

Editorial



This edition of New City focuses on two important themes: The environment and youth.

'Our common home' (page 4) contains a report by Monica Conmee who recently attended a conference hosted by the Vatican to follow up the publication of Pope Francis' acclaimed 'Laudato si'. This was a timely conference drawing together a mixture of experts from around the world and preparing the ground for the COP24 Summit in Poland this month, which hopefully, will build upon the Paris Agreement (2015).

We have continued to share some of the experiences of the young people at Genfest 2018 in 'Going beyond all borders' Part 3 (page 7). I was particularly struck by the witness of young people from the different regions of Spain and how they were living the current political crisis there. The fact that youth from Catalonia, and Spain shared the same stage was already evidence that unity is possible, even when discussing deeply felt issues over cultural identity: *"Starting and ending in 'love,' we spoke to each other on an equal footing, really listening to what the other had to say, rather than defending our own ideas. I realized that the other person is far more important than our opinions. We're still working on this dialogue, and our opinions haven't dramatically changed. Sometimes we forget to put love first, and have to start again..."*

'Interfaith youth camp in Scotland' (page 10), reported by Claudia Melis, shows how important it is to create opportunities for dialogue between Muslim and Christian young people. Lina Morcos summed up the experience: *'A sign of hope for the future, seeing all these Christian and Muslim young people gathered together in a peaceful atmosphere of unity.'*

Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

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.