

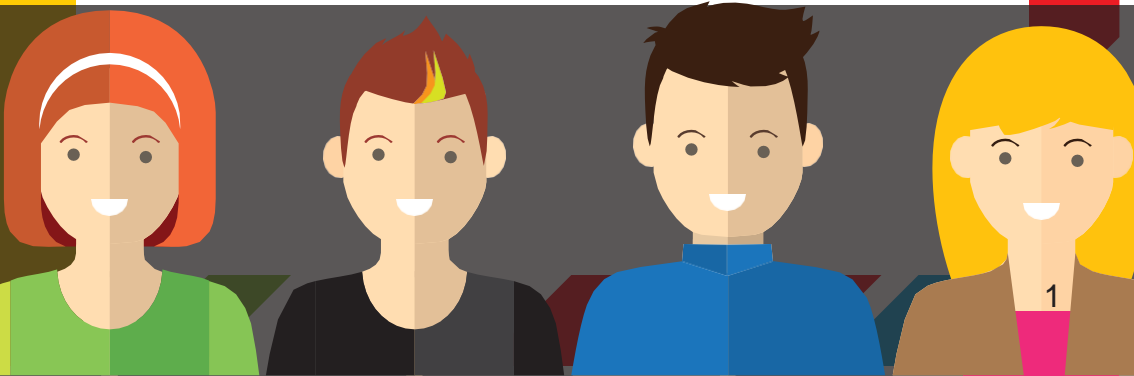


Taken from the

Summary of the Intermediate Working Document for the General Assembly of the Work of Mary

Prepared by the Gen3 and
Teens for Unity Centres

(This document is completed by the PROPOSALS
prepared for the Assembly at FOCO SCHOOL 2020)



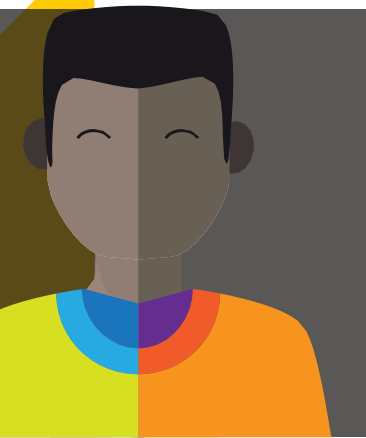
“What does God want for the Movement in the next six years? What cannot be missing so that the charism of unity can be evermore a gift for the Church and for humanity?”.



“All of us, adults, young and children, set our minds to reach holiness together, at all costs; and this is the prevailing thought of whoever wants to live in our Movement today”.

Chiara

(Rocca di Papa, January 1977)



Environment and the Future



"We have failed to care for the earth, our garden-home; we have failed to care for our brothers and sisters. We need an ecological conversion that can find expression in concrete actions." (Pope Francis)

"All is in relationship of love with all: each thing with each thing." (Chiara Lubich)

"If you want to know the divine... feel the wind on your face and the warm sun on your hand." (Buddha)

Presentation

From the proposals, we sensed an urgency to respond to the ecological crisis. This moment in history calls the Movement to a concrete and decisive commitment to respect and care for the environment

We are asked to make ecological choices that are visible at all levels in our living environments.

Actions can be carried out locally and internationally in close collaboration with those who want to work for the Earth.

The charism can make its contribution in terms of thought and action with a global vision in view of "that they may all be one."

Challenges and problems

- > The proposals indicate an urgent need for a change of mentality, one which is more radical with regard to ecology.
- > Will we be able to make this change, and translate ideas into daily action?
- > The pandemic highlighted that there are daily emergencies with thousands of victims, which pass us by in silence. Can we do something to change this?

The Gen3 tell us:
We want to do our part to safeguard our planet and our future.



Communion of Goods and Economy



"Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common." (Acts 4:32)

"Help one another as much as you can: first of all with material things, the needs of one must become the needs of all. And don't worry about anything. Providence is there for those who believe and who ask." (Chiara Lubich)

Presentation

The proposals show the priority of a new commitment to living the communion of goods, returning to the example of the early times of the Ideal.

There are two main stimuli: internally, the awareness of the decrease in the communion of goods; externally, the economic challenges of the present world. The charism can offer answers through the communion of goods, the culture of giving and the Economy of Communion.

It is therefore proposed to increase our knowledge of the Red and to learn about the economic questions of the world. With regard to the sustainability of our works, we need greater co-responsibility and commitment from all the members of the Movement as well as greater transparency and sharing about the economic action of the Movement and its social impact.

The Gen3 tell us:
Intensify the communion of goods to make it more constant not only in the branch of the Gen 3 but in all branches of the Movement.

Promote the Gen 3 "common fund" for Gen 3 who lack the means to attend congresses or other events and to hold congresses in countries with more difficulties.
Reflect on the global economic situation (e.g. climate, etc.).

Challenges and problems

> Reflecting on sustainability, since the communion of goods and providence are not enough to cover the growing needs, what other approaches, compatible with the vision of the charism, exist to ensure sustainability?



Local Communities



This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (Jn 15:12-13)

"Nothing is more organised than what love sets in order and nothing is freer than what love unites." (Chiara Lubich)

"The word 'community' feels good because of the meanings which the word conveys." (Zygmunt Bauman)

Presentation

The proposals highlight the need to refocus on the Local Communities (LCs) as places where there is mutual love, by intensifying relationships, sharing the life among the Branches more, increasing the culture of trust and the sense that everyone is responsible for bringing the Movement ahead.

The LCs are called to welcome all the realities of the Movement and to encourage their unity in that territory, not superimposing themselves on the relationships between the various Ramifications but assisting them from below.

In some places there is also a need to strengthen the ties between the LCs and their respective parishes, to revive the life of the environmental cells, to be more present in ecclesial and civil structures so as to help institutions better respond to new social needs..

Challenges and problems

- > Sometimes relationships are not good and people don't know each other very well.
- > Some communities seem static; they lack the aspect of outreach and of living for the local JF.
- > How can we improve the impact we have in that territory, on civil, social and cultural issues?

The Gen3 tell us:

Create spaces for dialogue among teens, youth and adults. We need time to get to know each other, celebrate, talk, exchange experiences, interact deeply, express ourselves freely, ask questions. This would help adults to get to know the reality of teenagers and to trust us, so that we could share our vision of the world and learn from the experience of the adults".



Dialogue and Dialogues



"To be in dialogue means kindly receptiveness and not prior condemnation. To dialogue we need to know how to lower our defenses, open the doors of our home and offer human warmth." (Pope Francis)

"All of us are included in this specific aim, wherever we work." (Chiara Lubich)

"My heart must be empty to make room for every man and woman I meet. I know that saying this is risky. But it is Jesus' own measure." (K. Hemmerle)

Presentation

Dialogue is the lifeblood of the Movement, the specific aim of the charism. It is proposed to promote the culture of dialogue and acceptance, with people of different cultural backgrounds and with young people.

Develop the world in colours through the inundations and action in the different "worlds", so as not to reduce the charism only to the spiritual aspect.

Research new narrations of the charism.

Involve people from different cultures and faiths who have welcomed Chiara's message (the "white light") more.

In formation, use the talents of specialists to emphasize the importance of the 5 Dialogues as "highways for that all may be one".

Organize ongoing courses in dialogue for all the members of the Movement.

Challenges and problems

> Often we are unable to make a contribution to the current issues of our time.

> We don't talk about current issues, because we are afraid of disturbing the unity among us.

The Gen3 tell us:

Promote dialogue, support and mutual trust between the generations in order to achieve concrete objectives together. Make consistent actions to make the world better starting from our local communities with adults and the Focolare.

Collaborate with important agencies in our cities.

Strengthen relations with world institutions: UN, UNESCO, FAO (to spread or support existing actions).

Promote dialogue between religions.



Telling the Story and Communication



"If we do not enlarge our hearts to embrace all humanity, as the Church wants, as Jesus wished, our unity is not true... Our convent is the world." (Chiara Lubich)

"We need to detach ourselves from the mania, which sometimes takes over, of wanting to give our Ideal at all costs. The Ideal is to love and therefore the relationship with our neighbour, whoever they are, means to take an interest in them." (Chiara Lubich)

Presentation

Convey our specific characteristics through life, offering times for experience, more than talks or meetings. Share experiences based on the gospel (new narratives).

Increase a more visible presence in the world of communications to create public opinion in support of a united world.

Express what we want to say (including spiritual things) in a secular and universal language, which can be understood by those who don't know us and which is up to date, without hiding the depth of its content.

Define a strategic communication plan at the level of the Movement. Define the strategy of each means: the Link Up, New City, the websites, social media, videos and press agencies. Set up a team of experts from the zones, linked online.

Challenges and problems

> We struggle to convey the charism in words, in language that is both accessible and precise.

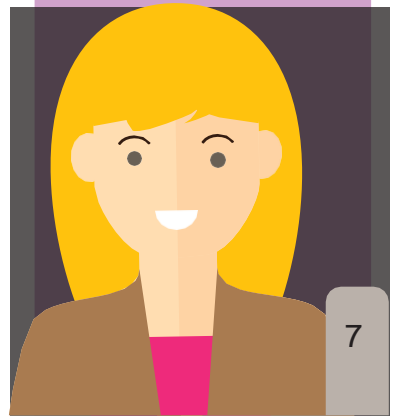
> There is a diversity of preferences between those who would like to use secular language and those who would prefer a more explicitly gospel-based language.

The Gen3 tell us:

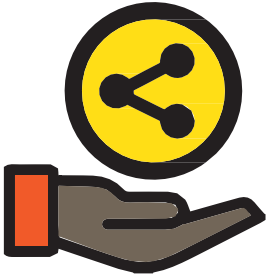
Be open, communicate, be active on social media.

Present in an accessible, more modern and attractive way the ideas of the Movement to reach more people.

We Gen 3 can give a new look and help adults with our knowledge of social media.



Witness



"Before sowing the word, we must first show through what we do, every day, that we are ready to die for the person next to us." (Chiara Lubich)

"Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier." (Mother Teresa of Calcutta)

"My life is my message." (Mahatma Gandhi)

Presentation

Today, in these times marked by the coronavirus, we need to remember that our specific objective is to offer "places" and occasions to promote unity.

Therefore encourage meetings that are intergenerational, inter-denominational, interreligious and with civil society. Building personal relationships remains a powerful witness.

Hence the urgency to revive the bunches and environmental cells, without forgetting nearness to those most in need. A striking facet of the proposals is the desire to have small events and to open our meetings to others.

The little towns continue to be permanent "workshops" of the life of unity, of Jesus in the midst who touches souls personally and deeply.

Further develop art as a means for spreading the Ideal, for a new sowing, which does not know barriers of language, culture, education and age.

The Gen3 tell us:

The Movement should be more present in the social media. Find ways to make it known, to promote it also through videos...

Make more use of the new technologies (for communication and marketing) and the social media (Instagram and YouTube) to spread the Movement's ideas.

We propose to develop online platforms for a worldwide communion so that all Gen 3 in the world can get in touch to share experiences or be updated on events.

Challenges and problems

> We are more inclined to achieve "short-lived" works rather than lasting ones.

> How can the necessary after-event contact be guaranteed to the participants in the various activities?



New Generations

"Jesus, looking at him, loved him." (Mk 10: 21)



"Aim high, young people, we have only one life: it is worth living it well." (Chiara Lubich)

"Being young means keeping open the door of hope, even when the sea is bad and the sky is tired of being blue." (Bob Dylan)

Presentation

Some priorities for the reality of the new generations have emerged from the proposals, such as the need for accompaniment, the need for formation and the presence of qualified, passionate and credible formators.

There's a request to accompany the young people in the discernment of their future choices, to ensure that they find a "home" in all the communities of the Movement.

It is necessary to increase alliances between the new generations and adults, creating settings for dialogue. Prioritize projects, taken forward together as "One Movement" ("Opera Una"), such as the United World Project and the Pathways.

Continue to raise awareness of the importance of protecting the environment with ecological initiatives like: "Zero Plastic" and "Zero Deforestation".

The Gen3 tell us:

We need the help of adults to form us well. We need their experience to be able to discern what is good and what is bad.

Challenges and problems

- > Carefully choose adult formators who are up to the task.
- > There are few young people in the local communities.



The Movement is a Family



"It means protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about." (Pope Francis).

"The person next to me has been created as a gift for me and I have been created as a gift for the person next to me." (Chiara Lubich)

"In a person's experience of winter, God's spring begins" (Igino Giordani)

Presentation

We all care about the testament that Chiara left us: "Be a family".

It inspires us to look out towards all those who feel the pain of exclusion in all its various forms.

The proposals reveal the challenge of inclusiveness, the need to open up to whoever is "different from me".

There's a request to create spaces in order to welcome people of all cultures, environments, the disabled, the disadvantaged or the poor into the Movement and to create meeting opportunities outside the classic structures for those who have left the Movement. Finally, it is proposed to intensify the care of senior citizens and to be grateful for their wealth of wisdom.

The Gen3 tell us:

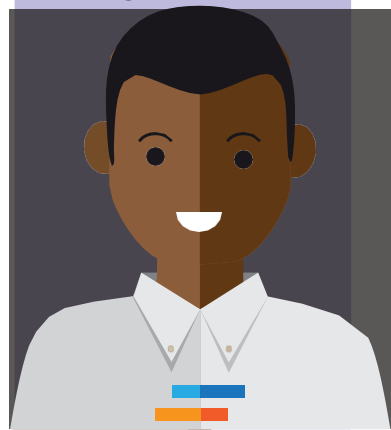
Live the Gospel and the Ideal even better with Gen 1, listen to the personal experiences of Gen 1 and Gen 2.

We ask the adults and Gen 2 to help us develop our ideas and to realize them. Increase the number of workshops they will do for us.

We ask them to help us in our commitment and in realizing our ideas.

Challenges and problems

- > Everyone is a candidate for unity regardless of lifestyle choices
- > It is not clear how we apply this principle to our meetings and activities.
- > The poor and the least cannot be missing.
- > Maybe we concentrate too much on meetings rather than trying to respond to society's challenges?



The General Assembly



"If we are not guided by the Holy Spirit, we are human beings who bring out many different reasonings. To be ourselves, we need the Holy Spirit." (Chiara Lubich)

"Start by doing what's necessary, then what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible." (Francis of Assisi)

"My idea of heaven is a place where folk music meets the blues." (Mark Knopfler)

Presentation

The General Assembly has caught the interest of the members of the Movement. The proposals reveal a desire to improve procedures to make this event closer to Chiara's people.

A review of the Assembly process could ensure greater consultation and participation of the members of the Movement, and a more careful preparation of the Assembly itself.

Through a short and clear final document, with a few concrete and realistically feasible objectives, the Assembly directs the life of the Movement, like a compass.

There is no need to write a manual to be followed but rather space should be left for discernment at the Centre and in the Zones.

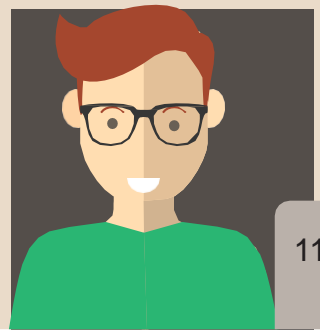
The Gen3 tell us:

Increase opportunities for mutual help between different generations and common commitment to social actions; increase the action planning.

Promote dialogue, support and mutual trust between the generations in order to achieve concrete objectives together.

Challenges and problems

> In some places, there is little interest in participating in the preparation of the General Assembly.



The Charism



"We declare to you what we have seen and heard." (1 Jn 1:3)

"You are just beginning. The challenge is that of creative faithfulness: to be faithful to the original inspiration and at the same time be open to the breath of the Holy Spirit." (Pope Francis)

"The score is written in heaven. We must simply play it on earth." (Chiara Lubich)

Presentation

From the proposals emerges the desire to value the memory and roots of the charism by deepening the patrimony that Chiara has left us.

Thus, many proposals express a need to bring the Movement back to an authentic gospel experience, to refocus our identity.

Do not pre-empt the action of God, but be guided by Him. Take on the new things He wants from us.

With regard to the life of the Ideal there is the desire to undertake the Holy Journey together, cultivating our interior life with a renewed commitment to union with God.

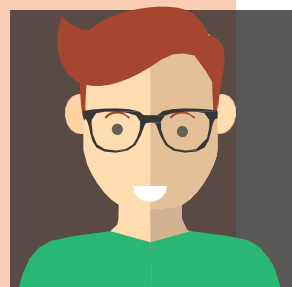
The Gen3 tell us: The Movement is a building that we, Gen 3, must continue to build and therefore Gen 1 and Gen 2 must transmit its foundations to us. If they give us the genuine Ideal, we can continue to build the Movement and pass it on to future generations.

Increase our personal formation as Gen 3, that leads us to make responsible choices in all areas (more or less major life choices, ecology, politics, culture of sharing).

Challenges and problems

> How can we manage to express and incarnate the charism in the various cultures, languages and sensitivities?

> For several members of the Movement, it is not clear that our specific aim is unity.



The Family



"Families are not a problem; they are first and foremost an opportunity. An opportunity which we have to care for, protect and support." (Pope Francis)

"You love your husband and place him in the communion of the divine Persons. You have charity, you have the Trinity. By loving your wife, you become holy. In fact, in love it is the sacrament that works, introducing the divine into the human circle, every moment, in every place." (Igino Giordani)

Presentation

The family is the place where children, teenagers and young people learn to love.

Form the family as a whole, parents and children, in collaboration between New Families and the youth realities, also with projects like Up2Me.

Families must support the most disadvantaged part of society, which has the most urgent problems. We mustn't forget the children of families that have broken up. Help families spend more time together.

Offer initiatives such as concerts, times spent in a family atmosphere, outings, also with non-believers, to regain and establish relationships. Find ways for families to share holiday times, to do things together and to enable families to participate in the life and meetings of the Movement.

The Gen3 tell us:

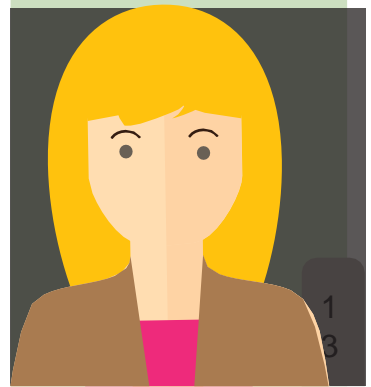
Give Gen 1 and parents the courage to continue with the Focolare.

Give hope to Gen 1 with our strong presence, participation and courage.

Restore energy: before, it was Chiara who said what to do. Now we must take the initiative.

Challenges and problems

- > There are too many separate initiatives.
- > Couples need more activities in which they can be involved and committed together.



Formation and Study



"The whole Work of Mary is wisdom [...] wisdom must be accompanied by studies." (Chiara Lubich)

"The world doesn't need learned people so much as wise people full of the Holy Spirit." (Chiara Lubich)

"You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working; and just so, you learn to love by loving." (St Francis de Sales)

Presentation

Form people first to be One Movement ("Opera Una") through intergenerational activities and ongoing formation. Not only spirituality, but also cultural concepts elaborated by the Movement, which allow fully-fledged dialogue. Combat the fragmentation of knowledge. Pay attention to the "cultural variety" of geographic realities.

Give formation for a vision of the united world (with courses that help people to become facilitators of unity) and for community discernment (on how to make decisions).

Help people grow culturally, setting up study communities in local areas. Introduce the social aspect in formation, starting from the reality of each country/region.

Invest in the academic education of young members who are the future leaders of the Movement. Offer formation material online with universal subjects to reach everyone.

Challenges and problems

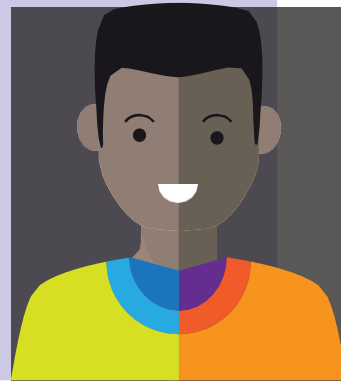
> We need a more accessible language (e.g. UPM) and inculturated subjects.

The Gen3 tell us:

Promote advocacy for education in the world.

Deal with current topics from the perspective of the charism of unity (bullying, depression, anxiety...).

Increase our personal formation as Gen 3, that leads us to make responsible choices in all areas (more or less major life choices, ecology, politics, culture of sharing).



Governance



"In the Movement only the Trinitarian system has to be in force (...) to live like the Most Holy Trinity it is necessary to love (...) even before commanding, even before obeying, even at the basis of every relationship (...) always love." (Chiara Lubich)

"Confidence never comes from having all the answers, but from being open to all the questions." (Earl Grey Stevens)

Presentation

Request to experiment with new models of governance, which are more interactive and participatory in discernment between Centre and Zones, the Zones and Zonettas, to the point of reaching the furthest away and most remote places, which need to be given recognition.

We need a greater involvement of different perspectives: cultural, international, intergenerational, while respecting the dignity and specific nature of each branch.

There is a request that alternation of roles and responsibilities, with appointments for a limited time for all vocations.

The need to develop our leadership model based on the life of the Trinity emerges, so that the charisma may inspire methods for making decisions.

The Gen3 tell us:

Greater presence of the President among us teens, so that she may become our model.

The President must not be afraid to let herself known to the younger generation. She must be closer to them.

Get to know the new President better, gold more world congresses where she is present. The President should travel more around the world.

Challenges and problems

> The Government of the Movement should promote listening to, and participation of young people.



Incarnation of the Charism and Worlds of New Humanity



“Living according to the Good News, triggering the gospel revolution in the world is equal to triggering the most powerful social revolution too.” (Chiara Lubich)

“The incarnation means humanity becoming present to God, who has always been present to humanity.” (Maurice Zundel)

“You can design and create, and build the most wonderful place in the world. But it takes people to make the dream a reality.” (Walt Disney)

Presentation

Look for ways of collaborating with groups and associations that promote goals similar to ours. For a real incarnation of the charism, we must aim to bring our specific contribution, a culture and practice of unity. Be open to all, giving the Ideal, and reviving the environmental cells. The Movement could have one single project (e.g. Pathways), adaptable to local situations, which could become its mission and message. Relationships with world institutions should be strengthened.

Rekindle in everyone the “passion” for the Church with initiatives that foster a Church that goes out.

Provide members with formation for active citizenship, reviving the Social School, and environment cells that bear witness. Start projects to live solidarity to heal the wounds of society such as the unemployed and refugees.

Challenges and problems

> How can we engage more in concrete actions, without being afraid of “getting our hands dirty”

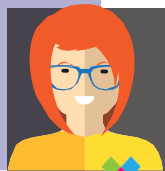
> How can we revive our social works, in view of the wounds of modern society?

The Gen3 tell us:

To help one another so that the projects we propose are carried out, that is, that they are done regularly. Start with our cities (one city is not enough!).

Share Gen 3’s social action programs: Work together with the “Zero Hunger” project, making a concrete commitment to environmental protection.

Strengthen relations with world institutions: UN, UNESCO, FAO (to spread or support existing actions).



Statutes and Regulations



"And the Gospels give a name to this, to the Holy Spirit - yes, Paraclete, because He supports you, but another more beautiful name: the Gift of God. The Spirit is the Gift of God. ... He will help you to progress, to remember, discern and grow..." (Pope Francis)

"If in future they continue to be faithful to the Statutes of the Movement, they will be faithful to Jesus in the midst and then it will be He who leads the Movement ... I am confident of this." (Chiara Lubich)

Presentation

There is a profound sense of the importance of knowing the Statutes, drawing on the thought of the founders, of living them and of putting into practice the adaptation required by new times. There are several important points to be addressed during the revision of the Statutes:

The inclusion of people of other Christian traditions as members.

Greater involvement of young people in the General Council.

The review of the Regulations of the various Branches, adapting them to our times, with fundamental principles, and not too detailed.

The Gen3 tell us:

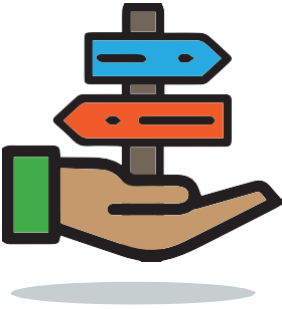
The Movement needs to give more voice to the Gen 3's vision of how the world today is, such as the current situation of young people.

Challenges and problems

- > Restructure the Movement in its Ramifications, eliminating any distinction between the two genders.
- > In the Assemblies not all members are represented with the same weight.
- > The inclusion of people of other Christian traditions as members.



Vocations and Ramifications



"Love is the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being. Take your life in hand and make it a masterpiece." (John Paul II)

"Sooner or later we will realize, seeing with the eyes of our soul, that a golden thread links events and things and forms a magnificent tapestry: God's design for each one of us." (Chiara Lubich)

"A vocation is not found simply by reflecting on and examining the various different paths: it is an answer that you obtain with prayer." (Edith Stein)

Presentation

Make known the different vocations and realities in new and courageous ways. Have focolares that move to different places for periods of time; to have temporary focolares with young people.

Use social media to present all the vocations of the Movement and to launch them to everyone outside the Movement.

WRM (Wide Range Movements) use social media to present all the vocations of the Movement and to launch them to everyone outside the Movement..

The youth world needs flexibility; attention should be paid to the needs of young people; interaction between young people and adults is recommended. Make the focolares homes for young people.

The Gen3 tell us:

Make the presence of the focolarini more visible in the world. Spread the Movement.

Make videos and films so that people can get to know the Movement and its aims, obviously using catchy words.

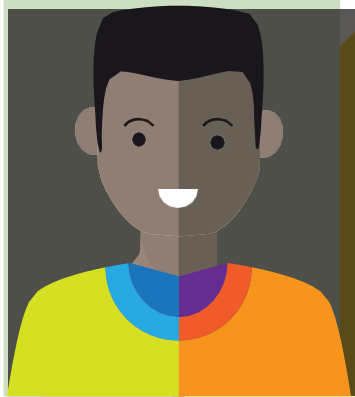
Transmit daily news of the Movement on the global level in order to reach all and promote the Ideal among everyone.

Challenges and problems

>Can we find a way to consider all the young people of the Movement as Gen?

>There is a separation between the Ramifications.

>We are closed in the Branches and there are too many distinctions.



These are my 6 Preferences:

- () Environment and the Future
- () Communion of Goods and the Economy
- () Local Communities
- () Dialogue and o e Dialogues
- () Telling the Story and Communication
- () Witness
- () New Generations
- () The Movement is a Family
- () The General Assembly
- () The Charism
- () The Family
- () Formation and Study
- () Governance
- () Incarnation of the Charism and
Worlds of New Humanity
- () Statutes and Regulations
- () Vocations and Ramifications



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