

Ecumenical Northern European  
Priests Meeting within the  
Focolare Movement - 20-23  
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## The priest as servant of communion

Stockholm 22.4.2026

Today I learnt so much about the church and their office to be servant of communion. I learnt so much when Judith Povilus of Mary mother of Jesus and of her role for the Church... I want to underline: Bringing the gospel to the people is more than a form of construction or of making and planning. It is in first line living the gospel, doing, suffering, hearing, bringing life formed by the gospel. In every person who lives the gospel Jesus becomes present. So we can learn to do, what is written in Novo millennio ineunte by John-Paul II: *To make the Church the home and the school of communion.*

### 1. You are a single priest

- See the unseen (CHEMNITZ)

Go to everybody

Pray for everybody

Hear the persons who speak of problems

Be open to everybody, for example to homosexual persons

Two homosexuals in my last parish

- Behind in Your mind can be these words of Chiara:

I want to testify to the world,  
that Jesus the Forsaken,  
every emptiness filled,  
every darkness illuminates,

accompanies every loneliness,  
Eliminated every pain  
and repaid every debt.

Source, Chiara Lubich, Alle soll eins sein, Geistliche Schriften, Band 1,  
München 1999, p. 26

## **2. Look to other persons of the parish and join them to be two or three...**

Look to persons with whom you can start a common service of communion

When You preach (Silvia, Hildegard)

When You are serving a baptism, a marriage, a funeral.

- *We must see one another as God sees us:  
not to judge and condemn one another,  
but to be merciful to one another and to help one another.  
One day we will all be united for eternity  
when we have had the courage  
to love one another unconditionally here on earth.*

Chiara Lubich, Alle sollen eins sein, München 1999, p. 123

- *The neighbor was created as a gift for me;  
I was created as a gift for him.  
Everything in the world is ordered to one another by love.  
Of course, one must live love in order  
to discover the golden thread that unites creatures.* p. 123

Be open to them.

Hear to them.

Form a sort of a group who lives with You the gospel.

So that Jesus is in your Mids.

It is HIM who guides You and the group.

## **3. Look for other priests, to form a real living group of the gospel**

Experience. Experience. Experience.

Look to your parishes.

To your preaching.

Help another if there is darkness.

*The priests of the Work of Mary are called to open themselves up to a dialogue with other priests, particularly with those who are lonely or poor, with those who suffer. They wish to establish with each one a constructive relationship, a spiritual communion, and, as much as possible, a communion of goods: they wish to become one heart and one soul. This will be for the good of the entire diocese - Chiara Lubich, 1982, International Congress for Priests and Religious "The Man of Dialogue"*

Look to priests of other churches.

#### **4. Be united with Your bishop.**

*The second dialogue that the priest of the Focolare Movement or Work of Mary is called to hold, to live and to intensify is **the dialogue with his own bishop** who, more than anyone else, has the grace to understand the needs of the local Church of which he is the foundation and shepherd.*

***It is in loving his own bishop sincerely**, it is in making himself completely one with his bishop, it is in offering himself, available and obedient to him as Jesus was to his Father, that the priest will understand how he can better exercise his ministry and, with the bishop, carry the burdens of the diocese.*

***The Work of Mary would like to repeat of her priests the words St. Ignatius of Antioch gave to the Ephesians:** "Your rightly famous presbytery... worthy of God, is harmoniously united to the bishop as the strings to the harp."<sup>16</sup>*

*Jesus crucified and forsaken is also, for our priests, the way to unity with all those who have been given the same responsibility.*

Chiara Lubich, 1982, International Congress for Priests and Religious "The Man of Dialogue"