

Mariapoli Europea 2019

Tonadico, Dolomiti (Italia)

Press Office

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The European Mariapolis comes to a close: Marching towards unity!

Immersion in the places where the Focolare began so that people could leave afterwards for their own countries, stamped with the mark of fraternity: this was the European Mariapolis 2019 which drew together 2800 people from all over Europe and the continents, over a month long period, with each group spending a week at the event.

A special appointment occurred on Saturday August 10, where several hundred participants gathered in front of Palazzo Scopoli for the naming of the new "Via Chiara Lubich" in Tonadico, in the presence of the Mayor Daniele Depaoli, the Archbishop of Trent, Monsignor Lauro Tisi, and Maria Voce, President of the Focolare Movement.



Addressing the crowd, the Archbishop of Trent, Monsignor Tisi, said that what happened in Tonadico for Chiara in 1949 "was a true mystical experience. She saw how God lives and she transmitted to people the life of God. This is a place which has witnessed God passing by in an important way. Let us ask for our peoples to be able to be men and women who see God and tell God, His beauty, His goodness".

Mayor Daniele Depaoli said he particularly liked the title of the Mariapolis "Aim High" and also bringing together of European cultural diversity in the sign and the name of Chiara. As an administration, he continued, "we wanted to give a sign of our closeness to Chiara and the Movement, so it seemed natural to dedicate the street which Baita Paradiso overlooks to her, and also Palazzo Scopoli, one of the symbolic buildings of our community and our history. Immediately after the street-naming event, Archbishop of Trento, Monsignor Lauro Tisi celebrated Mass at the Pieve church of Fiera di Primiero, during which, as had happened during the last Mariapolis at Primiero, those present expressed a prayer in several languages entrusting the peoples to Mary.

Maria Voce: "A renewed commitment, both on a personal and community level".

The message launched by the President of the Focolare Movement, Maria Voce, during the final programme of the afternoon, was welcomed with rapt attention and participation:

"The global processes underway show the planetary interdependence of States, nations and communities," said the President. "It is increasingly clear that there is a common destiny for all the peoples of the Earth and that the major issues of the day concern vital issues for all: the care of the environment, old and new poverty, invisible conflicts and warfare, migration on a global scale (often the result of poverty, war and climate change), the redistribution of wealth, access to natural resources, the recognition of human rights ... These are issues that cut across cultural, civil and political differences. Therefore, they put people in a cycle of constant confrontation, in order to mature processes of political integration and decisional convergence."

(...) Today too, just as sixty years ago, we can pray to God for unity among the peoples of the Earth, she continued. "My hope is that this prayer might be accompanied by a renewed commitment, both on a personal and a community level, to live for a united world. We will spread those seeds of change that are suitable for transforming the present and for writing ever new pages of the history of the human family on its march towards unity".

Message from the President of the European Parliament

In a message sent to the participants of the Mariapolis, the President of the European Parliament, David Sassoli, recalled: "In a time marked by divisions, walls and barbed wire, it is essential to respond with the logic of encounter and community. I therefore greet friends from all over Europe who, following the example of Chiara Lubich, have shared this extraordinary human and spiritual experience based on fraternity and mutual respect".

The strong experience of fraternity lived at the European Mariapolis has broken down barriers and misunderstandings among people from different countries as witnessed to by the testimonies shared at the concluding event of the Mariapolis on Saturday, August 10 and at its closing celebration. At the Auditorium of Primiero there was no room for being closed in on yourself or for selfishness.

The Mariapolis (City of Mary) is a gathering in which the inhabitants this "temporary city" try to build a new type of society based on fraternity and reciprocal respect. It is an unique vacation experience open to people of all faiths and cultures.

The first Mariapolis was held in the valley of Primiero (Dolomite Mountains, Italy) in the years following the Second World War.

Media notes:

- **News updates and photos will be published on the Facebook page** of the European Mariapolis: www.facebook.com/mariapoli.europea.
- For **photos of the European Mariapolis** please contact the Press Office (media@mariapolieuropea.org).

For more information go to our website www.mariapolieuropea.org or visit our Mariapolis Facebook page: www.facebook.com/mariapoli.europea

