



Glossary

Chiara Lubich (1920 - 2008)

Foundress of the **Focolare Movement** (Work of Mary) in 1943, she is considered one of the most important spiritual personalities of the twentieth century. She was Catholic and was committed at the front line in ecclesial communion, ecumenism, interreligious dialogue and with people of non-religious affiliations. She was conferred 15 honorary doctorates in the most varied disciplines and various honours from national and international entities, as well as honorary citizenships in the main Italian cities and in Buenos Aires. She was an unceasing promoter of a culture of unity and fraternity among peoples.

www.centrochiaralubich.org

Loppiano International Little Town

It's the first international little town of the Focolare Movement, which sprang up in 1964, 20 kilometres from Florence (Italy). It has 900 inhabitants and is presented as a place of formation and a centre of witness, social experience and multicultural living together, founded on the Gospel principle of universal brotherhood. The little town welcomes about 40,000 visitors a year and has become a meeting point for peoples, cultures and religious faiths. With time, different economic activities have been consolidated there.

www.loppiano.it

Economy of Communion (EoC)

It involves entrepreneurs, workers, economic operators and citizens committed on various levels to promote a praxis and an economic culture characterized by communion, gratuitousness and reciprocity, proposing and living an alternative lifestyle compared to the dominating one in the capitalistic system. When it began in 1991, Chiara Lubich entrusted "the cultural deepening" to the young people, that passage from the living experience of the EoC to a "theory" that could be spread out in the economic, theological, sociological and philosophical sectors.

There are over 300 theses on the EoC, taken from all possible angles of the most varied fields of study. They are written in 14 languages and from 28 different countries and the majority are available online. At the Schools on EoC, the young people participate actively: they have been held in Italy, France, Argentina and Brazil, in 2011 there was a Pan-African school in Kenya and soon there will be one in Portugal. In the last ones held in Santiago (Chile), July 5-8, and in Recife (Brazil), July 12-15, there were more than 200 people participating.

Fraternity and "Fragments of Fraternity"

A lifestyle that arouses many activities: the huge activities on a worldwide level and the multitude of "**fragments of fraternity**" commit the young people of the Focolare Movement in

continuous local works. They cover numerous ways towards unity: between generations, peoples, ethnic groups and those who have and those who don't have, with those who suffer and are lonely; re-establishing unity between the human being and nature and making every barrier crumble. Fraternity that is expressed also in simple gestures of solidarity and dialogue with those close-by every day: the needy and outcasts, acquaintances or relatives... every neighbour is a brother or sister to welcome.

Gen – Gen Movement

The Gen Movement began in 1967 and it is the “New generation” of the Focolare Movement. There are thousands of young people in the world who from the '60s until today live a “revolution” every day, the revolution of love, proposed by Chiara Lubich, the goal of which is the fulfilment of Jesus' testament: “That all may be one.” The gen discovered that living the Gospel determines a real and proper revolution in their lives, able to change the world; and they commit themselves to live it with radicalness, courage and determination. They are the main animators of the Youth for a United World Movement through which they make an impact on society by promoting universal brotherhood. The gen are spread all over the world and belong to different cultures, social status and religious beliefs.

Genfest

Meeting of thousands of young people coming from the whole world, of different ethnic groups, cultures and religions, moved by one idea that is already a life experience and social activity: constructing a united world. The Genfest is an occasion for exchange and confrontation on economy, art, the environment, social problems and intercultural dialogue. It's an invitation to build bridges of fraternity and contribute towards making the barriers of indifference, prejudices and egoism crumble. It began in 1973 from a prophetic intuition by Chiara Lubich – founder of the Focolare Movement – and in 2012, at Budapest, it will be the tenth event.

www.genfest.org

Youth for a United World

They are young people between the ages of 17 and 30 committed to constructing a more united world, to making humanity always more one family, respecting each other's identity. They carry out numerous activities in their own environments, in favour of universal brotherhood. Their characteristic is universality: they come from the five continents and they are of different ethnic groups, nationalities and cultures. They belong to various Christian denominations, different religions and some of them don't profess a religious faith, but believe in the highest values of the human being.

www.mondounito.net

Maria Voce

Maria Voce is the **president of the Focolare Movement** since July 2008, called to succeed the foundress, Chiara Lubich, who died on March 14 that same year.

Born in Aiello Calabro, in the province of Cosenza (Italy), Maria Voce got her degree in Law and became a lawyer. In 1959, in Rome she met the Focolare Movement. She worked for a long period in Chiara Lubich's personal secretariat and for ten years lived in Istanbul. From 2002 to 2007 she collaborated directly with Chiara to update the General Statutes of the Movement.

She is currently Councillor of the Pontifical Council for the Laity and of the Pontifical Council for the promotion of the new evangelization.

United World

The young people of the Focolare Movement live to construct it, to make humanity always more one family, respecting each other's identity. To fulfil it they first of all try to change themselves, to be renewed with concrete love and they collaborate with those who are committed towards this goal. They know that the [unity](#) they believe in and for which they spend their lives is not only a human project, but God's plan for humanity ("That all may be one" *Jn*, 17:21).

Focolare Movement

The Focolare Movement (also called Work of Mary) is an ecclesial movement for spiritual and social renewal. It has the physiognomy of a small people composed of individuals of different races, cultures and social categories.

It is spread out in 194 countries. There are centres of the movement in 81 countries.

It's charism is unity. It's goal: to help build the human family in a spirit of fraternity.

To put it into practice: the way of dialogue that arises spontaneously because of love lived-out in interpersonal relationships, with the diffusion of the spirituality in the world. It developed at 360 degrees: with Christians of different Churches, followers of other religions, people without a religious faith and with the various cultural fields. It is revealed as a privileged way to overcome conflicts and prejudices, to promote unity and collaboration, without syncretism and in full faithfulness to one's own identity.

There are about 140,000 animators. Adherents and sympathizers: over 2,000,000. Outreach: a few million, it's difficult to give a precise number.

www.focolare.org

Project Africa – "Sharing with Africa"

It's a challenge with which the young people of the Focolare Movement measure themselves from 1969, when it was launched by Chiara Lubich, as a way to give back to the African continent what the West had stolen in the past. On the one hand it entails collecting funds for the Bangwa population, who at the time was risking extinction, in Fontem, a village in the Cameroon forest, on the other it meant being personally available to spend a period of time there.

The funds are collected through activities and communion of goods and have allowed for the construction and development of the village, including the hospital and college, where today many of the future cadres of the country come to be educated. The Operation, that was transformed into "Project Africa," launched at the Genfest 2000, has considerably extended, involving the Bangwa youth not only in favour of Fontem, but all the African peoples, marked by the exchange of riches between different cultures.

More than a hundred young people alternated their stay in Fontem in the last 12 years, among whom doctors, dentists and mechanics.... Next to those from Europe, the presence of young people from various African and Asian countries and those of the Americas has been noteworthy.

The counterpart of this operation: discovering the unknown countenance of the African continent and those values of which Western society is lacking.

With Genfest 2012 the Project will be launched anew through "Sharing with Africa".

Golden rule

The Gospel phrase *“Do to others as you would have others do to you; don’t do to others as you wouldn’t have others do to you”* (Lk 6:31) is the heart of many civilizations and traditions and can be put into practice by every person. It’s the basis of a fruitful dialogue and a more fraternal behaviour.

World Unity Week

An annual appointment for the Youth for a United World of the Focolare Movement who propose to make an impact on public opinion, witnessing and promoting unity and peace on every level. It began in 1996 and is contemporaneously celebrated throughout the world with a multitude of activities, involving the mass media and civil and religious institutions. With the United World Project we’ll ask the UN to recognize it as an event of international interest, amplifying its achievements and goals.

United World Project

A project to start up a permanent Observatory on the incisiveness of fraternity, “a forgotten principle” of modern history, on individual and collective choices. The project was conceived and developed by the young people of the Focolare Movement and is open to the collaboration of other youth groups and international networks, also belonging to other faiths and cultures. There are three phases of the United World Project: Network, Watch, Workshop.

* **United World Network:** network of young people all over the world to whom we ask to make a personal commitment, by putting their signature, to promote the “golden rule”: do to others as you would have others do to you.

* **United World Watch:** the constitution of a permanent international Observatory to examine activities and initiatives that have been able to generate an “increasing fraternity.” Besides, the Observatory must promote “the category of fraternity” through specific cultural initiatives.

* **United World Workshop:** the request to the UN to recognize the international importance of the World Unity Week, confirming and broadening even more the annual appointment that has witnessed the more than fifteen years commitment of the young people of the Focolare Movement– together with many others – to give voice to universal brotherhood.

The first phase of the project will begin during the Genfest and will be carried out until the beginning of the next World Unity Week, on May 1st, 2013, when we will officially establish the permanent Observatory. Instead, the process of the recognition by the UN is already under way.

Sharing with Africa

See Project Africa.

Time out

In 1990, on the occasion of the first Gulf War, the Time-out was proposed to the whole Focolare Movement, for everyone, all over the world, to contemporaneously stop every day at 12 noon – Italian time (GMT +1) – to implore God for the gift of peace. Since then this daily appointment, to which many others have adhered, has continued to be a moment of silence and prayer to ask for the ceasing of all wars.

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