

CH Conference Call
 Rocca di Papa, 17th November 2018
“Making the world new”

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 In the “Ecopescce” (Eco-fish) workshop and the shop called “E Nustren” nothing is thrown away. This is the philosophy behind a small business based at Cesenatico in Italy that processes and sells fish from the Adriatic Sea, using only refrigeration technology. What reaches the customers’ table is a product that would otherwise not be valued or perhaps even thrown away. All this happens by putting sharing before economics.
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 From the 6th to the 10th of November 2018, forty Bishops, friends of the Focolare, from 12 different Churches and five continents met at Sigtuna, Sweden, bringing with them the challenges and joys of their lives. What is the significance of these gatherings and do they accomplish anything? Susan Gately, a journalist from Ireland, finds out.
- 11. Emmaus and Jesús: their impressions**
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1. OPENING AND GREETINGS

(Applause)

Lorenzo Russo: Welcome! Welcome everyone to this live link up! Welcome. I will first introduce myself. My name is Lorenzo Russo and I come from Ischia, an island in the Mediterranean in front of the gulf of Naples.

A warm welcome first of all to all the people here in this room. Thank you for coming. We will spend a little less than an hour sharing in some of the important events that you have told us about, beautiful experiences that have been happening around the world. As I said I come from Ischia and I am married to Maria. She is here with us, and she too comes from Ischia. Maria works in sustainable development while I am a journalist and work for TV 2,000, the TV of the Italian Bishops' Conference.

Before all that we are the parents of two children, Beatrice and Gabriele who are here with us. (Applause)

So let's start. Let me remind you that if you would like to interact with us you can send messages through social networks, as you can see via the Facebook page¹ and the link up website², the WhatsApp number³ and also by email⁴. We will look forward to your messages.

2. CHIARA LUBICH: MAKING THE WORLD NEW

Lorenzo: However, we wanted to start this conference call immediately with Chiara. It is a short message lasting three minutes, an answer Chiara gave to a group of young people in 1989. The question put to her was "How can we always have the Holy spirit?" Let's hear the answer.

Chiara: The Holy Spirit is present when we love. He has poured love into our hearts; this is what he has given us - love. If you put love into action, he will always be present. If you stop and get stuck, then he won't speak any longer. On the contrary, something negative might filter into your soul, something that is not only wrong, but that comes from another "spirit," from the "prince of this world" as Jesus says; the devil might come and tempt you. Instead, if you keep on loving, you will always be in the light and under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

So, to be in this atmosphere always, you have to keep loving, always.

Of course, you will say, "But Chiara, that's not so easy!"

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Certainly, it's all a question of habit; getting into the habit. But then you will have special graces, encouragement from the Holy Spirit, divine gifts in your soul that help you go ahead and keep going. You will experience these in your life.

So, love! Love always! Then you can be sure that if you love one another, Jesus will be in your midst and the Holy Spirit will be in your midst. You all know the technique of our love, of Christian love, which is based on four points. Just one would be enough to make us saints.

Be the first to love, always outwards, making the effort to love, in action, always dynamic... because the life of the Trinity is one of dynamic love. We have to imitate the life of the Trinity in which love doesn't stand still, it's dynamic. So be the first to love! Love everyone, it's a fantastic opportunity to have the Holy Spirit, because you meet so many people during the day and you have to love them all. You can't say, "I'll love this one but not that one." No. See Jesus in all of them and this simplifies everything. Then love others as ourselves, the same as ourselves, in the exact same way. ...

Being the first to love, loving everyone, seeing Jesus. If we only did these four things, it would be enough to live the whole Ideal, to have the Holy Spirit, and conquer the world. That would be enough. ...

As time passes it will happen more and more. Every move, every smile, every step, all you do will be the effect of the Holy Spirit in you. So, take courage! Let's go ahead along this path and we'll fill the world with the Holy Spirit, who makes all things new and renews the world. ...

(Music)

Lorenzo: We felt it was a good thing to start with Chiara, as a way of entering into this conference call. Years later, those words are still very relevant. A Spirit who makes all things new and changes the world.

2. LINK-UP WITH MARIAPOLIS LIA, ARGENTINA

Lorenzo: We felt they were words suited to the stories we will tell you about now. So let's start our world tour by going to Latin America, especially to Argentina to Mariapolis Lia. There they are celebrating a special birthday. But we'll see a short video first.

Speaker: *Mariapoli Lia is 250 km from Buenos Aires deep in the Argentine pampas. It is one of the Focolare's 25 little towns. Mariapoli Lia was started and is still led by young people: in fact they form almost half its population. They are between 18 to 20 years old, and come from all over the world to stay here for a year. What for? To learn how to build a united world and bring this vision back home with them.*

Lorenzo: We'll now link up directly with Mariapolis Lia and with Maria Paz and Damian. Whose birthday is it?

Maria Paz: Hello to everyone from Mariapolis Lia! I am Maria Paz; I'm 19 years old and come from Asuncion in Paraguay. As you can see behind me, many people have come here to the Mariapolis from many different places to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the little town.

Damian: Hello! I'm Damian; I'm 19 years old and am Argentinian from Cordoba. Just now there are 80 of us young people here from 22 nations. We have chosen to stay here this year to lay a solid foundation to our choice of living for a united world. This is a choice that many young people have made over these 50 years. Right, Gustavo?

Gustavo: There have been about 5000 young people who have done what everyone calls THE experience! I was among the first group. It was an empty building but already then we were sure that in this place the utopia of a united world would become a reality.

Maria Paz: When I got here I started working in the factory making sweets and jams. Talking things over with adults was very important for me even though at the beginning it was a bit hard for me, but I have to say that I have received a lot from them.

Damián: An annual event is the Youth Festival in September. This year, one weekend last September there were about a thousand young people. It is a chance for many young people to experience the united world even if only for a few hours. Of course, to know what this experience is, you have to do it yourself. I can summarize mine like this: I am learning to die to myself, to make room for others. The key word for me is fellowship and communion. This year I have experienced the Mariapolis as my family and I want to trust my family. That's why fellowship is something fundamental. To open my heart and let in what must come in.

Maria Paz: Greetings to all those who are connected with us! ...
We look forward to seeing you here at Mariapolis Lia! ...

All: Ciao!

Lorenzo: Thank you and enjoy the rest of the celebrations!

4A. CALIFORNIA

Lorenzo: As we said before, Chiara's words are very relevant to us, even though it is not always easy to put them into practice, especially when we live very dramatic situations. Fresh in our minds in the last few days are the pictures we have been seeing from California, which have been shown all over the world. These are very worrying scenes. The air is hardly breathable and the fires are destroying huge areas. 70 people

have died and over 1,000 are missing. Cindy Hopper from San José sent us an audio message.

Cindy Hopper (in English): *When the fires started again this year in Northern California, we were all reminded of the devastating fires we endured last year. Like everyone else, I became fearful of this wind driven fire. Would the winds carry this fire our way again? But I remembered last year's fire when we had to evacuate. You realize what is really important in life. And it wasn't things. We were lucky to be able to come back to our home. Like we did last year, instead of buying any gifts for Christmas, we are making donations to help the others.*

The fear and devastation is on everyone's mind, and I have found that these are golden opportunities when talking with people to really listen and be present to help in whatever way we can. There was a saying last year that we all took to heart: "The Love in the Air is thicker than the smoke", and its true this year also.

Lorenzo: Thanks Cindy, thank you very much.

4B. PROPHETIC ECONOMY: NETWORKING FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Lorenzo: Surely, the fires, devastation, floods and desertification, the melting glaciers, are all a consequence of the climate change we are experiencing. But what can we do to resolve this problem. Let's watch this report.

(Music)

Felix Finkbeiner (in English): *Thank you that you gave us children the chance to share our thoughts, with you. It is not common. But we children think it should be common*

Speaker: *Felix Finkbeiner was nine years old when he started planting trees to improve the world's climate. He founded an organisation for children and teenagers that has now spread throughout the world.*

Felix Finkbeiner, Plant for the Planet, Germany (in English) *With the support of many companies, governments and organizations all around the world that have been helping us for the past over 10 years, we managed to plant about 15 billion trees globally. Because every tree that we plant, absorbs carbon, takes a CO2 that we exhaust out of the atmosphere and it is our goal to convince the world to plant one trillion trees. So about one hundred and fifty trees for each person in the world.*

Speaker: Felix is now 20 and is really a change-maker, a person who cares for the planet and who wants to change things through good practice based on economic models directed towards integral human development and sustainability.

He spoke about his work at the Prophetic Economy event held early in November at the Mariapolis Centre at Castelgandolfo. It was attended by 500 people, aged 9 years upwards from over 40 countries. The purpose was to network, share and plan 'prophetic' and courageous economic developments that can transform the landscape, communities and countries.

The same thing happened in Colombia where the "Peace Community" was founded in the district of Apartado. Since 1997, 300 local farmers have been resisting pressure from armed paramilitary groups that want to force them to join them and leave their land. They live by growing "rebel cocoa" as it's called because those who produce it refuse to take part in any form of violence, war or drug trafficking.

German Graciano Pozo came to accept the first prize in the 2018 Prophetic Economy Awards, given to the "Peace Community".

German Graciano Pozo Comunidad de Paz, Colombia (in Spanish) The fact that the Peace Community has been given this award by Prophetic Economy is very important for us. Not only because it encourages us to keep on resisting violence and death but it also helps to guarantee fair trade and fair prices not only for the members of the peace community but also for the people who live in the area.

Speaker – What is the Prophetic Economy? Many young people and children attending the meeting asked this question of experts and key people in the world of economics:

Jeffrey Sachs, economist, USA (in English) A prophetic economy means an economy that operates in the vision of the prophets and that means in the vision of justice, a vision of peace a vision of meeting the needs of the poorest people. A vision of protecting the creation; all of this is what Pope Francis calls for in *Laudato sii*.

Lorna Gold, economist, Ireland (in English) So the idea for this conference on prophetic economy came about initially from the economy of communion movement. And over the course of two years, almost two years, we built up a network of many different movements (...) These kinds of economic practices, they exist (...) but they're often invisible, they're invisible in the media, they're invisible in very much in our culture. We have to make them visible

Luigino Bruni, economist, Italy (in Italian)

We said, let's put all these realities together and start a process. We don't want to occupy space, to use Pope Francis' words. Let's set something in motion. ... This is a process that started, where no one is boss. ...

There is a way to do economics that arises from charisms. It has particular characteristics: caring for the poor and the least, and those who do not have a voice. Nowadays there are too many people who experience the effects of not having a work contract. People are not always able to go to parliament, to speak to government, to take part in polls. This may be because they are not yet born, they are the children of tomorrow, the children of today; they are animals and plants, the planet itself. Who speaks for them? Prophets are usually the ones who speak out. Prophecy gives a voice to people who are invisible.

5. LIVE INTERVIEW WITH LUIGINO BRUNI AND LUCA FIORANI

Lorenzo: Here we are back again. And Luigino Bruni is here with us, whom you know well. Luigino is an economist and also the international co-ordinator for the Economy of Communion. Luigino, the Economy of communion was one of the main drivers of the Prophetic Economy event. I was at the meeting and I was really impressed seeing the young people, even children of nine years of age, were talking very easily about micro and macroeconomics with well-known economists. I was positively impressed. The exchange that took place between generations, where did the idea come from, especially on a subject like economics, which is not that easy?

Luigino Bruni: It came from life, from meetings and above all together with the children who are already part of our Movement, because one of Chiara's greatest innovations is that children are perfect, I mean that they are already members of the Focolare Movement and so when we thought of this meeting we said: children's and teenagers ideas on economics are missing. We have many words but these younger people's views on economics are fundamental but we don't have them. So we decided to invite them but as organisers, not just to sing a song or do a sketch and then go off to their own event. They gave talks. Luis is 12 years old and he gave a talk on the environment the first day, together with Jeffrey Sachs.

They were the ones who evaluated the projects and gave advice on how to improve to the business people. They were like us, like everyone. This idea arose out of a relationship and certainly it is a prophetic image because in the Bible when Isaiah wants to give a prophetic sign he speaks of a child, Emmanuel. So children are the future and the present. They have a different view of the present which speaks of the future. A child is someone who is [here] already and points to something that is yet to come.

Lorenzo: But look, Luigino, practically, in daily life, what can we do to bring about these prophetic economy changes?

Luigino: First of all we can look at the world differently. Chiara always taught us this, that the world can be changed by first seeing it differently, looking at it positively. We are living in pessimistic times, where there is negativity. We can look at the world seeing beauty and prophecy. The world is full of prophecy but it is hardly ever in conventional places; it might be on the peripheries, or I the poor. In the Bible there is even a donkey that is a prophet, Balaam's donkey that prophesies. [Prophets] are in places that are often less than obvious places for prophecy and so we can go and look for them there, and be their allies.

The beauty of this event is that many people were in the front line; they want to get together for something, like together for Europe which is what inspired us in the first place. And then change lifestyle. ~We have already seen in the video that we can change our way of using plastic; for example, we spoke a lot about this with the children and teenagers, thinking of daily sustainable behaviours. We set aside some money to compensate for the emissions of the aircraft with which we came to the meeting, so as to plant trees that will compensate for the CO2 emitted during our flights. So to do concrete things and then talk about them.

That is what is new about this event. We need to make prophetic gestures because prophets speak with words and with deeds. Words are not enough, so doing things, actions. While doing them, they explain them. Nowadays we should be able to do concrete things and talk about them because stories are the tools with which you can change the world. At root we are here because one day someone told us a story that changed our lives.

Lorenzo: Thank you Luigino! (Applause)

At the Prophetic Economy meeting there was also our Luca Fiorani. Welcome, Luca. Luca is a physicist and also coordinator of EcoOne, the Focolare's agency for ecology and the environment. Luca, the subject of sustainability and the environment was one of the principles themes of the Prophetic Economy [meeting]. Did you make some decisions after this event?

Luca Fiorani: We made an important decision. The Focolare Movement adhered to the Global Catholic Climate Movement" which is a movement, a network bringing together about a thousand catholic organisations from Movements, to Catholic Schools, to the aid agencies and NGO's, all working to combat climate change. The network began as a response to Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato sii*. What is more, the Focolare Movement also adhered to one of the most important campaigns of the Global Catholic Climate Movement, concerning disinvestment. What does that mean?

That the Focolare Movement will not put money into investment funds that earn money from fossil fuels, so our money will not contribute to increasing CO2 in the atmosphere.

I think it is a very important decision!

Lorenzo: That is really good! Thank you Luca! (Applause)

6. LINK-UP WITH LIMA, PERU

Lorenzo: Let's move on and I'd like to show you these pictures, taken on a video camera at the border between Ecuador and Peru. There, over two million 300,000 people, according to UN statistics, who are trying to leave Venezuela. Most of them have gone to the nearest countries like Colombia and Peru. They are people who have nothing and who need everything. Yet even in this dramatic context, important experiences of life and of concrete help occur. In Lima, the capital of Peru, we are linked up with Silvano and Ofelia. How are you coping with this dramatic situation?

Silvano: Hello, we can hear you very well. Hello everyone. Can you hear us?

Lorenzo: Yes very well. How are you experiencing this dramatic and special situation?

Silvano: It is a very difficult situation in fact. Peru has received the second largest number of refugees from Venezuela. They are fleeing from that beautiful country where I was born and lived for almost 30 years. It is estimated that around 500,000 Venezuelans have already come here. Naturally, as it is so close, Colombia is the first with around 1 million refugees. And maybe more. But they are still arriving in Peru too. Just think that on the 31st of October more than 6 thousand Venezuelans came into Peru on that one day. So you can imagine the emergency situation that Peru is handling.

We too, in our small way, are trying to do our part. A few days ago, we heard about a family of 5 who were in great need. We were able to give them about 80 euros (one third of the local minimum wage) immediately. They will come here in the next few days to choose some clothes that we have collected. These are the result of the generous sharing of clothes and other goods by the community in Lima.

Lorenzo: I can see Ophelia beside you who if I remember rightly is from Venezuela. What can be done for these people who have been through so much suffering?

Ofelia: Yes, I arrived here a year ago and I'm here with my family. We certainly need financial and material help: food, medicines, mattresses, blankets, money for transport and residence papers. But we also need spiritual accompaniment and

psychological support. We need to be accompanied. Among the Venezuelans we are in contact with, (there are about a hundred of them) a doctor and a psychologist have offered to help. We have held two workshops, and will do more, on managing frustration, feeling far from their own family and sadness management.

Silvano: We also invited the Venezuelans we know to lunch a few times I the focolare. Last time there were more than 20 at the lunch we had here.

Up to now we have distributed more than 4 thousand euros in various ways. These are real miracles of sharing. There would be so many stories to tell. A few days ago I took 3 tins of tuna to a Venezuelan family. They really like it, but it's a bit expensive. The next day I heard that just before I arrived, they had given the only two tins of tuna they had to another family who were in need!

We want to take advantage of this link up to thank each one of you because we feel your closeness, and your prayers and unity. Thank you.

Lorenzo: Thank you both. Thanks for all you are doing. We are there with you.

Silvano and Ofelia: Thank you!

Lorenzo: Even some tuna. We can say that sometimes two tins of tuna can make a person happy. Solidarity is so important.

7. ITALY: THE CHALLENGE MAURIZIO AND ROBERTO TOOK ON

Lorenzo: Now we will come back to Italy to Cesenatico, a small town on the Adriatic Coast, a place whose economy is based on fishing. It often happens that when a fishing boat comes back into port, they are not able to sell all the fish. All that is left is thrown away. Maurizio and Roberto, a fisherman and a businessman respectively, set up an association to counteract this practice. Let's see.

Maurizio Cialotti, fisherman: *Over the years I have understood what this job has meant for me, my passion for this job. It was something that – I'll say it in a few words - saved my life. My friends, yes, the ones I knew, they all took drugs... Cesenatico had become quite a centre for drug trafficking.*

I think this is a hero's job, because whoever does it and keeps doing it over time, must be made for it, otherwise you can't do it, and it would be like hell. When you to sea ... having to go out into wind and rain and ice and snow. Who makes you do that?

(Background)

The drive I feel is because I know I'm doing what God wants. Every night, whether I go out to sea or not, I am doing God's will for me. At this time of year, we do trawl fishing for three months. We fish our own local fish here in this area.

There was a time in my life when I went out on someone else's boat and I met a Tunisian guy with his brothers. His name is Khaled and we became good friends. The only thing was that on that boat the youngest guy had to wash the dishes. One day I felt I could tell say, come on, let's take turns to wash them. I'll do these.

Khaled Khayat, fisherman: From then on we got to know each other better because I saw Maurizio's behaviour was so different. We became partners in 2005. In 2011 I bought another boat. But Maurizio and I kept up what I'd call a special relationship, one I don't have with anyone else in Italy. We didn't need to be of the same religion or culture to get along well.

Maurizio Cialotti, fisherman: Four or five years ago I was in quite a tricky situation. We had a hard time marketing the fish, because some lobbies were created where the bigger boats were, and still are, the ones that control the market. So what happened? We would often come back to shore with perhaps 500 or 600 crates of anchovies. Then we would find a dealer who would take 30, 40 or 50 cases. We had to throw the rest away. One day Roberto passed by here. And he saw that I was throwing the fish away.

Roberto Casali, Ecodesce entrepreneur: He threw the fish in the canal to keep the empty polystyrene boxes which cost fifty cents, polluting the water, because no one wanted his fish.

Humanly speaking, I felt it was impossible to do anything. Then I said: are things really as bad as that? Something within me reacted against this. Can nothing at all be done? Why not?

Maurizio Cialotti, fisherman: He haunted me, kept coming here for a year. He talked about the Economy of Communion. I knew something about the economy of communion. I said to myself: Well, the economy of communion isn't about doing a bit of charity, that kind of thing. You have to get into it, and suffer. We give something of ourselves and it can ask a lot of us.

Roberto Casali, Ecodesce entrepreneur: Together with Maurizio, we came up with an idea of doing something together, putting together the two competing categories. The trader always wants to get the best price and the fisherman always tries to get a higher price.

The Economy of the Sea began, my company. I have a warehouse where I prepare fish products for market, which I then exchange with several of my colleagues throughout Italy.

We work on the produce. We transform them, clean them and freeze them to preserve them. It's a bit like what was done in the past, except that it used to be done with salt, vinegar, and the heat of the sun. We freeze our produce: our partner is ice.

Maurizio Cialotti, fisherman: After a year we opened a shop. We started marketing all the products that Roberto was buying. The produce from my boat, but above all those from the market which Roberto was also transforming.

Roberto Casali, Ecompesce entrepreneur: The biggest challenge was to win people's trust, this was our first goal. The first step was to make sure that both the older people and the children could come to buy something in our shop without having to ask where it came from, how long it had been around, whether it had been thawed or frozen.

Maurizio Cialotti, fisherman: I really feel it won't so much be the effect we can have on the economy but the sharing we can bring about among ourselves. There are so many problems that if we don't truly take something away from ourselves for the sake of others: our character, our way of seeing things, our business. Yes, we can create a great economy but we won't necessarily share. And this is the challenge that we wanted to take on.

Lorenzo: Well! Seeing all that fish has taken me right back to my childhood on an island where fishing is so much part of life. This is truly a beautiful experience, the fact that the two of them wanted to take on this challenge and their words: *"it won't so much be the effect we can have on the economy but the sharing we can bring about among ourselves."*

I think it is a clear example of a prophetic economy.

8. LINK-UP WITH PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Lorenzo: Let's move on and now we're going to the Czech Republic because today is the 17th of November and it is the anniversary of an important peaceful revolution that took place on the 17th November 29 years ago. We are going to speak to Denia, Jirka and Frantisek. Are you there? Where are you now?

Denia: Hello! We are in the Mariapolis Centre in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. Today is a special day because it's a national holiday. Jirka, could you tell us why?

Jirka: Today we remember the fall of the communist regime. In fact it is always an emotional time for us to see these images after the student demonstrations, that were so brutally suppressed that then led to what has gone down in history as the "Velvet Revolution". The main experience, the spiritual experience, that brought us freedom, freedom of speech, religious freedom and also the freedom to contact other nations, other people, to travel, to be part of Europe, in a new way.

Denia: In these few days, here in Prague a conference called "Together for Europe" is being held. Why is that? What kind of message does this meeting want to give?

Frantisek: The message is this: we want to listen to one another. There are 170 of us here, from almost all the countries in Europe, from north to south, from Finland to Malta, from East to West and we are listening. This is the message for the whole of Europe because, I believe that at the moment, the capacity to listen in Europe seems to be missing. I realised that I have to get involved personally. If I don't want to see walls being built in future I have to get involved and do my own part as well as possible.

Lorenzo: thank you very much. (Applause). Truly the message coming from that meeting is very important.

9. SWEDEN: "UNDERMINING" DIVISIONS

Lorenzo: Talking of divisions, let's now move to Sweden where an important meeting has taken place. Unfortunately divisions also exist among different Christian Churches. Yet despite this, as happens every year, last week about 40 bishops of various Churches, friends of the Focolare Movement, gathered together in an atmosphere of fraternity. Let's see the report.

[In English with Italian subtitles]

Susan Gately, journalist – Ireland: *I'm Susan Gately, a journalist from Ireland, and I've just arrived in Stockholm, Sweden.*

(Pause)

I'm here to report on an Ecumenical Meeting of Bishops, who are friends of Focolare.

(Pause)

(On camera) This meeting happens every year. In fact this is the 37th. But this year it's happening at a moment of particular pain for the Catholic Church - over a loss of trust in the institution – caused by child abuse scandals, in places like the United States.

Michael Mulvey, Roman Catholic Church, and Bishop of the Diocese of Corpus Christi (USA): It's hard honestly to see that these things can happen in the church you love. And the church that I'm dedicated to and will remain dedicated to. There is a sense of a loss of trust in some ways. It's not a faith matter for me personally. It's an institutional matter; how can we let these things happen? And I think that's the part that hurts the most, is that we've just ignored people and their cry for help and their need to be healed. And we've ignored that in favour of others who have done horrible things. I have had some beautiful moments just standing in front of a picture of Jesus on the cross. It's not easy to be honest to face that, day after day after day. But again, finding his presence even in that, gives me a sense of hope.

Susan Gately V/O: Bishop Mulvey us one of 40 bishops at this gathering; they come from 18 countries and 12 different Churches.

(Audio Syrian Orthodox Liturgy)

Brendan Leahy Roman Catholic Church, Bishop of the Diocese of Limerick (Ireland): Jesus wanted the church to be one, wanted it to be a family, but we know straight away from the Acts of the Apostles there were tensions and divisions even though they kept trying to keep that unity. But there are three moments where those divisions unfortunately developed particularly: the fourth century, the 11th century, and the sixteenth century; just to give it in simple terms. Now unfortunately out of those divisions we have different, as it were, churches now not fully united together. The great thing is the past hundred years we have all felt this enormous desire to start getting on better, to start working on unity, and really give it a priority.

Susan Gately V/O: There are many meetings of bishops and experts on church unity but here the emphasis is different.

Brendan Leahy: What I suppose we really focus on is to say: look it's not the dialogue, the documents, the theology problems that are immediately our focus. We want to focus on the living together.

(Music)

Susan Gately V/O: This year the gathering is taking place in the Swedish town of Sigtuna – a colourful place even in winter. So an appropriate venue for this coming together of bishops which has been nicknamed “the meeting of colourful bishops”.

Susan Gately on camera: And they are colourful. Each with a story to tell.

Mark Strange, Scottish Episcopal Church, and Primus of the Episcopal Church of Scotland: I was brought up as a choirboy in the cathedral in Aberdeen. I stayed at church because well that's where the girls in the youth club were. I met my wife who was a Roman Catholic and that within Scotland was an interesting situation. All the way through that I just kept thinking there's something here, there's a call here and I was terrified. So I kept moving and I kept running. To pay my way through university the only way I could do that was to find a job. So I worked in our local pub.

Susan Gately (interviewing) So now you are the Primus of the Episcopal Church of Scotland. That must be a huge challenge...

Mark Strange: It's a huge challenge but it is such an honour. It is absolute joy. I just love every minute of it.

Susan Gately V/O: Bishop Åke Bonnier belongs to Sweden's wealthy Bonnier publishing family. He told me how his faith journey began.

Åke Bonnier, Church of Sweden, Bishop of Skara – Sweden: My upbringing was not religious at all.

What happened was that I watched a TV program together with my parents. I was then 14 years old and it was a bishop who was interviewed [...]. After the TV program my mother gave me a book. [...] And I was so touched by it; and it ended with a story about the rich young man coming to Jesus saying: “what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus answered: “sell whatever you have, give it to the poor and come then, and follow me”. The bishop wrote in the end of the book: “you have read this book, you are free to say yes, and you are free to say no”. And I was laying in my bed at home and felt: “I would like to say yes but I don't know to what”. So I went to my parents and said: “I would like to be confirmed”.

Susan Gately (interviewing): I think that you are the most colourful of the “colourful bishops”! You have to explain to me what are you wearing.

Theophilose Kuriakose, Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch, Metropolitan of the Malankara Diocese of Europe, India:

This red colour symbolizes the martyrdom; and the bishop is supposed to be ready to give his life for his people and for the sake of the Gospel.

Susan Gately (interviewing): *And your hat?*

Theophilose Kuriakose: *This is quite interesting. This is a sign of monastic tradition that you are leaving behind the world. And there are 13 crosses here - six here and six here and one behind - that is Jesus and twelve Apostles.*

(Pause)

Susan Gately V/O: *In this five day event, which is supported by the local focolare community, the bishops hear and share experiences from around the world: inputs on reconciliation, ecology, the Middle East, as they reflect on the Holy Spirit – soul of Christ’s Church.*

(Maria Voce – Emmaus giving her speech)

Susan Gately V/O: *For the first time a woman bishop from the Church of Sweden is also present.*

Susan Gately (interviewing): *What has this meeting been like for you?*

Eva Nordung Byström, Church of Sweden, and Bishop of the Diocese of Härnösand, Sweden: *It has very exciting to meet Bishops from all over the world, and to hear everybody talking about unity and the love of Christ. So it's it has been touching me a lot.*

Susan Gately V/O: *The priesthood in Catholic and Orthodox Churches is male, so what has it been like to have a female bishop here?*

Theophilose Kuriakose: *Biblically speaking in Christ there is no man, no woman, but the different churches have different traditions. This is an ecumenical meeting. So that's why having a woman bishop in this meeting I am happy and I respect them because this is also diversity in God's name. And also to see the plurality within our different church traditions.*

Susan Gately V/O: *Despite the unity between these bishops as people, the divisions between their Churches still do exist.*

Mark Strange: *Even today at the mass, which is always difficult when you can't receive, it's always a painful experience. But to actually, to know that the person who was celebrating felt that pain as well. I always will carry that with me.*

Susan Gately (interviewing): *What has the experience been like, being here, at this meeting?*

Ziphozihle Daniel Siwa, Methodist Church, Bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa

The amazing experience for me is that there is an ecumenism of hearts without carrying the burden of the institution.

Christian Krause, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bishop Emeritus, Germany:

You know we sit here - as we say in the South African terminology - we sit here and "caucus" in the evening together and remember the old days and what it is now and where can we move, where do we have that? It is the freedom of a lay movement that do not need to subscribe policy, we do not negotiate from institution to institution, but we share from heart to heart.

Brendan Leahy: *We make a pact here, at the end of every meeting. The pact might sound like something sentimental but it actually is very serious. We make a pact of what we call mutual love. It's based on the new commandment that Jesus gave the night before he died. Love one another. That's fine. It sounds generic but the point is for us if we say the pact that means to consider the other person's church as my church the other person's cross as my cross. And that we experience. I experience the pain of their not being able to come to Communion in the Catholic Church. They experience the pain of the troubles in the Catholic Church as their pain, because it's one church.*

Susan Gately on camera: *I'm just coming into the old parish church of St. Mary's in Sigtuna for what promises to be a very special event.*

(One of the bishops reading the pact – live footage)

United in the name of Jesus we promise each other that for the whole of our life we will strive in all things and above all things to love one another as Jesus loved us. Grant us Father the grace of your Spirit that we may become one with each other, that we may consider the other's cross our own, that the joy of the other may become our joy, the yearning of the other, our yearning, so that all may be one and the world may believe.

Susan Gately on camera: *Watching the bishops making the pact, I feel as though I'm looking at the Church of the future which is all based on mutual love. But you know*

what's really wonderful is the fact that it is not just the church of the future; it's the church of now.

Lorenzo: Fantastic, thank you to Susan Gately who followed this meeting for us.

10. EMMAUS AND JESÚS: IMPRESSIONS

Lorenzo: You and Jesús were at that meeting weren't you Emmaus? Please come here so that you can tell us something, also because hearing the voices of these bishops, it is different to what we hear nowadays about ecumenism, that is a bit in crisis. Seeing this video it seems not to be like that. Jesús, is unity among the Churches truly possible?

Jesús: Yes, I think it is possible, first because it was imperative for Jesus, Jesus prayed for unity. It is obvious that in God's plan there is only one Church, not that there are many Churches. There is a plurality of traditions, as we have seen here, but there is only one Church. This is the experience we had in Sigtuna. I believe that the key is that the bishops were there – as one of them said – not because they were representing a Church, an institution, but they were there because they wanted to be there, so in a personal way.

Therefore unity was felt at a very deep level. It is not that it wasn't theological. It is theological too, because I always say that the dialogue of life is the first theological dialogue. We had this experience.

Today people always think that everything should be resolved at the level of institutions, also in politics, but in reality it is these dynamic, underground Movements that then change the institutions. I'll tell you a metaphor that can help to understand how I see ecumenism: at Sigtuna I lived the shortest days of my life and the longest nights, because at four in the afternoon it was already dark. But if you go there in summer, night hardly exists. This is it. Perhaps, now in ecumenism, we are living that kind of time: the short days and the long nights, but we are going towards a future where the night will last two hours and the rest will be all bright.

Lorenzo: Thank you, Jesús, thanks very much.

Emmaus, we have come to the end of this link up. After having seen all these stories from around the world, what is your impression? What do you feel?

Emmaus: I have two thoughts in mind. The first is thoughts of hope, because seeing all the good that there is in the world, that is entering into all the situations and that truly transforms situations from within, transforms the world – we could say – you feel a great sense of hope.

Another thought is that I feel deep gratitude to all the people of the Focolare Movement, because through their love, their readiness to serve, their presence, they manage to welcome and make others feel at home, giving importance to others, creating situations whereby all this goodness comes into evidence, is highlighted and so becomes more effective.

We have seen this. We saw it from Sigtuna to economics and politics. You find them active everywhere; we must recognise that they are there somehow.

So, if I may, I would like to say a special word to all of them this evening, a special encouragement, to all those in the Focolare Movement. I want to tell you that all these initiatives for good, all the good that there is in the world, all these beautiful things that we have heard and that are happening all the time, they need you, because they need to find themselves at home sometimes. They need to find a place where they feel at home, where they feel understood, where they find nourishment and also warmth, the warmth they need to go ahead.

So I want to say to you: don't be dismayed, don't be discouraged, but always have a love that is new. Renew love amongst you, now, immediately in this moment. Renew this unity amongst you that truly can create these bonds. Then of course, all together towards everyone. Be open to everyone, fling open the doors of this house so that everyone can come in and feel at ease, and that with this love, with this sense of family that you yourselves build up everywhere and with everyone, can truly invade the world and make a new world, as Chiara said in her thought. That's it.

Lorenzo: Thank you Emmaus! (Applause)

Emmaus: And we are with all of you.

Lorenzo: Thank you. Thanks so much! (Applausi)

11. CONCLUSION

Lorenzo: We have come to the end of this conference call. I would like to remind you that the next one is on the 23rd of February, 2019, once again at 8.00 p.m.

Many thanks to all those who have worked for this conference call, and to all those who have sent us news and photos from all over the world. We are sorry we cannot refer to them in the short time we have available, but I want to remind you can download the whole conference call and all the individual items from the website.

A special thank you for all the financial contributions that you send. I want to remind you that the CH Conference call is funded from your donations.

Goodbye and see you soon! (Applause)