

(English translation)

Rimini (Italy), 2 May 1998

**21st National Convention of the Charismatic Renewal Movement
Chiara's video conference from Brazil**

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We would like to ask you, Chiara, what you think the future holds for the community of believers and what the Spirit is suggesting to the Church as she renews herself and moves towards the year 2000?

Chiara Lubich: We don't know what will happen in the year 2000, in the third millennium, but I do think that the Marian Profile will emerge evermore clearly in the Church. The Holy Father once spoke to me about this, some time ago. He said: "There is not only the Petrine Profile in the Church, which has to do with the hierarchy - the Pope and Bishops - for which there are also charisms. But there is also the Marian Profile, that is, a certain presence of Mary which is not limited only to the early days of Christianity. It has continued throughout the history of Christianity, and it is present now too." He also told me that all that has to do with charisms, love, and holiness, has to do with this Marian Principle. And he said that it especially concerns the laity. Indeed, he saw an aspect of this Marian Profile emerging in the Church through the Movements, through our Movements.

I was very happy to hear this, and afterwards, I tried to know more about it. In fact, I learned that the scholar of this Marian Principle, Urs von Balthasar, really saw the Marian Profile of the Church today in our Movements, and he listed them, without neglecting all the sons and daughters of other charisms in the Church, which might have come to life in other times.

Both the Pope and von Balthasar see that the Marian Profile is clearly emerging also through our Movements.

If this is true, then the Church of the future, of the third millennium, will be stupendous, very beautiful, because the members of the Mystical Body will move more quickly towards holiness. It will be a Church-communion because of love, a Church in dialogue with all the different realities of the world; and it will be a charismatic Church, something that everyone likes because it means vitality, life. And finally, it will be a Marian Church.