



**FOCOLARE MEDIA**

*Enkindling the Spirit of Unity*

# CASE FOR SUPPORT



**“In unison with the Magisterium of the Church,  
the members of the Focolare Movement  
have become apostles of dialogue.”**

— Saint Pope John Paul II



Focolare Media is a gospel-centered ministry that seeks to **renew the world by enkindling the Spirit of Unity** through dialogue, building fulfilling relationships, and advocacy for the poor and the vulnerable.

Investment in our mission will enable us to **enhance our pastoral resources, digital content, community building and outreach** —to fulfill the vision of Focolare’s founder Chiara Lubich of contributing to the reality of Jesus’ final prayer, “that they all may be one.” (Jn 17:21)





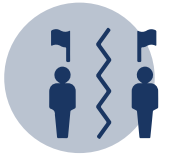
## Our Mission, Vision and History

Focolare Media is a ministry of the Focolare Movement in the USA and Canada. Our mission is to provide content that empowers people to grow spiritually, improve their relationships, engage in dialogue, and foster collaboration within the Church and throughout society.

Focolare Media is a 501(c)(3) non-profit media organization formed in January 2022 through the merger of the New City Press publishing house and Living City magazine. Since 1964, the two companies have delivered publications (books and a magazine), plus digital products with a mutual commitment to fostering unity.

**Focolare** (which means **“hearth” in Italian**) is the name given to an international ecclesial movement founded in Italy by Chiara Lubich in 1943 and now present in 182 nations. The Focolare Movement, approved by the Roman Catholic Church, is an international leader in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue.

# The Societal Issues We Seek to Address



## Polarization

According to a 2022 Pew Research Center survey, the percentage of Americans who view the people in the opposing political party in a negative light has increased in recent years. Professor Charles Camosy explains that “**two of every three Americans constitute an exhausted majority who reject right/left polarization** and are open to alternative viewpoints” (*Resisting Throwaway Culture*).



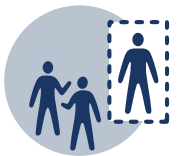
## Religious Fragmentation

The American religious landscape has become more fragmented, with a rise in non-denominational churches and independent congregations. The 2020 US Religion Census estimates that there are approximately 350,000 religious congregations in the United States. There is an urgent need for religious groups to learn how to dialogue and encounter each other in a positive way.



## Decline in Religious Affiliation and Participation

According to the General Social Survey, the percentage of Americans who identify as having no religious affiliation, has been steadily increasing. A 2022 Pew Research Center demonstrates that if recent trends continue, Christians could make up a minority of Americans by 2070. This disaffiliation trend indicates an unhealthy diversification of beliefs that could exacerbate potential divisions within the Christian community.



## Isolation

According to a study by Harvard University, 36% of all Americans—including 61% of young adults and 51% of mothers with young children—feel “serious loneliness.” Not surprisingly, loneliness appears to have increased substantially since the outbreak of the global pandemic.

# Our Response to the “Cry” of Our Society



## Dialogue

Focolare Media is dedicated to dialogue in various fields: within the Catholic Church, among the different Churches, among faith traditions, with people not affiliated with any religion, and with the contemporary culture.



## Unity in Diversity

Focolare Media seeks to give an opportunity for different viewpoints to be presented in a respectful manner, seeking common ground.



## Advocate for the Poor and the Vulnerable

Focolare Media features content that points out how Jesus’ prayer “that all may be one” includes everyone. Thus, we call attention to instances of injustice, discrimination, exclusion and to the ecological crisis of our planet.



## Focus on Relationships

Focolare Media offers material that shows how to love God and our neighbors ever more and that focuses on building fulfilling relationships, rooted in a spirituality of communion.



## Gospel-centered

Focolare Media publishes content that is rooted in the values that Jesus proclaims in the Gospel or that derive from them. There is a charismatic element to our work—leading to deep spirituality. We believe that unity can be achieved through embracing with courage and compassion moments of suffering and disunity, following the example of Jesus on the cross.



## Our Constituencies— Those We Serve

We provide spiritual support and formation to about 3,000 Focolare members in North America. Beyond the Focolare Movement, we reach people interested in spirituality and who seek help in living out the Gospel. We also serve people looking for unity and reconciliation in the church and society. Focolare Media desires to be the primary resource for that “exhausted majority” cited by Professor Charles Camosy.

# Our Work— Our Products

living  
City

NCP  
NEW CITY PRESS

FOCOLARE  
WEBINARS

FOCOLARE  
PODCASTS

FOCOLARE  
VIDEOS

FOCOLARE  
WORD OF LIFE

 **Cube  
of Love**

FOCOLARE  
NEWSLETTERS

**Living City magazine:** a bimonthly award-winning magazine on practical spirituality. Every issue includes profiles, interviews, and personal essays with real-life stories seeking reconciliation and unity in their day-to-day lives. We provide insights on prison ministry, the plight of indigenous peoples, caring for the environment and other critical topics.

**New City Press** books (about 13 titles every year), including:

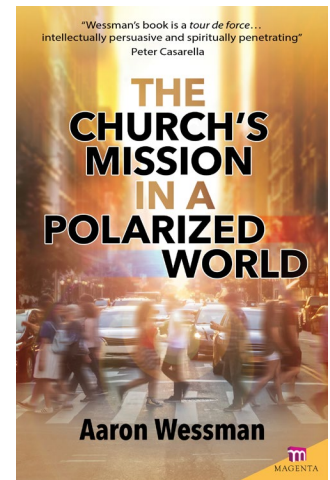
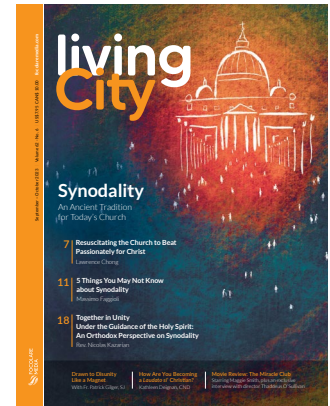
- The Works of Saint Augustine series: We are proud to offer the best modern translations available of Saint Augustine. These writings also draw Christians of every denomination together to the foundation of the Christian faith in a time when the Church was not as divided.
- Magenta Series: Magenta brings together authors who treat important topics from the standpoint of Christian conviction without being trapped in a polarized mindset.
- Christian living: Books on how to live out the message of Christ in today's world.
- Ecumenical and interfaith: Practical ways to build strong communities of faith while respecting beliefs and diversity.

**Webinars, Podcasts, Videos:** with a focus on spiritual reflections and storytelling.

**Word of Life** reflections: The Focolare Word of Life is a phrase chosen each month and shared around the world that all are invited to live by. The accompanying commentary is translated into some 90 different languages and dialects —reaching millions worldwide through print, radio, TV and other media. There are special versions for children and teens as well.

**Cube of Love:** an educational tool that helps children and families to put the “Art of Loving” into practice. We have a version of the Cube for non believers and in Spanish.

**Newsletters:** nurture thousands of people interested in spirituality and living the Gospel, offering resources to those seeking hope for our fractured world.





# Our Impact

- Reaching families of different backgrounds, parishes, bishops, religious leaders and prisons through bimonthly distribution of Living City magazine (more than 2000 copies bimonthly).
- Reaching **10,000 people every week with real life experiences and spiritual reflections** that help people be more connected with God and with one another. We help them build meaningful relationships. Here are two testimonies from people after reading our newsletters:

**Thank you for all you have done for people like myself who are alone, isolated and are experiencing a lessening of access to social contact. Your efforts have been a lifeline in more ways than I can say... Please know that there are rippling effects, sometimes turning into life changing waves for many people too invisible for most folks to see.**

**I love these messages. God is doing something beautiful through this!**

- **Shaping the cultural conversation around topics of unity and reconciliation:** The New City Press book *Resisting Throwaway Culture* by Charles Camosy was awarded Book of the Year by the Association of Catholic Publishers in 2020. Our magazine Living City was awarded with the 2nd Place National in General Interest Magazines by the Catholic Media Association in 2022.
- **Evangelizing the roots of our Christian faith** By publishing the only modern and complete translation of “The Works of Saint Augustine,” we give every English-speaking Christian the possibility to discover in an accessible way the roots of the Christian faith across different denominations.







## Our Dedicated Team

Focolare Media has six full-time and eleven part-time staff members. Focolare Media is blessed with more than 10 volunteers across our nation and overseas, plus previous unpaid internships.

Our Board of Directors is comprised of 12 people from the fields of business, pastoral care, communications, and publishing. The board's committee structure includes: Governance (Executive), Finance, Marketing, Strategic Development & Fundraising, and Pastoral Resources. Our board has established a policy of 100% financial participation from board members. The board has also made a substantial commitment to building a robust development program to sustain our operations — beyond revenues from publications.

# Our Collaborative Partners



GEORGETOWN  
UNIVERSITY



VILLANOVA  
UNIVERSITY  
IGNITE CHANGE. GO NOVA.®



*John 17*  
ALL BE ONE



THE *Initiative*  
LOVE GREATER THAN DIVISION



Braver Angels



# Our Vision for the Future— Opportunities for Philanthropic Investment

Focolare Media desires to bring to a much broader audience its message of unity and reconciliation that is needed today more than ever. **Our goal is to invest 700,000 dollars by 2026** in order to expand our offerings for transformational impact:



## Pastoral Resources

An investment in Pastoral Resources will help us create new, specific programs and products that, along with the Cube of Love and Word of Life, foster community and discipleship in families, small groups, and parishes and offer them to, and through, at least 100 parishes in North America.



## Digital Content

An investment in digital content will enable us to expand our growing multimedia portfolio of videos, podcasts, webinars, and e-courses, to serve at least 100,000 individuals.



## Community Building

An investment in community building will allow us to organize and finance in-person encounters with readers, authors, and experts in order to share real-life stories, discuss hot topics, and unleash the healing power of community. We know we can involve at least 600 people every year in this way.



## Scaling Our Outreach

An investment in marketing and outreach will help us develop the necessary resources to bring our message of unity from the current 10,000 monthly contacts to over 100,000 each month.





“That all may be one. We were born for these words, for unity, to contribute toward its fulfillment in the world.”

—Chiara Lubich  
Founder of the Focolare Movement