parents, relatives and friends that we were leaving ... Another very important moment, a real miracle was when we were able to prepare all the documents ...*

Julia, Russia (in Russian) *Yes it is a miracle to be able to get a one-year visa from Russia, especially for children! We don't want to say that everyone here is holy, but this is really a place where everyone is trying to love one another. It is the first thing that touched our hearts very much and supported us all year round.*

Grigorii, Russia (in Russian) *Another important thing is the openness, this sincerity that we want to share with our friends in Siberia, in Russia. We want to say that it is really possible to live in love and unity.*

Eugene, Philippines (in English) *Returning to the Philippines, it seems to be, if we imagine it, it's kind of a difficult thing. ...*

Nathalie, Philippines (in English) *I think this awareness of having chosen together to live this life, to live it putting God at the first place of our lives is what makes the difference. And between the two of us, I feel that in these months we have grown together especially in starting again, which is very important. When we have a conflict, it does not take us long as it used to be before. It's easier to say now "let's start again, I'm sorry."*

Marzia, Loppiano (in Italian) *It was November 1975. We were just a small group of Italian families with one international family. Chiara greeted us with so much joy, with an open soul and heart... She said, "I saw the family of the families of the sons and daughters of God!" It was prophetic because at that time there were so few of us. However, in the years that followed, many more came and in 1982 Chiara founded the school for families.*

Caption (in Italian):

From 1982, thousands of families from all over the world have spent time at the Loreto School in Loppiano.

Carlotta Raimondo - Many thanks to these families for their stories! We will be linked up with Loppiano again later.

3. United World Week: life, courage, peace is us

Carlotta Raimondo: Let's move on to another news where the Youth for a United World are in the frontline. It was the United World Week: a week at the beginning of May when the Youth for a United World make being one family visible through activities and events.

Luigi Muraca: This year the start of the United World Week took place in Loppiano on the 1st May. There were 3,500 of us from all over Italy and some people from other continents. We spoke of peace through the lives of young people, artists, religious leaders and politicians.

Carlotta Raimondo: As a special guest we invited Giusi Nicolini, former Mayor of Lampedusa, an island south of Italy where tens of thousands of migrants arrive each year because of war or poverty. Let's watch a video clip of what she said to us.

Clapping of the flash mob

Giusi Nicolini, mayor of Lampedusa, Unesco Peace Prize *If this were a boat that had come from Libya, with men, women, children, pregnant women, and was now in the middle of the sea... There's no need to explain the reasons for these trips. For parents to put their children on these inflatables they must be very desperate. There was nothing else they could do. Everyone has the right to be rescued at sea. And you see, life in Lampedusa is not easy for the people there.*

Today I traced out a royal bridge between Lampedusa and Loppiano. Something that is still a utopia for all others: a solidarity economy, living together in unity, for which we all have to struggle and be equipped with ideas to put forward, with diverse ways of receiving people. We can do it together. Peace is built through small daily actions. We are the ones to take the future in the direction we want to go, and we want it to be humane and just for everyone.

Song:

Courage will return / we will find peace / peace in the name of love and freedom / peace to give back meaning to this humankind /

4. Run4Unity: the 2017 global relay race

Luigi Muraca: Within the United World Week, there was another interesting activity, the Run4Unity: the annual relay race for peace and unity. This year it connected 110 cities around the world, from Oceania to America, and thousands of young people were involved. Let's see what they did in four countries.

Speaker male voice (in Italian): *Building bridges, bringing peace where there is most division, but also bearing witness to unity amidst cultural, social and religious diversity; enhancing all experiences of brotherhood - these are the main features of the four segments of the Run4Unity we will tell you about on a quick trip around the world.*

Caption: New Caledonia

Speaker female voice (in Italian): *“A land of speech, a land of sharing”, this is the motto of New Caledonia, which lies 1,500 kilometres east of the Australian coast. Rich in ethnic and cultural diversity that coexist peacefully, this country also experienced tension recently, especially among the St Luis tribe.*

Girl (in French) *We organized our Run4Unity at Saint Luis. There have been many clashes with the police lately. There were some shootings, and unfortunately some people died. That is why we wanted to hold the Run4unity right here.*

Girl (in French) *There were 80 of us. There were some games and we had great fun. Everyone, both young and old took part. At noon we did the time-out, then we launched balloons. We finished with some refreshments together. (Song) Then the St Luis Leader came and said that it was our faith that helped us to overcome fear and do all that we wanted to do. Thanks to you all!*

Group: *Thank you! Bye!*

Group: *Bye everyone!*

Graphic: *Malaysia.*

Boy (in English) *We, the young people of the Youth for a United World in Penang, Malaysia have organized our very first Run4Unity event on the 1st of May 2017.*

Girl (in English) *we decided to have a ‘Unity Walk’ so that this event can be participated by people of all ages, young and old. We have gathered 1200 participants belonging to different ethnic groups, cultures and religions*

Reverend Deacon Lazarus Johnatham (in English) *And it is also interesting to know that the organizer, the actual organizers of this event were not the older people, but were the young people, the teenager, the youths of the Focolare Movement (...) the Youths are not leaders of tomorrow but the leaders of today, now, present moment!*

Girl (in English) *We are also extremely delighted to have the support of the State Government and the Chief Minister of Penang himself who attended the Run4unity.*

Caption: *Guatemala*

Diego (in Spanish) *Hello! I’m Diego. Welcome to all those who are watching this Link-Up.*

Lulu (in Spanish) *Hi, my name is Lulu. We are in the beautiful city of Antigua Guatemala, which was the second capital of the country. The idea of doing Run4unity at Santa Lucia Utatlan was because we Gen 3 and the Teens for Unity wanted to learn about the cultures of our country, to strengthen ties with our forebears and to spread a culture of peace throughout Guatemala. We organized the activities by involving the City Council with the support of the Mayor and the Ministry of Education. In addition, we could count on the participation of schools.*

Diego (in Spanish) We chose Santa Lucia as the venue for the Run4Unity because it is a municipality that takes in all kinds of people, it is known as the most peaceful municipality in the country. It seemed important to work with them to tell the Guatemalan society that if we are united we can spread peace.

Lulu (in Spanish) About 800 people joined us from 3 ethnic groups: Latin, Maya catcikeles, Maya Quiché; children, young people and adults.

Diego (in Spanish) There were four categories: 1, 2, 4 and 6 km: we called it a “family run” so that everyone could take part.

Lulu (in Spanish) From the exchange of gifts among the different ethnic groups in the country, we have learned and appreciated teamwork and universal fraternity. This is the end of our report and we hope you liked it.

Diego We greet you from Antigua Guatemala with the image of Cerro de la Cruz.

Noe (in Spanish) Hello to all. I'm Noah Herrea. We are in the city of Mexicali - New California, Mexico. We want to tell you how this Run4unity initiative began. It was all because of one problem, one thing that made us feel very bad from the time we were born, it is this – pointing to the wall.

Speaker male voice (in Italian) We are on the border between Mexico and the United States where a wall with metal barriers, barbed wire and control towers divides the two countries. The young people from Mexicali in Mexico and from Calexico in the United States decided to run the relay race at the same time, one group on either side of the border.

Caption: Mexico and USA

Girl (in Spanish) For us young people, this border symbolises separation between two neighbouring countries, the United States and Mexico. But it is no more than a symbol, because we have shown that with our unity, we young people can help create fraternity and be a family.

Speaker: female voice (in Italian) The two groups then met to continue the relay together, adding white flags to the flags of the two countries as a symbol of peace. A local TV channel broadcast the event live.

Boy (in Spanish) The Run4unity was fantastic despite the differences between our countries and the wall that may separate us. There will always be love among us.

(Music and applause)

5. Hungary: breaking stereotypes in Ózd

Maria Laura Apostolo: With the Run4unity we have seen that we young people can take the lead in bringing about change, a change which, as happened in the north of Hungary, allows us to create times when different ethnic communities that are often in conflict can come together.

Patrik Hrmo: From Hungary we will hear about a project that has been going on for two years now. Let's discover what it is.

[All in Hungarian]

Silvia Scatragli, Olasz focolarina: *We worked together with the school, the head teacher, the other teachers and the children, to arrange a day together with the different generations, eating, playing and laughing together, thanking one another and discovering how good it is to be together.*

Music

We organised a project called "a pair of trainers for every child" and on the day, we found a festive and solemn way of giving out all we had collected.

Kocska Ágnes, school director: *Here in this little town in the north of Hungary, in the meeting hall of one of the schools in Ózd we met together with the people from Budapest and Ózd, with Italians who are living here and others of different nationalities.*

Fábri Péter, psychology student: *When I go to places that are a bit demanding, for example helping at a youth camp, they are times when I'm encouraged not to think of myself but to think of others.*

Fónagy Gáborné Erzsó, Focolare community of Ózd: *I am always happy and look forward to these occasions when we can be together, talking about our problems and difficulties, sharing our sufferings too... we can talk about anything.*

Marittyák Pálné Zsuzsi, Focolare community of Ózd: *Agi invited me to a family festival, I felt at home there, I felt I was given a mission, something to do, to go and spend time with them.*

Kocska Ágnes, school director: *Building up a sense of community is the main task of education. You can't teach and educate without a personal relationship with the children. Most of our children live in very closed communities; the majority come from gypsy families, which usually are very much focused on their own community rather than outside. On these family occasions, like today, the children relax; it is easier to talk to the families, that's why they are so important.*

Silvia Scatragli, Olasz focolarina: *We know that many people have a very negative outlook towards the gypsy community and this cannot be avoided. At the same time the challenge is to identify something good, something hopeful, a little seed, because in the seed is the hope of new life, not the tree itself. We know and see that we cannot solve all the problems, that is very clear, but at the same time, we are opening ways forward.*

Fábri Péter, psychology student: *It's truly possible to overcome the stereotypes that are deeply rooted in us about relations between gypsies and Hungarian people. But it's only possible through personal experience... It's very likely that their lives will be like those of their parents; but here too we have a responsibility and a task, to offer them an alternative, all through personal relationships.*

Silvia Scatragli, Olasz focolarina: *The fact is we see what it means to be brothers and sisters and live as such; on these occasions, we can put this sense of family into practice. Everything is very spontaneous with them; it is enough to love and they notice it immediately. We are the ones who complicate things; instead, they speak from the heart.*

Maria Laura Apostolo: Thank to our friends from Ózd (*applause*) for letting us be part of this process of integration and unity.

6. **The Sophia University Institute: taking stock and looking ahead**

Patrik Hrmó: - **To** make a new world, we need new people, young people whose formation gives them a new way of looking at reality. That is why we want to know more about the Sophia University Institute in Loppiano, a place of study and life, of interdisciplinary education

(Music)

Piero Coda: *Our Institute is about to be 10 years old. In this time, we have had 400 students who have completed over 20 theses, 15 doctorates and our students have found good jobs and academic posts.*

Constantine Akeibar, Cameroon *(in Italian)*: *I work for the United Nations World Food Programme and analyse the financial aspects of projects and the reasons given for the money spent on projects. The Sophia Institute gave me the best training possible for this job, not only by giving me a more human vision of economics but also by being able to study other subjects like philosophy, theology, sociology and psychology. This interdisciplinary standpoint/approach/vision added value to my skills beyond the technical “know how” I have at work, and also in the development of the community.*

Giorgia Salvatori, Italy: *I am on the staff of my local council, working with the mayor of my town, Campi Bisenzio, near Florence. I work in the consultative processes whereby events and activities are organised to enable citizens to be fully involved in the choices made by public administration, so that they can be shared choices. I studied Politics and international cooperation; then, at Sophia, I did economics and management. Sophia left me with two important things: a great capacity to build relationships and work in a team; and being able to have a broader vision of reality, because as well as studying economics I also did theology, sociology and politics. Then I made a great discovery: civil economy.*

Piero Coda: *Now that 10 years have passed, we are taking a new step forward. The traditional degree in the culture of unity is becoming a threefold option. We have three degree courses, in which I would draw to your attention: the degree course in politics and economics, taught in English to enable students from around the world to attend, and the degree in trinitarian ontology with philosophy and theology. These degrees are recognised through bilateral agreements with universities in different countries. A centre of higher learning is starting in the form of Sophia Global Studies seeking to understand the present day situation of the human family, and the*

direction in which history is moving. There is great openness through sharing in different fields in which the Focolare Movement is engaged: communications, the Economy of Communion and most recently the family. A study centre on the family is in the process of foundation.

(Music and applause)

7. Journeying together – Christians on the path to unity

Patrik Hrmo: - There is something that makes me very happy, even though around us there is much suffering. This joy comes from the signs of hope telling us that love goes beyond every division. One of these signs is the journey towards Christian unity. I was very struck by this. I saw this in action at a big event: the ecumenical week.

Maria Laura Apostolo: The ecumenical week took place in May at Castel Gandolfo. Let's see a report about it.

Speaker *(in Italian): It's 500 years since the Lutheran Reformation. The young German monk wrote; "If the word flourishes, everything will flourish in the Church". All that happened in history deepened the divisions. But the Holy Spirit has moved people and groups to seek unity.*

During the second world war a young woman from Trent, Chiara Lubich, together with her friends, opened and read the Gospel. They decided to live it sentence by sentence. From the life of that small group, a revolution grew which, over time, reached out to and united Christians of different Churches from both East and West.

Slide: London 16 November 1996

Chiara Lubich, Foundress of the Focolare Movement

Our dialogue is the dialogue of life, the dialogue of the people ... who are Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, Reformed ... The fact is that Christ has united us and made us one people. ... This is our ecumenism. ... No theological difficulties can stop love!

Miriam Weibye, Episcopalian Church, Scotland *(in English) I have done a few of these big international conferences. (...) But (...) it's very focused on the (...) the institutions, here I feel everybody is just looking at other people. It's about love for one another, and the differences voices that we hear are genuine, they are from the heart.*

Music

Speaker: *About 700 people from 42 countries belonging to 69 churches and ecclesial communities came to the 59th Ecumenical Week, organised by the Focolare from 9th-13th May at Castel Gandolfo near Rome.*

Paulette Djenque, Baptist Church, Cameroun (in French) We have a suitcase full of prejudice... and it is heavy! We must accept the differences that exist among us. We must accept others as they are ... and seek ... the love that allows us to live together.

Monaco Efrosin, Orthodox Church, Serbia (in Serbian) I was particularly moved on three different occasions... First the prayer in the Catacombs; we have so many prejudices against one another, without understanding the treasures that exist beyond our differences. The second was when we went to St Paul's tomb, where everyone was moved, regardless of their denomination. Third, the liturgies of the different traditions ...when everyone... felt enveloped by a special joy.

Ibrahim Gaid, Coptic Orthodox Church, Egypt (in Arabic) On my way to this congress, I was a bit fearful, thinking of the many languages, the different rites and even the different countries people were coming from. When I got here, I found the one thing that united everyone, which is love. ...We have lived genuine love here. We were all one family ... I want to thank Chiara... She managed to unite people in love.

Song

Metropolitan Gennadios Zervos, Orthodox Archbishop of Italy and Malta (in Italian) Chiara Lubich went to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople for the first time on the 13th June 1967. Up to the time of Patriarch Athenagoras death, she made eight journeys and met the Patriarch on 25 occasions. Athenagoras, Chiara and Pope Paul VI were the "leading threesome" in the journey of reconciliation between Rome and Constantinople.

Speaker:

"Journeying together" is not just a title but an experience confirmed by the joy of all present, from the very valuable inputs that enriched the programme, from the messages that came, including the one from Patriarch Bartholomew, and the greeting from the Bishop of Rome, Pope Francis, who encouraged everyone "to continue on the shared path towards unity".

P. José Francisco Salazar Vasquez, Anglican Church, Venezuela (in Spanish) It's possible to engage in real ecumenism if we set aside our "ego". ... The most important message that I am taking away with me, for my country, is that reconciliation is only possible in Christ. We are working ... on the idea of having a Latin American meeting, where we can be this prophetic voice of love and reconciliation that we need so much.

Bishop em. Christian Krause, former President Lutheran Federation, Germany (in German) I must say I feel very enriched by these few days, meeting people from so many countries and Churches and ... this marvellous fellowship in Christ... Tending towards unity, understanding, communication ... always opening up new settings in which the Holy Spirit can enter and bring us together: this is the Focolare's great strength.

Slide: Press Conference (Castel Gandolfo), 12 May 2017

Maria Voce Emmaus: *Of course, we will reach unity, because God wants it. God wants the entire human family to be a family of brothers and sisters, so he definitely wants it and it cannot fail to happen. I don't know if we will achieve it fully in this century, but what matters is not so much doing it in this century as that it will happen, and we must take the step that God is asking us to take today.*

Patrik Hrmo: Now we will hand over to Loppiano...

Luigi: Ok, while we are waiting for the link with Loppiano we'll read a few messages that have come now from different parts of the world. The first comes from Honduras; I will read it in Spanish:

"Saludos desde Tegucigalpa, Honduras!"

Carlotta: And from Africa: "Greetings from Burundi, we are following you joyfully!"

Luigi: Greetings from Angola where they say: "We in the community in Angola are linked up with you in our Mariapolis Centre. All our unity!"

8. Basma and Tatiana: strangers become sisters

Maria Laura Apostolo: We are having some technical difficulties with Loppiano. So I would like to talk about an experience of my own. Often in the Movement we speak about unity and in my town, I have had a very positive experience with a Muslim family, we really love one another. The same thing happened with Basma and Tatiana, from Latina, who have had a similar experience.

Basma: *My name is Basma and I come from Tunisia I am a Muslim.*

Tatiana: *My name is Tatiana and I am Italian and a Christian. He is Amed, Basma's son, and this is Miriam, one of my daughters. ... I met Basma outside the school because our children went to the same school.*

Basma: *She saw me and thought to herself: this poor mother does not speak to anyone. One day she asked, "Do you speak Italian?" and I said "I do speak Italian quite well". From then on, little by little our friendship began. She invited me home one day and I went there and said to myself: "Goodness, may God bless this family. She has got six children and is expecting another!" I went home and told my husband, saying, "Listen Ben, this family is ... and I explained... Tatiana needs some cous cous". He said "Basma, let's make the cous cous and take it to their home" so we surprised them. Ben took it and knocked on their door. When she saw Ben, she said, "Thank you so much Ben". She called me straightaway saying, "Basma I feel like crying. Why did you do this?" I said look Tatiana I truly did it with all my heart for you, because in your family I see true Christians who believe in God, who pray as we do, we have many things in common, right?*

Tatiana: *Yes, that's right*

Basma: *they must never separate Muslims from Christians... never.*

Tatiana: *Basma taught me how to thank God in every moment, whether things go right or go wrong - abdulallah*

Basma: *Good for you Tatiana. You can speak Arabic. Instead, Tatiana taught me about Providence... whatever comes to us we must share it with our brothers and sisters. ...*

On the 13th March at 2 in the morning, Ben woke up and said, "Basma, I can't move my leg or arm". We called an ambulance, I called Tatiana ...

Tatiana: *Ben went to hospital and it was a very painful time, because he had had a stroke. He was very ill and they were not able to stabilise his condition. Basma was truly desperate. I was with her but I did not know what to do apart from embracing this suffering with her, that was all, and we became more and more like sisters then. They were very painful days...*

Basma: *very difficult*

Tatiana: *very difficult, because Ben got worse and worse.*

Basma: *Before Ben's condition worsened Tatiana came to visit him one day – because she came with me to the hospital every day, and left me there and then came back, all the time. So he said to her, listen, I entrust Basma, Osama and Ahmed to you".*

Tatiana: *Paolo, my husband is a doctor and works in that hospital. One evening he called me saying "Come quickly because Ben is dying. As Basma's sister, I was able to be with her to entrust him to God and to accompany him in those last hours. Then Ben died. And everything then went into the depths of suffering. Basma wasn't able to eat, she couldn't do anything. It was thanks to her precious children's love that they truly helped her.*

Basma: *When I heard about the job, I was happy and sad at the same time. I was happy because at least it gave an income, for me and the children. Tatiana called me and said how are you? 2I'm fine but there is some news". She asked, "Did you get a job?" I said, "yes but I have to be in the factory at 4 in the morning" and she said "Don't worry Basma, I will take you, don't worry, I'll take you". That was when so many people started helping, I don't say friends, I say my Christian brothers and sisters. One of them took me every day. I too began to love everyone at work and now my brothers and sisters don't need to take me anymore. My colleagues give me a lift. I learned that lovely phrase that my Christian brothers and sisters say, "Where there is love, put love and you will find love", right?*

Tatiana: *"Where there is no love ...*

Basma: *put love and*

Together: *and you will find love.*

Patrik: *Thank you Basma and Tatiana*

9. In conversation with Maria Voce, (Emmaus)

Patrik: “We must take the step God is asking us to take today...” Emmaus said to the journalist during the Ecumenical Week. I really like those words. Now we are going to link up with Loppiano and we will hear directly from her.

Andrea Cardinali: Here we are, we are with Emmaus.

Emmaus, last week we saw the pictures of the Pope, especially on the 3rd June when you were at the Circus Maximus, during the big event organised by the international Catholic Charismatic Renewal. The Pope he took you by the hand when you least expected it and you walked along together off the stage. What happened then?

Emmaus: I felt a great joy. It was an unexpected joy, because I was sitting between two Cardinals and I would never have thought that the Pope would take me with him as he left the stage. Absolutely not, I was not thinking of it and I wasn't expecting it. But I also felt a huge sense of responsibility because I felt that the look of love, with which the Pope looked at me personally there on the stage, was a look of love directed to the whole Movement, a look that was love but also trust, certainty that we are working towards the same aim. We are working for unity. In fact, this occasion with the Pope was a high point of a whole journey, of a particular period.

At the end of last year [in July] we had the big gathering of Together for Europe in Munich, which was a truly ecumenical event. Then we started the new year dedicated to Jesus forsaken and we said: “This will be the year of the dialogues”. During the year, many things have guided us especially towards dialogue among Christians. For example, we had hardly begun and we had the idea of going to Ottmaring with the whole of the General Council. We asked ourselves, why Ottmaring? Ottmaring is a little town dedicated to ecumenism, so it is good that this year, in which we want to do more about the dialogues, we highlight this in a special way.

There in Ottmaring we felt that we should do something more, something practical, some concrete steps towards Christian unity. So much so that we wrote the Ottmaring Declaration that was then sent to Church leaders and to leaders in civil society and other people in the Church, with the intention of saying the Focolare Movement is dedicated to this path.

Of course, this journey was not only that of the Focolare Movement. We all know that there was the Reformation, the 500th anniversary of the evangelical Lutheran reformation and we all saw how the Pope went to Lund, and the embrace between the leader of the Catholic Church and the leader of the Lutheran Church, which truly marked a step forward.

But we too [have done something], in our own small way. For example, this year I was invited to Malta. I had not thought of going to Malta at all, but they were celebrating 40 years since the foundation of the Ecumenical Commission and they wanted to hear about the Focolare

Movement's ecumenism. That too was a sign. I spoke about the ecumenism of the Focolare Movement and they listened with great attention and esteem.

You feel that this dialogue... We said: it is the year of the dialogues, but we can begin from one, and the dialogue among Christians is the one that Jesus put at the foundation, because he said, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." "That they may all be one... so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

We saw then during the Ecumenical Week how unity among Christians came so much into evidence, the relationship of unity.

What did we do during the Ecumenical Week? We discovered this people united by the same love, united by the same baptism, which can take steps forward together, that can walk together. As Pope Francis so often says, the goal is reached by journeying walking ahead together and unity is made by walking together. It is this very example of the journey that we are on together. It is a journey that if done together gives us more courage and speeds up.

In fact – and here too is a coincidence – on the very day we had the meeting with Pope Francis at the Circus Maximus, there was an article in [the newspaper] *Avvenire* on the Ecumenical Week with the title: we must speed up the journey, unity is the will of God, we must speed up. This speeding up is something we feel comes from our journeying walking together. We are not the only ones thinking this. The Pope thinks so too. The fact that he took me by the hand and that we went out together seemed as though he wanted to demonstrate this, that he was taking the laity by the hand, the Movements, one Movement in particular that lives for unity. It was as though he was saying to all those who were there, who were not only Catholics, because the Jubilee was for the Catholic Charismatics but he wanted to celebrate it with the charismatics who were not Catholics too.

In fact, on the stage, apart from some Cardinals there were all the non-Catholic leaders whom he had invited to be there close to him.

So he wanted to show this journey which is being done together, and he wanted to say that he is not the only one doing it, that we are doing it too. This gave me great joy, great joy, precisely because I felt I was Church with the Pope, journeying together on this path towards unity, which has speeded up because of this unity.

Andrea: Thank you, Emmaus. (*Applause*)

Maria Laura: Thanks, Emmaus, thank you so much because your words have truly reached our hearts, urging us to want to build unity more and more.

10. Marco Tecilla, the first focolarino: a life of light and radical commitment

Luigi Muraca: Now we are going to talk about another very important story, Marco Tecilla's story. Marco died on 8th May. He was the first focolarino; the first man to follow Chiara in the new path of the focolare, which up until then was made up of women.

Carlotta Raimondo: He had an extraordinary experience, always carrying a suitcase, until he left for Brazil in 1958 with the desire to bring the Ideal of unity. He went on doing this right to the end. It is enough to think that 3 years ago, when he was 89, he went to visit the focolare community in Cuba.

Luigi Muraca: We've chosen three extracts from an interview with Marco in 2011 when he talks about the start of his adventure. When he was 19 he had heard about a group of girls, as they were described in Trent as being a bit 'fanatical', so he kept his distance from them. One day a Franciscan priest, Father Casimiro invited him to a meeting without giving any details. Let's hear what happened from Marco.

Marco: *The door opened and a group of girls came in. I saw them, "Its' them!" However, as I was wedged in near the wall, I could not get out. They were laughing and smiling and then sat down on the chairs. A young woman, a girl, went to where the priest had been. I looked at her. She was a lovely girl with very black hair – I remember. She didn't look at us but at the girls in front of her and began to speak. Then I realised it was Chiara, she was still called Sylvia then. I sat and listened and after a while, I found my chin resting on my hand as I drank in all that she had to say. She spoke with such intensity, it was like a blaze of fire. ... I felt I was receiving something great. She spoke to me about God, God who is love. I don't remember the words but there was a powerful sense of the divine.*

It was a gift for me and I felt as if scales fell from my eyes, the scales that had made me see these girls, whom I did not know, as bigots, as over-enthusiastic and so on. There I realised that it was something very serious.

Carlotta Raimondo **Marco** was an electrician and very good at repair jobs. That was why he said he was happy to sort out any electrical faults in the little house in Piazza Cappuccini where the group of girls was living during the war.

Marco: *I always got to the house at suppertime, because I worked during the day... Whether I was up a ladder or standing on a chair, wherever it was I could hear what they were talking about as they sat at table. There were 4 or 5 of them. Chiara talked without being concerned as to whether I was there or not; she always spoke about the gospel. I remember one evening Chiara invited me to sit down, to rest for a moment.*

She said "We want to bring about a Gospel revolution. We Christians are a bit like actors!" ... Sunday comes and we put on our Christian make-up ... just to do something for a short while – half an hour, for Mass, after which I am free again to be an ordinary citizen."

She then said: “Look, when Jesus was in Palestine, he was Jesus 24 hours a day, whether he was out in a boat, sleeping in the boat, whether he was working a miracle or going up the mountain to pray, or speaking to the crowds. He was always Jesus. .. You see, if Jesus were to come again today, in our times, perhaps he would be a worker like you, an electrician, with overalls, a worker, but he would always be Jesus: Jesus working; Jesus in church; Jesus going along the street; Jesus enjoying himself; Jesus in the family.

What she said made me see a Jesus I did not know... I felt a very strong calling: ... If I want to be a Christian, I must be Jesus 24 hours a day!

I remember going out of that room and that little house; it was dark outside. Walking up towards home there was a little wall beside the path and I leant on it looking up at the starry sky. Before then, God seemed to be up there beyond the sky and so far away from me! Jesus, okay, but he lived 2,000 years ago and he wasn't here now. In that moment, I felt a presence. I felt that the God, whom I saw as being far beyond the stars in the sky, was within me, within me! It was as though Chiara had put him within me.

Luigi Muraca: Marco felt that God wanted something from him but could not understand what it was. He had always thought of marrying and having a family. He was confused. He shared this briefly with Fr Casimiro who immediately wrote to Chiara. She answered that letter, writing directly to Marco.

Marco: *I took the letter, ran back home, went into my room and read it. ... Reading the letter and understanding with utter clarity – it could not have been clearer – that I should follow Jesus in Chiara's path happened all at once. Since then, over 60 years have gone by and I have never had the least doubt! This light is so strong and all embracing, it enveloped me.*

Carlotta Raimondo: So let's thank Marco today for his 'yes' to God, to which he was always faithful.

11. Chiara Lubich – set love in motion

Carlotta: In fact, all the stories we've heard bear witness that saying yes to God opens up ways you would never have thought of. Chiara talks about this in a message she sent to young people in 1999, but which is very up to date and addressed to anyone who wants to be a builder of unity.

Chiara Lubich: *... How did this adventure of unity begin? Dear young people, it began not when I, but Someone else wanted it to begin. You may know that gifts are given to the world from time to time; they are called charisms. They come from the One who guides history, who leads it toward a very precise goal: the good of all, by channeling towards that goal even the sad things that we men and women can do in the world.*

It is God, God who is Love, in whom many of us firmly believe. One day, many years ago, one of these charisms came here too. Through it, we, who were young people at the time,

understood that there was a wonderful design, we had a task, almost a mission: to work during our lives so that all may be one by setting love in motion in our own hearts and in others.

Was it imagination? A dream?

No, certainly not, since Jesus prayed to his Father in heaven using these very words: “May they all be one”. Could the Father, who is God, of a Son who is God, with whom he is one God, not listen to what he asked? We set out confidently toward this goal and now there are millions and millions of us - children, young people and adults - from almost every nation. It impossible to count how many we are.

Of course, some of these people do not share our same faith; they might have a different faith or perhaps no religious faith at all. Nevertheless, they are of good will, which cannot be absent from the human heart. So we journey together with them towards the goal of a universal family, towards building a united world. And, if God is with us, who can be against us? ... Now it is up to you to hold high the banner of our ideal. On one side is written unity, loving one another to the point of being ready to die for one another. On the other side is the means to reach this goal: effort, hard work, even being ready to suffer so that the world may become one family.

You are young. You don't lack courage. If we did it, why can't you?

(Applause)

12. Final greetings:

Maria Laura Apostolo: Chiara gave us this challenge, urging us to bring love and to rekindle the flame that the obstacles might have put out.

Luigi Muraca: We want to take up her invitation. Setting love in motion again in our daily lives, like the people did in the stories we've seen today, just like Chiara did.

Carlotta Raimondo: So with her encouragement we'll end now... Thanks for being with us, some nearby some far away... Bye everyone!

Patrik Hrmo: See you next time, which will be on the 16th September at 12 noon Italian time.

All: Bye!

(Applause)