



Message to the Focolare movement 14 January, 2021

Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca
Interim General Secretary

It is a joy for me to greet you on behalf of the of the World Council of Churches and to welcome you to the annual gathering with the WCC fellowship. This time we are not able to meet in person, but online. I would like to share some words of gratitude to the work you are doing and to your strong commitment to the ecumenical movement.

The worldwide fellowship of churches stands in solidarity with you as we pray for healing and recovery of humanity and all of God's creation, especially during this time of uncertainty and fear caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In such circumstances, we realize how united we are as one humanity: we share the same fears, the same challenges, and the same yearning for the well-being of our one human family. Yet, in light of the resurrection of Christ, we share one hope for renewed life, working and walking toward God's reign of justice and peace.

Focused so clearly on uniting humanity, you, the people of the Focolare movement, reveal the true breadth and ambition of Chiara Lubich's vision for the ecumenical movement: not simply to bridge ancient divides among Christians but also to live Christian discipleship in such a way as to heal the world.

You are a gift to our communities. Your passion and desire to change the world inspire and motivate the rest of us as we confront the realities of today. In ways big and small, this generation is stepping up to meet the daunting challenges of climate change, economic inequality, the needs of migrants and refugees. And, as we see today, our generation's digital expertise leads us in new ways of reflecting and reflecting on our common vision for Christian unity as expressed in Jesus' prayer in John 17:21.

There Jesus prayed “that all may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” Jesus’ vision is not limited to our Christian family. Rather it is inclusive of *all* of humanity and of God’s creation.

So, despite uncertainties and fear, ours is also a resurrection time of enormous opportunities to come together and serve one another, sisters and brothers. Jesus’ prayer reminds us that unity grows to serve a greater need.

The theme of the next WCC Assembly affirms the role of Christ’s love for the reconciliation and unity of the world, a theme so dear and so central to the Focolare Movement.

We pray with the fellowship across the globe that we shall all find in the love of Christ the courage and hope to continue firmly on the path to unity, justice and peace.

May God bless and keep in his Love the Focolare Movement and empower its mission towards the healing, reconciliation and unity of the world.