

CH CONFERENCE CALL
Rocca di Papa 16th September 2017

“Let’s rekindle love”

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1. **Opening and greetings:**

(Applause)

Angela Mammana: Good morning, good afternoon, good evening to you all!

Simone Santoro: Welcome! Greetings to the whole world, to all of you who are connected.

Angela: We are Angela and Simone, we have been married for 5 years. We come from Sicily but live in Rome. We wanted to greet all the Sicilian's in the world! (laughter)

Simone: (plays the *marranzanu*): Benedica a vossia! (Applause)

Angela: In dialect it means: Bless you!

In every day life I'm a psychologist and Simone is a physicist...

Simone: It was really a surprise for us to host this Link-up, but we're very happy to be here ...

Angela: Let's begin right away going around the world, and let's call Sandri from Colombia. Are you there Sandri?

Sandri Solano: Yes I am, hello everyone!

Angela: Hello!

Simone: Hello Sandri!

Sandri: Hello Simone!

Simone: Sandri, it's six in the morning there ... have you had coffee?

Sandri: A really nice coffee!

Simone: Great. We know that Pope Francis left Colombia a few days ago. We hope that his trip will mark the definitive end of 50 years of civil war, with hundreds of thousands of deaths, more than 7 million displaced people and much suffering. Can you tell us something about this, Sandri?

Sandri: The days we spent with Pope Francis were a huge grace, above all because he spoke to us not only through his gestures and his smile, as he always does, but his words gave us great hope. The strongest thing was at Villavicencio because he truly disarmed our hearts about this conflict, and what is happening now. He invited us to take the first step but now it is up to us to take the rest. He taught us that peace can be built one step at a time. All of us in our families, wherever we are, because it is not a political issue, but it is something that depends on each one of us. We, who are Chiara's children, have taken on this commitment and welcome his words now to build peace in Colombia.

Angela: Thank you Sandri! We too want to be peacebuilders together with you!
Now let's call Sri Lanka, in the Indian ocean...

Simone: Ciao Hugo, are you there?

Hugo Gomez: Hi everyone, I can hear you!

Simone: Hi Hugo. You're Spanish, so can you tell me what are you doing in Sri Lanka?

Hugo Gómez: Hi everyone, As you said we are in Sri Lanka a very large island in the Indian Ocean southeast of India, with population of 40% young people and where the majority are Buddhist.

Instead of going on holiday I decided to come here as part of a temporary focolare together with Tita from Brazil, Catherine from Malaysia, Jay from the Philippines and Marilu' from Italy.

After a civil war that lasted 30 years, the country has now developed and now as an economy which is ranks among the first in South Asia, but the war ended only 9 years ago so there is still a great need for reconciliation and a hunger for fraternity.

As well as various visits, we went to four High Schools in Colombo, the capital, where we shared the message that a united world is possible with about 350 boys and girls aged 17 and 18 from different religions. Tomorrow we will have a youth event with all the young people invited to tell them about Genfest 2018 in Manila, hoping that this time people from Sri Lanka will come and we will invite others next week in different cities.

Simone: Thank you Hugo.

Hugo: We are glad to be linked up for the first time, with a small group represent al those who know the focolare in Sri Lanka. We'll greet you in Singhalese.

All: Ayubowan! (Applause)

Simone: Thanks Hugo, thanks to all. Heartfelt thanks to the community in Colombo. It's great to know that there have been temporary focolares in more than 40 cities all over the world...

Angela: We would like to greet our friends here in this Hall. We have a group from Lazio, where are you? There they are. Hi to you all! (applause).

Then we have 61 representatives of the Focolare Movement from all over of the world who have begun their annual meeting. Let's greet them (Applause) but perhaps we can get to know some of them better, let's try.

Simone: Yes, let's do that... I am going this side to the younger ones, if you agree. Let's say hello to someone. Ciao, can you stand up?

Noreen: Yes, yes.

Simone: Sorry for using the informal "tu"... Can you tell us something: where you come from, a greeting in your own language?

Noreen: I am Noreen, I am from Scotland, I am Scottish but I live in Great Britain, in Welwyn Garden City but I am about to go to Oceania. Hi to everybody!

Simone: Thank you (applause)

Angela: That's great, thank you. Let's go on with our surprises. Maybe I can find someone here. Can we meet? What is your name? Can you tell us something? A few words about yourself and a greeting. Where are you from?

Glauco: I am from Udine, I am Italian and I have been in Thailand for two years. (Thai greeting)

Angela: Wonderful, thank you so much!

Angela: As you can see, here we have a special group of people, a multicultural group. They are all here for a meeting which will last two weeks, that is just beginning.

Simone: Hello, Emmaus. Hi Jesús. This meeting is starting today and we're sure you're happy to say something to all those who are following this Link-up.

2. In conversation with Maria Voce (Emmaus) and Jesus Moran

Simone: We have Emmaus here with us, hello Emmaus! Hello Jesús! (Applause) Emmaus, would you like to tell us something?

Emmaus: Perhaps the meaning behind this meeting.

First of all a special greeting to everyone, to all those who are seeing and hearing us all around the world.

You know that for a while now we have been working towards a new distribution, in some senses, of the Movement in the world. You will certainly have heard people talking about the “new set up”, which started a while ago, and at the start seemed to be something impossible. It raised a whole series of questions, some of which are still with us and are being resolved little by little... People said, “But its madness! How can we possibly have an overview of such a huge area?” Others said, “How can we move a focal area that has been here up to now and put it somewhere else? There are problems about work, problems about settling in; how can it be done? It’s impossible!”

At the same time as being “impossible”, we felt that God was asking this of us. We felt that the Holy Spirit was inspiring us to make these changes. And the fruits we are seeing now show it was true that God was asking it of us, it was true. There are fruits because we hear about so much life all over the world; there is a new sense of initiative; everyone is doing all they can. There are more and more Mariapolises, organised by the local communities who have been writing to me personally to tell me how happy they are with the experience they have had and the fruits they have experienced.

So we must truly thank God for all this life. There is more creativity, more initiative, more commitment on all sides, more life! And this is what we want: life.

This has come much more into evidence now that the Delegates of the Movement have come here from all five continents. What are they here for? They are here now and we are rejoicing in these fruits. But they, together with everyone at the Centre of the Movement, are like the heart that has nourished, supported and helped carry out this journey towards the “new set up”, this journey towards the redistribution of the Movement in the world.

Now this heart is reunited all together here at the Centre, but it is all just one heart, there are not two hearts. Those who are here at the centre, and who work at the Centre, and those who come from the different zones, form this one heart. During the two weeks that we are gathered here, they want truly to have an experience of universality. This means the experience of getting to know one another in a deeper way, of each one entering into the reality of the others and making it their own, with the love that knows how to contain and knows how to forget their own little piece to

look at the whole. In the end, this will lead to a new awareness that the Movement belongs wholly to each one, all of it to everyone.

Then everyone will go back to where they came from, or maybe somewhere else, because things are changing still as the “new set up” is ongoing. They will go back with this new soul and bring to the whole of Chiara’s family this global vision – so to speak – of the Movement, which belongs completely to everyone. So no one can say, “This part does not belong to me”. It belongs completely to everyone. I think this is something really beautiful.

To make this journey – which is of course a journey in unity and therefore not one to take for granted or think of as being easy... To make this journey there is a guide, a teacher, who is Mary. This year we want to highlight Mary in a special way, and we are dedicating the whole year to her. Mary is the mother of the Jesus in the midst who is the fruit of the charism in any place on earth where the charism is lived.

So I think it is particularly beautiful that we are all here together now: the heart – as we said before - this heart made up of these two parts that come together – and the members of the whole Movement spread throughout the world, precisely to take up this commitment together, that this year we want to know Mary better. Above all we want to relive her because, wherever we are, any person we meet can find themselves with someone who has a mother’s heart; a heart that knows how to understand; that knows how to wait, to be patient, to listen, to sustain the journey we are on.

So all of us together, all together. From now on, no one can say, “I have nothing to do with this process”. No! All together, there where we are, we should be this motherly heart for all those we meet. In this way, we can make our contribution to the realisation of one human family made up of brothers and sisters, the extraordinary reality that Jesus dreamed of and that we dream of with him and want to bring about together, “That they may all be one!” This is the deeper meaning of this meeting and is also the way to engage all of you who are listening and say, “We will do this together”. Thank you.

Angela: Thank you Emmaus, thank you! Jesus, can you tell us something about the main subjects you will be discussing?

Jesús: Yes. We are now three years into our mandate; we are half way through the six year period of our mandate, and so it is our duty to pose some questions for example: how are we communicating this great gift of the Ideal of unity? Or for example: what

Text of video 2366M, duration 53'

about our concrete commitment at all levels: at the levels of the church, of society, of civic life? What about the dialogues? This year we want to look especially at ecumenical dialogue – given that we have been and still are celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation; but not only that, all the others too. These are important questions because behind each one there is a world of life, of reflection. So we will reflect on these things, we will meet and have group work to see how to go ahead in the next three years.

Angela: Wonderful, thank you! Thanks Jesús, thanks Emmaus!

Emmaus: Thanks to you both. Thank you!

Angela: So please keep us up to date with the news.

Let's continue our Link-up. You know that you can write us through WhatsApp, by email or on Facebook. We will give you the details. The email address is collegamentoch@focolae.org. Or on WhatsApp: +39 3428730175. Or our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CollegamentoCH/.

3. **Breaking Rays**

Simone: Chiara Lubich began the Conference calls in 1980, as a way to gather together this family spread all over the world and to share joys, sorrows, projects, stories, witness and so much more, all that there was and that belonged to this family.

Angela: We shall also do this trip around the world by sharing the news that has come from various countries.

In July, right here near Rome, there was an international workshop for video makers, people who are now helping and contributing to the Conference Calls. Let's watch this report.

(caption) Castel Gandolfo, Italy June 28th -July 7th 2017

Vera (in English): *I think Breaking Rays is inspirational*

Marcello (in English): *Global*

Viki (in German): *hard work*

Zain (in English): *powerful, enriching*

Trixie (in English): *start of something new*

Rober (in Spanish): *growth*

Marcello (in English): *Lots of knowledge and...family
(music)*

(Caption) 22 communicators from 10 countries Learning to be better storytellers

Zain, New Delhi, India *(in English): After working for more than 10 years in the media industry it's like going back to school and learning afresh with very new techniques and technology, and also about how to integrate your beliefs into your professionalism.*

(caption to be read) 10 days sharing talents and experiences Lessons and interactive workshops with experts in various aspects of media production. Focus on visual storytelling and interviewing lighting and composition sound and editing as well as working as a team on real projects

Patricia, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil *(in portuguese)*

We were able to put into motion all our talents and experience. But it was a sharing among equals, to grow together in the field of communication.

(caption) A step forward in the growth of the Collegamento CH Building a network of communicators passionate about their work and...the Ideal of a united world.

Luc, Bujumbura, Burundi *(in francese con sottotitoli in English): It's something that must be communicated to others in order to reach our goal of a united world.*

Viki, Munich, Germany *(in German with subtitles in English): Though we have different professional level, it's always possible to create a network. Each of us plays a part; only in this way we can build something big and original.*

Logo Breaking Rays

4. India: the Rainbow Kids

Angela: Let's watch one of the first products after this course ... It was made by Marcelo Vaz in Mumbai, India, a city of 21 million people. It's the story of *Rainbow Kids*.

Title: Rainbow Kids - Mumbai, India

Graphic: The beginning

Patricia Furtado teacher / founder *(in English): It started with a little boy by the name of Sunny. (...) This child robbed a mobile (worth) like 45-50 thousand and he is selling for 50 – 60 or 100 rupees (...) So I went to see Sunny actually and realized Sunny was a hungry boy. He didn't have his father; mother remarried and the second husband was not very happy with him. So he was deprived of food and so the best thing was to go and rob and get some food to eat. So I told Sunny: you come by, we are going to have a*

football match and we'll get you to play and we'll give you shoes and everything. And Sunny came by with a big bunch of boys from the slum. The mother knew that Sunny now had a group of friends who would come and bring him out to play and then if he was hungry he would go to them and they would share some food with him. And Sunny stopped robbing.

Title: The Name

Patricia: Each slum in a locality is known for a name which they don't like to be called. If they were near the market place they were the food robbers, or if they were near the sea somewhere there, they were car breakers or mobile robbers. Or the ones living on the other side were the house breakers - their parents steal to survive (...) They didn't want to be called by that name so I said, let's give them a color. The rainbow is the most beautiful thing so I called them the blue boys. Then there were other boys who used to break into homes - their parents initially they got the children to get into the homes first you know through the window to open the doors - so I called them the orange boys. When I called them by the color oh! They loved it. They all came together like one big rainbow and played together like brothers and sisters.

Title Going to school

Patricia: Then we started realizing they don't go to school some of them. So we said if they want to be in the Rainbow team they need to go to school. I spoke to them "See your parents were maids, you don't need to be a maid. You need to rise up and the sky is the limit. So if you're willing to study I'm willing to be supportive". So they started going to school. I've been visiting their schools to find out if they are coming regularly. They used to show me their progress report and I used to give them a little gift, like a football or a T-shirt or something which gives them some initiative.

I have a number of parishes that have always welcomed me and allowed me to bring the boys and the girls to have practice matches. And I didn't really need money. I just needed people's commitment to come and help.

Title The Helpers

Many of the rich families give me shoes and kits, lots of socks so I used to pass it on to these boys.

Sanosh Dongre, student / football player (in English): My Mum and Dad are working as construction workers. Then Patsy maam came. She took me to the school. Then she

told me "You love football?", I said "Yes, I love football". Then she gave me new clothes, new jersey's new shorts.

Sunita Bist, student / physiotherapist (in English): I went for admission in St. Joseph's but they told me to write an essay which I don't know how to write. So they told me you are not selected, come again after 3 days. I was praying a lot that "I want to study hard, I want to do something in my life and after the 3rd day I went again. And again I was rejected and then I was praying. And then suddenly my angel came, Patsy Mom, and she told me: you will get today. So I went there and I got into the school.

Gyaneshwar Kamble, student / cricketer (in Marathi): Maam helped us open a bank account, My mum wanted to use her thumb to sign, but they told us that the thumb would not do, signatures are compulsory. I taught my mum to sign and open her account. I also support her and help operate her account

Lalita Bist, student / C.A. (in English): No matter how much we tell about Patsy is not enough because she is like an angel from God and she changed the minds of the children. And she tries to help the children overcome their difficulties.

Gyaneshwar Kamble: (in Marathi) I want to become a cricketer

Sunita Bist : I'm planning to become a C.A. (chartered accountant)

Santosh Dongre: My dream is to become a football player and a football coach.

Lalita Bist : I thought physiotherapy is very good and so I've taken that.

Patricia: If God has given you this talent, share it, use it to the fullest. This gives immense joy to the children and these kids, believe me, are going to do something good wherever they go. If their experience is happiness I'm sure they would like others to receive this happiness spread around.

End Plate

Patricia Furtado, a former national Hockey player and teacher, along with the Focolare community of which she is part, has been reaching out to many children and families for 17 years giving them hope for a positive future.

Title : Rainbow Kids - Mumbai, India

Simone: Thank you Patsy, thanks for this wonderful story; and thanks to Marcello for telling it to us.

We would like now to read a message we have received from Myanmar.

It says: "The community in Myanmar are following the live link up for the first time. There are 15 of us and we feel our heart opening up to the whole world".

So greetings to all of them! (Applause)

5. Becoming world citizens

Angela: In the *Hombre mundo* activities and summer youth camps, over 6,000 young people, along with families like ours here in Rome, and so many others, rolled up their sleeves to work in the suburbs of many cities. They cleaned up degraded areas and involved the young people in each place, collaborating with organisations in those localities. It was an experience that went far beyond expectations ... Let's see the news service.

Speaker: *Workshops and summer camps: over a period of three months, youth and teens in various parts of the world gave their time and space to contribute towards the transformation of their cities, to overcome prejudices and fear, to nourish their personal relationship with God...*

Here are some of them.

Groups of young people went to districts in the peripheries and in poor areas of several Italian cities, like Rome and Syracuse.

George Nakhala, Syrian (in Arabic): *"It's great to take interest in this area, great to think about other people. I really liked it."*

Speaker: *In Warrenton, South Africa, 43 youth collected garbage along the streets of the city. They were encouraged by reflecting on the importance of the community, the value of harmony, being enriched by differences, also among ethnic groups.*

Pope Francis, Angelus on July 23, 2017, St. Peter's Square, Vatican City: *"My thoughts and encouragement go to the young participants of the "Global Person Workshops", who give witness to the joy of the Gospel in the most impoverished districts in the peripheries of the various continents."*

Speaker: *The "Global Person" workshops brought together 6,000 youth in 53 cities in 49 nations, in Africa, the Middle East, North and South America. Some work shops were international in Poland, Serbia and Croatia for example.*

Gleb, Russia (in Russian): *"... we came here, from different parts of Russia, and very distant cities... This is a step towards unity in our own country as well as in the world..."*

Valora, Venezuela (in Spanish) *"During the sharing of experiences, I was impressed by a young woman from the Holy Land (...) who said: I know there is war in my country but I realized that there are also wars and political conflicts in other parts of the world like in*

Text of video 2366M, duration 53'

Venezuela. Those of us from Lebanon, the Holy Land and Jordan, raised funds to send to Venezuela."

Simone: Lets give them a round of applause! (Applause).

6. Phone call with Marilia from Brazil (young people in Korea for peace)

Simone: Marilia is a teenager from San Paolo, Brazil. She's going to tell us about a very special experience in Korea.

[In Portuguese]

Marilia: *Hi I'm Marilia, a Gen from Brazil*

In August, the Cardinal in my Archdiocese invited me to go to South Korea on a global pilgrimage for peace. It was a great opportunity to live for unity together with the Church. During that week, we were based in the de-militarised zone on the border between North Korea and South Korea. Over 15 countries were represented including Syria, Iraq, Cambodia and others. Even though I was the only person from the Focolare Movement the theme of the pilgrimage was the unity of peoples.

Now that I am back home, I feel the reality of the whole of Korea is mine too and I live offering all I do every day for a united world. All my unity.

Simone: Thanks Marilia. It's a commitment to peace we all want to make our own.

7. The Philippines: Serafin's dream

Angela: A few days ago, we remembered the attack on the Twin Towers in New York on September 11th, 2001. Serafin Arviola from Manila was there on that day. He shared how his life changed afterwards.

Serafin Arviola, Director, Community Partnership and Extension Office (CPEO) (in English): *I am Serafin Arviol. This is the Philippine Normal University. I work here as an associate professor of history and pedagogy.*

When I was a child, I had a dream of helping my family, of helping myself. I wanted to go to America, to become rich like our neighbor. One way for me to get rich is to study but there is no opportunity for me to study.

I worked as a garbage boy and then I sold 'siopiao', meatbuns, lemons in the market. But apparently life is not very good with me and when I lost my business in the market, my grandmother brought me to Bukas Palad a social center helping poor people. I

remember that day I said to one of the staff there: "Yes, I want to earn money, I want to help my grandmother, but I am doing everything because I want to study".

I finished bachelor of Secondary Education major in social science, with flying colors cum laude and all of these things I did not only for my family, for myself, but for my ambition to really (to) go to maybe America to become rich.

I was invited by the United Nations to speak on youth empowerment and peace education here in the Philippines. And then in the afternoon I met a Filipina and she said: "If you like to work here let's meet tomorrow at the World Trade Center. My heart was really jumping for joy because finally, just the first day in the US, I met somebody and I think God is leading the way.

And the following day, September 11, 2001 I went to the World Trade Center. I saw the plane struck the World Trade Center. I saw people jumping out of the window, I saw catastrophe and I told myself: "I think God is telling me something".

Before going to the US I was finishing my thesis on peace education in the conflict affected areas in Mindanao. But I forgot everything when I went to the US because of internal problem on my part, because of this, of this issues with me regarding the Muslims. But during those days I was in the US I told myself the main reason why I wanted to go back to the Philippines, is to go to Mindanao to understand really the Muslims, this person this person, this other person from my point of view.

After 3 months I wrote my paper, I defended it and I graduated with honors. And the output of that paper is really a conflict resolution's strategy that is happening right there in the midst of war. I was invited to different countries to talk about my experience in Mindanao and at the same time, my reflection about the World Trade Center bombing.

I have some students that are non-believers and some students that are a conservative Catholic and I have one Muslim student; there is an animosity inside of the class but after one semester eventually they are friends because what important is how they will relate with one another, here in the university it is empathy. Now I'm very happy with my..., with my life I am fulfilled with all of these blessings and this resolution that I am useful here in the Philippines as a teacher and as a Peacemaker encouraging other people to be an agent of change.

When I was a child I had a different dream but God gave me this opportunity to really become a teacher of teachers.

Plate *Serafin Arviola's "Community-Based Peace Building Program" has been used in 7 Asian countries. He currently travels throughout Asia conducting workshops for UNESCO and its Global Citizen Education program.*

Simone: Thanks to Serafin, thanks for having shared this experience.

8. Turkey: the Mariapolis meets Patriarch Bartholomew

Simone: Now we are going to talk about the Mariapolises and there have been many of them over the last few months. We would like to tell you about two of them. We have received some photos.

The first was in Turkey. Seventy people from different cities, Christian denominations and rites, and different languages gathered for the Mariapolis in the island of Buyu Kadà. They went by boat to Halki Island, to the Orthodox Seminary, where Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I met them. He wanted to celebrate with everyone the 50th anniversary of the first meeting between Chiara and Patriarch Athenagoras.

His Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew I: One was a man, another a woman; one was a cleric, another a layperson; one was from the East, one from the West; one was Greek, the other Italian. They wanted unity in the divided Church with all their hearts and during their lives they worked for this unity.

9. Nigeria: The Mariapolis in Lagos and Abuja (in English)

Simone: Now we'll go to Nigeria, where they had two Mariapolises, in Lagos and in Abuja.

[In English]

Speaker: With a growing population of 186 million people, Nigeria is Africa's most populous country. Often it's only the problems and tragedy that dominate the news, but sometimes it is the humble events that can be agents of change.

Such was the case of the two Nigerian Mariapolis' prepared by the local Focolare communities of Lagos and Abuja.

In a country that has one of the largest youth populations in the world, it's no surprise that 80% of the participants of the Lagos Mariapolis were young people. The impressions spoke of forgiveness and dialogue among tribes and between Muslims and Christians.

300 people attended the Mariapolis held near the capital, Abuja. A group of 30 travelled from the northeastern city of Maiduguri, where the militant Islamic group Boko Haram has a stronghold. It was the Bishop of Maiduguri that wanted them to attend, convinced that the Ideal of unity can bring a vital contribution to the region.

Many were participating for the first time and saw some traditions challenged. Some were surprised to see men in the kitchen preparing meals or washing dishes – traditionally jobs performed exclusively by women.

A woman who reluctantly had come to the Mariapolis shared the moment that changed everything for her:

Lady: I saw an elderly man, who could have been my grandfather, clearing the plates, and I changed my mind towards everything. I saw love. I'm really happy to be here.

Speaker: In a culture where children are expected to remain silent when they are with elders, to see them encouraged to share was surprising for some.

Maya (child): Yesterday while we were playing, a child pushed me down and I fell. He told me “sorry” and I forgave him.

Speaker: Maya's experience opened the heart of a man from Maiduguri whose father had been killed by Boko Haram.

Man: I looked at Maya. Maya is a small girl. So if Maya can forgive, it means I can forgive.

Speaker: Forgiveness and dialogue: two key words that emerged from each Mariapolis, that will continue to put into practice back home.

(Applause)

10. Italy: family in the digital age

Angela: Chiara is Italian and David is Scottish. They live in Ariccia, near here. We went to get to know their family.

[In English]

Text: Ariccia, Rome, Italy

David Bell, Logistics Manager / Parent (in English):

I am from Scotland but I live here in Italy now, because I've married Chiara. With my wife we live here in Ariccia

Chiara Bell, teacher / Parent (in English): I met David in 1999 when I went to Great Britain to improve my English. After a while I thought: it would be nice to have a holiday and so I went to a Mariapolis. I said to God: today I'll sign up for the least likely activity, the thing I would never do and in exchange you will give me a gift. And I signed up for the very long walk on the mountains

David We met on a long walk in the mountains. We did a couple of those.

Chiara: we started to talk from the beginning of the walk , we went up and down the mountain, I didn't even realize it, and when I was down I was very much in love with this guy.

David I guess the long walk is once you get married and then you have a lot of climbing to do then, you know, and the baggage gets heavier as you go.

Chiara David and I got married in 2002, our first child Alexander will be 13 in September, he likes technology very much, he likes making things, he is very creative. Then there is Daniel who just turned 11. I don't have a single photograph of him without a bruise here, or here, or here ... He is very ...like a stuntman. And Matilde who is five and she is an artist, she does very lovely pictures.

Sometimes people say you look like the Mulino Bianco family . Now Mulino Bianco is a brand here in Italy and when they do adverts they show a perfect family, lovely, everything is fluffy, bunny ..but I never like when people say that because it is not real at all, it is not like that.

David: It is quite a range of issues you've got really starting from the five years old to dealing with a pre-teenager, or two pre-teenagers really.

Chiara: We bought a phone to Alexander when he started secondary school

David: Everyone else, all the other kids'll have them, and it would be useful for homework and communicating, you know, but I don't know, it seems it can also be a bit of a distraction, that's one of the feelings we have.

Chiara: The risk is that you end up doing just that, you are like sucked in

David: It's a temptation to spend lots of time, too much time on internet and stuff ..so

Chiara: I was so fed up with this timing; "your time is finished", "No, I haven't ...", "yes, you have ..." that I took the phone off him, and he was very angry.

David: it seems like it's blocking him from going out and physically spending time with other pals ... a little bit you know. That's our feeling. So we stopped ... We will see. In the future may be he will have it back again. but right now he doesn't need it.

I think the main difficulty is to try to understand what's going on inside their heads, what they really want, you try to give them as much time as you can, but you have a job to do and commuting, you try to get the house fixed, get the shopping, and do the cooking, and all the stuff, I think it is the same all over the place. It is try to get enough time to spend with the children, which is never easy really. Time flies in the blink of an eye, and suddenly the kids are grown half a meter you know, so make the most of every moment you can. Do all the activities you can with the kids because tomorrow they won't be kids anymore and they'll be off somewhere.

Family in the digital age.

(Applause)

11. Roberto Cipollone – Ciro, artist and craftsman

Simone: Now we are going to talk about Roberto Cipollone, whom many of you know. But for those who don't, he is an artist known as Ciro. He works with discarded items that he finds and picks up in many places, beside rivers, in deserted buildings, anywhere. We had the privilege of visiting him in his workshop at Loppiano, near Florence.

Sounds and Music

Roberto Cipollone "Ciro" Loppiano (in Italian): Look at that? (pause)

I would say the objects come to me rather than I look for them. We meet and then I try to transform them; it is like a translation. Something has happened in me, then I just pass it on to others.

I use whatever material I find and which gives me an idea. It can be made of iron, which I somehow prefer – this is a bullet – when it is very rusty it makes it more organic... it's a small duck.

Then plastic and glass. Look at this wood, for example! It has lived! It's from boats varnished a hundred times, these are wonderful because they have the depth of time.

I never made much of a distinction between artist and craftsman. The important thing is to restore the values that the farmers left to us..., there is a past way of life, that had a certain depth, that is being lost.

Sometimes as I work, I hear the news on the radio; it may be sad or joyful. I feel I must respond somehow also through my work.

I feel more connected to the compositions using hoes, because I feel they express the whole concept this work of retrieval is based on. I really like the shape of the hoe, the simpler they are, the more I feel a passion for this work.

This is something I did for Austria, the seven works of mercy: first to feed the hungry, to visit the sick, to bury the dead, to shelter the homeless, to give water to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, and lastly, to visit those in prison.

(Applause)

Simone: Thanks, Ciro. We know that you are following us. So thanks for what you said and what you do.

12. Chiara Lubich – Let's rekindle love

Simone: After all these different stories we have heard, we want to listen to what Chiara said in a phone call, but a very special phone call. It was during one of the early Conference Calls. There was no internet then, there was the phone. The Link-up was a simultaneous phone call with 90 cities in the world! In this extract from a phone call in 1986, that we will listen to together, Chiara speaks of love, of rekindling love.

Chiara: (...) *A new Ideal year is beginning for us, and in order to do all that is expected of us as well as we can, we must be equip ourselves with virtue. (...) Now, where do we need to look in order to acquire and develop these and all the other virtues we need? It is simple (...) by allowing Jesus to live in us instead of our own 'self'. But how can Jesus live in us? By being love as God is Love. (cf. 1 Jn 4:16). Therefore, we must go out of ourselves in order to love others.*

We always speak of love and it could seem excessive to emphasise it again this time. But that is not so. (...) Not loving is always ready to take over in us, hidden behind a thousand excuses. (...) So let's go back to the alpha of our spirituality, which is love. Besides, this is what our charism is. This is what the world needs most today. Let's look around us. Where do we find the love that Jesus brought on earth? Everywhere we go, in the streets, the stores, the coffee shops, in offices, people pass by one another, but they take no notice of each other. When we read the newspapers, the headlines are almost always about sad things and violence. Yes, there is still human love that keeps many families and friendships together, but it is difficult to find Christian love. (...)

God gave rise to the Movement and chose us, together with others, precisely in order to bring this love. It is our gift, the great gift we must give to humanity. It is true, there are many of us, but we are very few in comparison with the world population. God has spread the Movement everywhere, and because of this, it is rarely possible to give a large scale global witness to what the nature of Christianity truly is, that it is love. But let's not lose heart.

If God has spread a net across the whole world through us, the time will come when it will extend more and more and the world will be better able to see the fire that Jesus brought on earth.

Let's rekindle love in our hearts. And so that the world will soon find true love everywhere, let's start loving!¹

(Applause)

¹ From Chiara's thought in the Link up of 9th October 1986 "The lifestyle of the work of Mary is love".

13. Final greetings

Angela: Meantime, we received some messages from the world. They write from Venezuela: "Thank you for this possibility to experience what Emmaus has just said about the universality of the Movement. We feel that we are with all of you there."

Simone: Then from a woman religious in nearby Grottaferrata: "Thanks to the Link-up via Internet, I was able to participate. It is an extraordinary feeling to see how good spreads in the world, not through the work of individuals but by persons united in a community."

Angela: Thank you! We have come to the end of our Conference Call. Many thanks for following us, to all those who contributed to it and all those who supported it financially. From the start of this Link-up years ago, it continues to be supported financially by what each one of us can give ...

To support it you go to the Collegamento CH website. We can make a bank transfer or through Paypal. You can give a euro, a peso, dollar,... whatever you can, whatever we can.

Simone: Yes Angela, we can say that the experience we have had behind the scenes is one of great teamwork and unity among us ... and we hope that many people can share in this experience! We invite you to be here in our place! (Applause)

Angela: Thanks again to everyone. We hope to see you soon and say good-bye to the whole world.

The next Link-up is on the 18th of November, at 8 p.m., Italian time.

Angela and Simone: GOODBYE everyone! (Applause)