

- **Sant'Egidio:** Community is the primary focus of this association, founded in 1968 by a student who was called to live the Gospel radically, joyfully, sharing a life of prayer, service, friendship and peace. The spiritual attributes of Sant'Egidio have closely paralleled the first Christian community in the Acts of the Apostles, including a preferential love for the poor and the primacy of prayer. A pronounced sense of God's mercy for the sick and for sinners, Jesus' compassion for the crowds, his invitation to proclaim the Gospel - all this nurtures the life and spirituality of the members. An essential component is the community evening prayer which is open to anyone wishing to attend. Website: [www.santegidio.org](http://www.santegidio.org).
- **Work of Mary (Focolare):** The Work of Mary was given this name because of its link with the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Christ and of all men and women, of whom it wishes to be a reflection on earth. The Marian nature is expressed in its Presidency, which is lay and female. Its specific feature is the pursuit of the ideal of unity which gives it its spirit, its aims, and its structure. It is committed to working for ever greater unity between the faithful of the Catholic Church; to establish communion with other Christians in order to restore full unity; to achieve union in God among all peoples, as a way of enabling them to come to know Christ; and to strengthen universal brotherhood throughout the whole world. Website: [www.focolare.org](http://www.focolare.org).



*"The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all."*

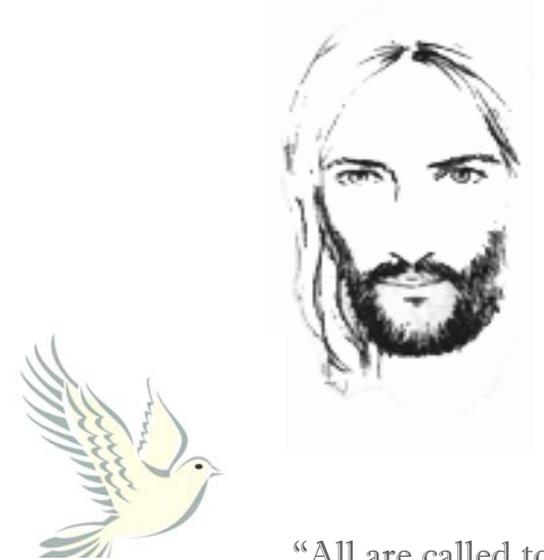
*Acts 4:32-22*



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The  
 New Evangelization  
 and  
 Ecclesial Movements

## The New Evangelization and Ecclesial Movements



"All are called to holiness, and holy people alone can renew humanity."

Pope John Paul II

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*“When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were...And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.” (Acts 2:1-2,4)*

The power and presence of the Holy Spirit is experienced today just as 2000 years ago as the Church was born to continue the mission of Christ in the world. Our own time has seen evidence of this in the many lay/ecclesial associations or basic Christian communities that exist today. Both Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI, recognizing the work of the Holy Spirit in these associations and communities, have convened representatives of over 100 such groups at Pentecost celebrations during their pontificates.

*“Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:46-47)*

There is the recognition today that lay/ecclesial associations and communities assist in the total formation of the individual believer and strengthen the parish and universal Church as well, especially in the mission of evangelization. This pamphlet is offered as a way to

become familiar with such associations and communities. General contact information is offered at the end of each description. Local contact, where possible, may be obtained by contacting the Secretariat for the New Evangelization. Similar pamphlets will be prepared periodically so as to include more associations and communities.

- **Charismatic Renewal:** The Charismatic Renewal Apostolate seeks to develop witnesses for New Evangelization by providing opportunities for men and women to meet Jesus intimately in prayer and to have their lives transformed by the Love of the Most Holy Spirit who dwells always in them. Thus, Charismatic Renewal brings together a variety of prayerful people who all create avenues of love to the Love of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. To this end this office seeks to coordinate, educate and inform those who pray through various avenues about opportunities for prayer in the diocese. Website: [drvc.org](http://drvc.org) (Click on Office of New Evangelization and then Renewal Services.)
- **Couples for Christ:** CFC is made up of families who have taken up Christ's exhortation to be leaven and light in the world, and to spread the Good News of the liberation of humanity. Membership for couples entails acceptance of the Christian Life Program, and renewing their faithfulness to God and to one another every day. Their pastoral programs are aimed at forming the family into a “domestic church” and attending to the needs of the poor and marginalized.  
Website: [www.cfcglobal.org.ph](http://www.cfcglobal.org.ph)
- **Fraternity of Communion and Liberation:** The essence of the CL charism is the proclamation that God became Man, and, in the person of Jesus Christ, is visible today in the unity of a people led by the Pope; and that within the life of the Church, humanity is truly made more human. The group encourages people to see their life as a vocation and focuses on

retreats, spiritual exercises and the celebration of the sacraments. Through these they promote *cultural* work to be a responsible presence in society, *charity* work, and *mission* in the sense of the catholicity of the Church. Website: [www.comunioneliberazione.org](http://www.comunioneliberazione.org).

- **Legion of Mary:** Rooted in Marian spirituality and commitment to the Holy Spirit, the Legion of Mary is devoted to the sanctification of its members through direct apostolate, home visits to the sick and needy, teaching catechism, literary courses for immigrants, supporting drug dependents and prostitutes, etc. The members are encouraged to consecrate themselves to Mary and recite each day the “Catena Legionis”, the prayer to Our Lady which is their bond of union. Website: [www.legion-of-mary.ie](http://www.legion-of-mary.ie).
- **Opus Dei:** Founded by St. Josemaria Escriva, its mission is to help people turn their work and daily activities into occasions for growing closer to God, for serving others, and for improving society. Opus Dei complements the work of local churches by offering classes, talks, retreats and pastoral care that help people develop their personal spiritual life and apostolate. Website: [www.opusdei.us](http://www.opusdei.us).
- **Neocatechumenal Way:** A post-baptismal catechumenate dedicated to adult faith formation. “The Way” begins in the parish with a cycle of catechesis, usually spread out in a period of two months, which states in simple terms the Good News of the Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. At the end of this period the neo-catechumenal community is formed. It is based on a tri-pod of “Word of God, Liturgy and Community”, which seeks to lead people to fraternal communion and a mature faith. Website: [www.camminoneocatecumenale.it/en/index.asp](http://www.camminoneocatecumenale.it/en/index.asp)