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Cause for Joy

In the Economy of Communion, lay people find a way to fulfill themselves completely and live consistently with their ideals.

By Chiara Lubich

When we reflect on the Economy of Communion, we should not forget one of the factors that makes it so beautiful and alive, an example for the world: it was started and developed by lay people. I remember that there was a time when it was thought that the only job of the laity was to listen and learn. As a result, Igino Giordani [Italian statesman, author, and Focolare co-founder], because he was a layperson, felt as if he was merely part of the Church's proletariat.

Now, in the wake of Vatican II, and in view of the new movements like ours, which were born from laypeople, we see the layperson coming forward and taking a leading role. Why? To our amazement and not without some surprise, we are discovering, with great gratitude to God, that certain laypeople today have something special about them. They are people who want more than the typical fulfillment found in a job, career, or simple family life. It is no longer enough; they are not satisfied; they do not feel that they are themselves unless they also devote themselves explicitly to humanity.

Therefore, the decision to become involved in the Economy of Communion is not a burden for them. On the contrary, it is cause for joy because they find a way to fulfill themselves completely. They live for a great ideal, and they are consistent with their choices.

And they reach holiness not in spite of politics, economy and so forth, but precisely in the life of politics, economics and so forth. May God bless them and give them the hundredfold in this life and the fullness of life in the next.

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