



Newsletter, September 23, 2023

*Youth Center for North America
Mariapolis Luminosa*

We are having a fantastic time creating and planning opportunities for young people to come together and build community. **Friends are made, lessons are learned and growth takes place.**

Care for creation

In this [Season of Creation](#) (Sept. 1 to Oct. 4), we are ever present in caring for our common home. YCNA wants to give an active response to the ecological crisis, so urgently illustrated in Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*. We are also inspired by the words of Focolare founder Chiara Lubich: "Let's do what plants do. They absorb from the earth only the water, nutrients and other things they need, and not more. So, each of us must have what we need and everything else be given away and shared with others."

To act now, when it is "urgent and necessary" (LS 57), YCNA has created [this plan](#) to offer concrete actions, assistance and support so that we may continue to care for our home!

Youth Retreat, Montreal, Canada.

Young adults from Canada and the US will gather in Montreal from October 6 to 9. It'll be an amazing chance to come together to build, laugh, share and make an experience of community. Our program welcomes walks, games, reflections, prayer and a visit to downtown Montreal. The reflections will focus on concrete ways to handle suffering and some themes in Pope Francis' book *The Courage to be Happy*. We're excited to go and welcome the participants with open arms.

Lessons From Our Profession

In this new series, young adults tell us what they are learning in their profession. They share their discoveries about the world and those they serve, as well as the lessons they learn.

What is your profession? What do you do? Who do you serve?

Paolo - from Italy - working in Paris as a physical therapist. He sees patients out of a studio in the mornings and works with elderly patients in the afternoons at the EHPAD Résidence Les Pensées nursing home. He is also completing his post graduate studies in osteopathy.

[Read more...](#)

Genfest 2024

Genfest is a powerful, unique experience of community, social action, celebration, stories, and service. It gathers young adults from all around the world, of different ethnic

groups, cultures, and religions to experience servant leadership and care for the planet, the people around us and those that suffer. Ages 18 to 35.

[Sign up](#) to find out more.

Next session: Nov. 4, 5pm ET.

Io Capitano

From the Venice Film Festival awards, comes a beautiful film '[Io Capitano](#)' (The Captain) by Matteo Garrone: an account of the dramatic journey of two young adolescents from Senegal to Italy, crossing the desert and sea and above all overcoming human violence, a journey into suffering and injustice, but which the power of human love is capable of overcoming.

Moving and painful, the film – released in Italian cinemas on September 7th – portrays a living hell but also its opposite: love.

Chiara Luce Badano

Blessed Chiara Luce Badano was born in the small town of Sassello, in Italy, on October 29th, 1971. Chiara was a lively girl who loved life, sports and had many friends. When she was little more than nine years old, she met the Focolare Movement. This encounter was the turning point in her life. After her first meeting with other kids of the Focolare, she wrote to the Focolare foundress: *We've begun our adventure: doing God's will in the present moment. With the Gospel in hand, we will do great things!*

Join us on her feast day for a [prayerful reflection](#) on her life. Sunday, **October 29**, 4:30pm ET via zoom. All are welcome.

Video clips

Recap - [Leadership Workshop](#), June 2023.

Flashback - [United World Week](#).

Donate

Donate today to help us provide scholarships for young adults. **Your donation** goes to help young people gain spiritual and human development, creating a lifestyle based on the gospel message and rooted in the Focolare spirituality.

[Donate here](#)