



Comunionione e Diritto

Movimento dei Focolari

Message of lawyer Maria Voce
President of Focolare Movement

To the participants of the Conference:
"Human dignity, relationships and law: The dialogue continues" (25- 27 February 2011)

Dearest students and young law professionals,

You are meeting for the second time at an international congress at Castel Gandolfo, and you are exchanging ideas on a topic that is very current: human dignity, and the role of law in protecting it.

I am following you from a distance: my commitments have brought me to Israel right in these days, where I will have the opportunity to meet people of different faiths, to whom I would like to give a message of hope, peace and unity: and all of this is not irrelevant to the vision of the dignity of individuals and peoples.

I am certain that the exchange among you will be a source of encouragement and new perspectives and the moments of dialogue and group work will give you the chance to experience on the field how much each one can do, so that every person and every peoples may be respected in all their dignity.

Two years ago – maybe someone will recall - I had said to you: Take courage!

Today I repeat it to you: we need to have courage in the face of these challenges, we need to be strongly committed, to live coherently, to have that vision that is able to grasp those signs today that give hope and show us the path to follow together, in order to build a world where human dignity will truly be understood and respected.

Last month, in Madrid, I met 650 of your peers, and we ended with a challenge: "This evening," I said to them, "you have begun something big. Now keep going, without fear. The world belongs to you. A positive revolution has begun."

The meetings with you young people confirm the certainty in me that you are bearers of a power, and that together you will make it to lay the foundations for a new world.

Mahatma Ghandi used an expression that struck people. He launched this invitation: "*Be that change that you want to see come about in the world.*" If each of you, of us, is ready to transform our ideals into life, to spend our very life, to not hold anything back, together with others, I am certain that we will soon begin to see a world in which the dignity of every person and of every peoples is protected in each moment, in every critical phase, in every difficulty.

On my part, also this time I want to assure you all of the Focolare Movement's support and that of its *Communion and Law* project, formed also by adults who are already involved in the work world as well as in universities.

Some of them will appraise you in the next few days – also together with a group of you – on both the thought that they have elaborated, and of their experiences as to how they personally live it out, also fighting for the respect of each human being. Count on their help and availability, as well as ours, and... don't give up! The road ahead is hard, but it is something extraordinary to be able to build together the world that we believe in. Live an experience of this in these three days, to then be able to share the fruits with many.

With all my best wishes, I greet you one by one.

Maria Voce