

Editorial



Every year the Focolare Movement focuses on an aspect of the spirituality of unity. Last year we meditated upon Mary, the mother of Jesus. This year, which started in October, begins a new theme: 'The Church and the Holy Spirit'.

What better way to begin, than with Pope Francis' talk at an ecumenical service in the Lutheran Cathedral in Latvia: 'The Music of the Gospel' (See page 14). It is a wonderful, original and challenging talk about how we need to keep the Gospel singing in our hearts and lives. As a musician I can't help but connect with this exhortation. Music is an international language which has the capacity to cut across different cultures and speak to the heart and soul of all. In the same way, the Gospel lived has the power to transform, strengthen and challenge.

As an aid to deepen our understanding of this year's theme, New City is publishing two books. One on the Holy Spirit (details on back page) and the other on the Church (soon to be published). I was particularly struck by the quote below, which can be found in the introduction to 'The Holy Spirit – The Unknown God'

Paul Gateshill

*'Without the Spirit,
God is far away,
Christ remains in the past,
the Gospel is a dead letter,
the Church is a simple organization,
authority a domination,
mission a propaganda,
worship mere invocation,
and the actions of human beings a
slave morality.*

*giving birth to the Kingdom,
the risen Christ is present,
the Gospel is the power of life,
the Church means Trinitarian
communion,
authority is a liberating service,
mission is a Pentecost,
the liturgy is memorial and
anticipation,
human activity is deified!*

*But in the Spirit,
creation is raised and groans in*

(Ignatius IV Hazim – The Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch and All the East)

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.