



Press Release

Thursday, February 25 and Friday, February 26 in the Trent Sala della Cooperazione

The Impact of Chiara Lubich on economy, Communications and peace

Scholars from various disciplines and diverse countries of the world compare one another's reflections on the figure and thought of Lubich, two years after her passing

Trent, February 16, 2010 – (e.b.) To analyze the mark that Chiara Lubich has made, not only in the history of post-war Italian spirituality, but also in specific sectors of contemporary society, in economy as in communications, in the culture of peace as in interreligious dialogue. To investigate the effect it has provoked in theology, philosophy, education and sociology. To rediscover the society and retrace the historical events in which its events developed. These are the main objectives of the international convention: "Chiara Lubich from Trent to the World: the Impact of a Story", organized by the University of Trent. Two years after the passing of Chiara Lubich, the her home city's university has planned two intense days of work, spread through four sessions. The convention will be Thursday, February 25 to Friday, February 26 in the Sala della Cooperazione (Trent – Via Segantini, 10), beginning at 9 A.M.

The organizers announced, "This convention will take into consideration the environment in which Silvia/Chiara Lubich matured, in order to then follow the characteristics of the always more vast scenery in which her work developed. Special attention will be dedicated to the maturation of her concepts on economy and the conception of "economy of communion" and its application. Her model of communication will be analyzed, as well as her capacity to reach people from all over the world who are completely diverse in culture, tradition and faith. There will not be want to an analysis on the relevance which her thought reached in the fields of philosophy, on the topic of the philosophy of love, as in the field of religious ethics, surrounding the paradigms of theology and the universal message of unity. They will also examine her profile in the educational environment and, parallelly, the effectiveness of her actions in interreligious dialogue and the promotion of the university message of peace."

Besides scholars from various disciplines at the University of Trent, there will also be presentors from various countries. Participation in the convention is free of cost. There will be simultaneous translation from Italian to English. The scientific Committee of the convention is presided by Salvatore Abbruzzese of the Department of Human and Social Sciences and composed by Andrea Leonardi of the Department of Economy, and for the Department of Philosophy, History and Cultural Goods, Olga Bombardelli, Massimo Giuliani, Michele Nicoletti and Silvano Zucal.

Information, program and registration online at <http://events.unitn.it/chiaralubich>

Further information: tel. +39 0461 281133 – 3228 -1259



Synthetic Biographical Profile of Chiara Lubich

January 22, 1920 – Chiara Lubich is born in Trent. Baptized with the name of Silvia, she will later take the name of Chiara, fascinated by the Gospel radicality of Chiara of Assisi. **December 7, 1943** – Alone, she consecrates herself to God for always. This date conventionally marks the foundation of the Focolare Movement. **May 13, 1944** – Trent is hit by one of the most violent bombardments of World War II. The certainty that living the Gospel is the most powerful social revolution arises in Chiara Lubich. Around her, a community modelled on the first Christians takes shape. **1948** – At the Italian Parliament, she meets Igino Giordani, deputy, writer, journalist, ecumenical pioneer, father of 4 children. He will be recognized by her as co-founder of the Focolare Movement for the contribution he gave to the incarnation in social, political, family and ecumenical fields. The Movement spreads first in Italy, then starting in 1952 in Europe, and starting in 1959 in other continents. **1977** – In London, she receives the Templeton Prize in Progress in Religion. The presence of many representatives of various religions at the ceremony opens the way to development in interreligious dialogue. **1991** – During a trip to Brazil, as an answer to the drama of those living in sub-human conditions at the periferias of the metropolises, she launches the “Economy of Communion” Project, which develops in various countries, involving hundreds of businesses, outlining a new economic theory and praxis. **1996** – First honorary doctorate in Social Sciences, from the University of Lublin in Poland for (her) “Copernican revolution in the social sciences, placed in action by the ‘paradigm of unity’ that shows new psychological, social and economic dimensions that post-communist society today awaits in this new difficult phase of transition.” **From 1996 to 2004** other honorary degrees in various humanistic, social and religious sciences, on behalf of Catholic and lay universities in: Poland, Great Britain, Slovakia, Malta, the Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan, the United States, Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina and Italy. **1996** – In Paris, UNESCO awards her with the Prize for Education to Peace. “In an age in which ethnic and religious difference too often lead to violent conflicts, this movement builds bridges among persons, generations, social categories and peoples” (from the motivation of the award). **1997-1998** – First Christian lay woman invited to speak of her spiritual experience to 800 buddhist monks in Thailand (Jan. ’97); to three thousand black Muslims in the Harlem Mosque in New York (May ’97); to the Jewish community in Buenos Aires (April ’98). New prospects of dialogue are opened. In May of ’97, she speaks about the unity of peoples at the UN Headquarters in New York. In September, 1998, in Strassburg, she is assigned the European Council’s ’98 Human Rights Award for her work “in defense of individual and social rights.” **2008** – The Sophia University Institute is born, in the small town of Loppiano (Florence). It is a project “dreamed of” by Lubich since the beginning. **14 marzo 2008** -Chiara Lubich dies in Rocca di Papa.