

Editorial



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This year the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place from 18th-25th January in the Northern Hemisphere. The accompanying resource materials have been produced in the Caribbean and focus on Exodus 15, a song of triumph over oppression, with the motif: 'That all may be free.'

Our main article this month is an interview with Maria Voce, the President of the Focolare entitled: 'Taking Risks' (page 4). I love her provocative responses and the real passion she conveys for building unity amongst the Christian Churches. I sense a real urgency on her part, and that of Pope Francis, to bring about the fulfilment of Jesus' prayer to the Father: 'That all may be one' (Jn 17:15).

Maria Voce argues: 'It's right to ensure good formation, but we have to take risks; if we don't take risks, we cannot move forward. This is the path of the extraordinary ecumenism the Pope is treading. We feel we must help this ecumenism become a lived, down to earth experience.'

Following on from this interview we have published the 'Ottmaring Declaration', a joint statement from Maria Voce and Jesús Morán (the Co-president) (page 6).

It states: 'We will do all that is within our power to sustain the Churches' efforts to bring about full, visible communion, for the good of all humanity. We will do everything possible to ensure that all the Movement's actions, projects and events, at an international level but especially locally, demonstrate this open and fraternal relationship among Christians. We will continue to work for fellowship among Movements and Christian communities throughout the world, devoting special attention to the "Together for Europe" ecumenical network. We entrust to God our Churches' ecumenical journey, to hasten the day when we may share together in one chalice.'

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.