



European Mariapolis 2019

Tonadico, Dolomites (Italy)

Press Release n. 4

11/07/2019

Launch of the European Mariapolis 2019

The first European Mariapolis, organised by the Focolare Movement, will start this weekend. Tonadico and the whole Primiero Valley (Dolomites, Italy) will host more than 2650 people from all over Europe from 14th July to 11th August 2019. An original form of holiday that aims to highlight the beauty of the European continent in all its diversity.

Against the background of an increasingly fragmented continent, the Focolare movement wants to underline the beauty of Europe in all its diversity, where the richness of every culture can emerge. The organisers say: *“We believe that through sharing our stories, our cultures and our histories - getting to know each other – we can lay the foundation for a more united Europe.”*

For each week of the event there will be about 700 people – from 0 to 91 years of age (!) - from 38 countries, as well as from some countries outside Europe (Jordan, Nigeria, Brazil, Philippines...), with more than 35 languages represented! The programmes in the hall will be translated every week into 5 or 6 languages (in the first week, in addition to Italian and English, translations will be made in Slovenian, Czech and French).

The programme will include a variety of key inputs, moments of cultural exchange as well as workshops and round table discussions. And of course, participants will have many opportunities for walking, hiking and other cultural events.

A street in Tonadico will be named after Chiara Lubich

In order to allow people to better understand the spirit of the Mariapolis, highlights will include a history of the first summer meetings of the Focolare Movement and the re-discovering of the special experience lived by Chiara Lubich, foundress of the Focolare Movement, during the summer 1949, in Tonadico. In this regard, on July 16, the "Abba School", Study centre of the Focolare composed of professors and experts in various disciplines, will organise a commemoration on site, in anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Chiara Lubich next year. 2020 will see a series of important initiatives promoted by the Focolare in Italy and worldwide.

On July 19 and 22, the international band Gen Rosso will give a performance entitled *"Face2Face"*.

In addition, the final official event will take place on the afternoon of **August 10** in the presence of **Maria Voce, president of the Focolare Movement**. On the same day, a street in Tonadico will be named after Chiara Lubich by the local authorities.



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“Aim high”

The title, "Aim high", does not only indicate the fact that this experience takes place in the mountains (the Dolomites), but also that we want to focus on relationships. This is a challenge one can meet, inspite the differences that exist between the various European countries, differences that cannot stop the path to a united world. This Mariapolis aims to be a testimony of unity for Europe, and indeed for the other continents.

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. It is open to people of all faiths, backgrounds and ethnicities.

The first Mariapolis took place in the Primiero valley (Dolomites, Italy) in the years following the Second World War.

Information for the media:

- **The Media Office** is located throughout the month on the ground floor of the Hotel Majestic, in San Martino di Castrozza, in front of the large tent where the three main moments of the programme will take place every week (Monday, Thursday and Saturday).
- **Updated news and images will be published on the European Mariapolis Facebook page:** www.facebook.com/mariapoli.europea
- For pictures of the European Mariapolis, please contact the Media Office (media@europeanmariapolis.org).

Media Office – European Mariapolis

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All information on the website www.europeanmariapolis.org

and on the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/mariapoli.europea