



Welcome to our third newsletter this year!

The summer was marked by the first Luminosa Youth School since the beginning of the pandemic. Nine young adults spent a period of time at Mariapolis Luminosa this summer. With this newsletter we would like to share a bit about their experience here.

Also in other parts of the zone the young people were able to meet in person again and have shared their experience. You will also find a list of upcoming events for the year 2022/2023.

As always, we count on you to reach out and invite the young people you know.

Luminosa Youth School

The Luminosa Youth School was back in full force this past summer after the 2 year



shutdown. As with many companies and programs, we too had time to regroup, refocus and improve what we offer. While the restart can be slow, we tried to remain flexible to help the participants have the best program possible. The visa application process remained a challenge but 9 young adults were able to attend from the US and countries not requiring a visa. Through lessons, educational trips, volunteer work sessions and community life, the program offered an experience of growth and development.

Click [HERE](#) to read about the experience of Miriana Dante, one of the participants from Italy.

Los Angeles: On Labor Day Weekend, the youth of Central California, LA, and Orange County gathered in LA to spend much needed time with each other after a couple of years of lockdown. During the day, we read meditations, profoundly updated each other on how the past year has been, cooked meals for each other, and relaxed. On one night, we went to the beach, and on another night, we cooked pizza for guests at the Men's Focolare house. Although we were managing through a heat wave that weekend, we had a great time and truly enjoyed each other's company.

Toronto: The Gen and young adults of Quebec and Toronto met during the Canadian Thanksgiving weekend. It was a joy to meet again in person despite the distances. The weekend was filled with various activities: community service for people in need; sightseeing in downtown Toronto; visit at the Cathedral; watching the movie about Chiara Lubich and lots of sharing, dancing and laughter.

Atlanta: Almost every Friday night, the Atlanta focolare houses host a "young adult pizza night." After dinner, sometimes there's a program, like watching the movie on

Chiara Lubich together or a documentary on ecology, but mostly it's an informal opportunity for the young adults to talk. We invite a variety of people—gen, young adults new to the Focolare, and those who don't know anything about it. Not everyone knows each other, but they've found a "safe space" (as some have called it) in the focolare, where they can have time for deep conversation and connection. One young adult who just met the Focolare even wanted to celebrate her birthday in the focolare one Friday and invited all of her friends to come. We feel this is a fruit of the love she's felt and that she wants others to experience.



Young Adult Retreat in Canada:

Young adults, ages 17 to 30 are invited to attend the Gen Congress in Canada to meet the "Gen" and learn more about the Focolare spirituality.

WHEN: December 27, 2022 @ 8:00 pm – January 1, 2023 @ 12:00 pm

WHERE: Camp Alexandra Retreat Center, 2916 McBride Avenue, South Surrey, BC

Service Week in California:

The YCNA Service Week in Central California offers young adults the opportunity to learn to give their head, heart and hands to God. The program includes learning about the people of the local area, working in direct service to help them, and building community with one another putting the golden rule into practice.

Save the Date:

- Leadership Workshop for young adults: June 4-10, 2023 at Mariapolis Luminosa, Hyde Park, NY.
- NA Gen Congress: June 15-18, 2023 at Christian Renewal Center, Dickinson, Texas 77539 (near Houston) <https://www.retreatcentercrc.org>