



POPE JOHN PAUL II
▪ CULTURAL CENTER ▪



**“Essential Writings”
Of Focolare Founder, Chiara Lubich
Book-Launching
John Paul II Cultural Center
Tuesday, April 3, 7-9 pm**

Theologians and leaders from many Churches and from the major world religions, including the last four popes, have acknowledged as unique in Christian history the spiritual gifts poured forth through Chiara Lubich. Her “spirituality of unity” has the ultimate goal of contributing to the unity for which Jesus prayed to his Father: “May they all be one” (Jn 17:21). This volume gathers her essential writings and for the first time presents them in a systematic fashion. It is a “summa” of the charism of unity, which will lead reader to ponder, understand and experience a spirituality suited to the era in which we live.

Chiara Lubich was born and lives in Italy. An internationally known religious leader and writer, she is a past recipient of the Templeton Prize for the Progress in Religion and the UNESCO Peace Prize and received honorary doctoral degrees from Catholic University in Washington and Sacred Heart University in Connecticut. A pioneer in interreligious dialogue and intercultural understanding, Lubich is the founder of the Focolare Movement, which has grown since its inception in Italy in 1943 to include 2.2 million participants in 182 countries. Encouraged by Pope John Paul II, the Focolare includes among its members not only Catholics but also evangelical Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims and those without religious affiliation.

Essential Writings, published originally in Italian, has already been translated into Spanish, French, Portuguese and Polish. *Essential Writings* features her most recent ideas on contemporary politics, economics, the media, art, ecumenism, interreligious dialogue and culture. The book includes a complete bibliography of Lubich’s extensive writings, a chronology of her life and a foreword by Cardinal William Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore and a member of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

A book launching will be held on Tuesday, April 3, from 7-9 pm at John Paul II Cultural Center, 3900 Harewood Road, NE, Washington, DC 20017. Speakers include Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States; Michel Vandeleene, book editor; Professors David Schindler of the John Paul II Institute and Peter Casarella of the Catholic University of America. **The event is free and open to the public.**

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Website: focolare.org