

Editorial



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Happy Easter!

Each year, members of the Focolare focus on one aspect of the spirituality of unity. Last year, it was on Jesus crucified and forsaken. This year the focus is on Mary, the mother of Jesus. I remember when I first met Focolare as a teenage Anglican in the late 60's, I was puzzled, as in our particular village church in Hampshire, Mary got very little mention, apart from at Christmas. I remember sharing this bewilderment with a friend at one of the Focolare summer gatherings: the Mariapolis. She too was an Anglican and advised: 'Don't worry about trying to understand Mary, just live her...!' She then added: 'Just as Mary gave birth to Jesus, so we too can give birth to Jesus among us when we love one another...!' That certainly made sense to me. It was practical and something I could attempt to live in my daily life. The wonder is that everything else followed from there. The presence of Jesus was a light which then opened up the scriptures, and also brought a new understanding of Mary – new, even to my Roman Catholic friends.

Chiara Lubich, the founder of Focolare, has given us a completely new vision of Mary, which transcends devotional piety and the different 'denominational borders' of the various Churches. This is beautifully illustrated in 'The Way of Mary' (page 8) where Chiara takes episodes from the life of Mary and then shows, how each of these moments, responds to the holy journey of each Christian.

Paul Gateshill

New City is an expression of the Focolare Movement, which takes as its inspiration Jesus' prayer to the Father "May they all be one" (Jn 17: 21). Over the last seven decades Focolare has grown from a small community of around five hundred in Trent, northern Italy, to a world-wide community of several hundred thousand people of all ages and backgrounds. It has also spread beyond the confines of the Roman Catholic Church, to many other Christian traditions, to other faiths and people of good will.

New City works to promote mutual understanding and respect through dialogue. Together with our readers we want to discover how to 'build bridges' in the different sectors of society and in personal life. We are convinced that dialogue, based on mutual love, is the only way to build a more united world which is based on universal values such as justice, equality, truth and peace.