

European Mariapolis 2019

Tonadico, Dolomites (Italy)

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European Mariapolis, D-122 A message for today's Europe

The European Mariapolis, to be held from 14 July to 11 August 2019 in the Dolomites (Italy), is arousing much interest. In just a few weeks, early bookings have far exceeded available accommodation and organizers are struggling to find beds for as many people as possible. Meanwhile, preparations for the programme are well underway.

As of 31st January, the closing date for pre-registration, almost 3,000 people had registered, 600 more than the allocated 2,400 places for the event. (600 per week).

"We have had a lot to do to satisfy as many people as possible. We're trying to ensure that people from all European countries can participate. From today onwards, people will begin to receive the first confirmed registrations," said Peter Forst, a member of the organization committee. "It has been a tough task but we are also delighted to see so much enthusiasm for this unique event," he added.

Meanwhile, a team made up of people from a number of European countries is already "experiencing" the Mariapolis first hand, as they prepare the programme for the four week-long event which will include a variety of key inputs, moments of cultural exchange as well as workshops and round table discussions.

"We hope that there will be something for everyone! And of course, it will also be a holiday - participants will have many opportunities for walking, hiking and other cultural events," commented Ana Siewniak from the UK, a member of the group preparing the programme.

Allowing people to understand better the spirit of the Mariapolis, highlights will include a history of the first summer meetings of the Focolare Movement and a re-telling of the special experience of founder, Chiara Lubich in the summer of 1949, in Tonadico.

Maria Voce talks about Mariapolis and Europe today

In a recent interview, Maria Voce, President of the Focolare Movement, describes her own first experience of the Mariapolis at Primiero in 1959, underlining the important message that this experience offers at this turbulent phase for Europe.

The first excerpts from this interview are now available on www.europeanmariapolis.org, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

The Focolare movement is holding its first Europe-wide Mariapolis, *Aim High*, in the summer of 2019. From 14th July, four week-long holiday events, each tailored to a number of European languages, will take place in the Dolomites, Italy, where the first 'Mariapolis' was held seventy years ago.

A Mariapolis (City of Mary), is a gathering where the citizens of a temporary 'town' try to build a new type of human society based on the relationships in a family - fraternity and mutual respect, as they holiday together. *Aim High* is open to people of all faiths, backgrounds and ethnicities.

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