

Rocca di Papa (Italy), October 24, 2024

**Message from Margaret Karram, president of the Focolare Movement  
for the launch of the project "TogetherWEconnect"**

Dear civil and religious leaders,  
Dear friends of partner organizations,  
Dear teachers, pupils and friends who have gathered today for this small, and yet big,  
sign of hope, I greet you with all my heart!

I am especially happy about the launching of the "TogetherWEconnect" Project.

I greet with gratitude the civil and religious leaders present and all the partner organizations that, together with the Focolare Movement, have created this pathway for forming young leaders, offering them training in active citizenship, as well as in a culture of care, inclusion, sharing and cooperation.

This project is particularly close to my heart because I have always been convinced that peace - the supreme good that this earth and all humanity needs most - is born first of all in the heart of each person. However, this is not enough: it is necessary to sustain it, train it, accompany it throughout life.

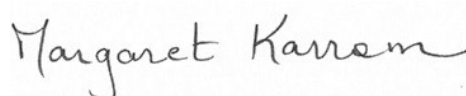
This is why I thank in a very special way the schools that have welcomed this project and will be the first to experiment with it. Teachers and pupils will be the pioneers on this path that will offer spaces to learn about and experience dialogue and peace, precisely at this time when they are so severely threatened.

Certainly this is a small seed sown in the vast soil of humanity, which has a great thirst to learn again how to relate to others, how to trust, how to...reconnect. But it is a very courageous seed, because now more than ever we need to travel a road that requires what Pope Francis recently called "the courage of dialogue."

Let's accept his invitation to be "people who dialogue, people who are active in building peace, not as intermediaries, but as authentic mediators."

What I wish for all of us, and especially for each one of you involved in this project, is **to be a person who builds bridges, opens new paths, removes walls and opens people up to hope!**

I am united with you in begging for peace!



**Margaret Karram**  
President of the Focolare Movement