

SUPERCONGRESS 2002

**COLISEUM – LIVE TRANSMISSION
SUNDAY, 26 MAGGIO 2002**

Song: “Rhythm of the World (Ireland)

WELCOME

David: Ciao to everyone! Welcome to the Coliseum!

Kate: (in English)

Serena: We want to live this day together with the same enthusiasm we had yesterday so as to express the united world we have already experienced among us.

Albert: First of all, we want to thank and invite here on the stage Walter Veltroni, the mayor of Rome, who welcomes us today in this splendid city.

GREETINGS FROM WALTER VELTRONI, MAYOR OF ROME

**MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER TO THE SUPERCONGRESS
READ BY CARDINAL ARINZE**

Serena: Certainly, also the Holy Father would have liked to be here with us today, but as you know he is in Bulgaria. However, he sent a message to us. It's addressed to us boys and girls! His Eminence Cardinal Arinze is going to read it to us now.

Cardinal Francis Arinze:

First of all I wanted to greet you all, boys and girls of various religions who have arrived from many countries of the world. I also greet all the religious leaders present here, who accompanied you in order to share this moment with you. This is what the Holy Father, John Paul II writes to you:

**MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER JOHN PAUL II
TO THE YOUNG PARTICIPANTS IN THE SUPERCONGRESS 2002**

My dear boys and girls!

1. I greet you with joy and affection, on the occasion of your “Supercongress”, which every five years gathers thousands of boys and girls from many countries of the world around a great ideal. The ideal of unity. In fact, you call yourselves the “Young for Unity”.

I wish to greet each one personally and I would like this message of mine to reach the minds and hearts of each one of you. I thank Cardinal Francis Arinze, who will read this message, adding to it his own precious testimony as a Pastor of the Church who has collaborated with me for years in the dialogue with non-Christian religions. I address a cordial greeting to our very dear Chiara Lubich, foundress and president of the Focolare Movement, as well as to the priests and animators who have accompanied you.

Dear young friends, you greatly wished to involve the Pope in this event which is very important to you. As you know, however, during your Congress, I will be far from Rome: I will be on a pastoral visit in Azerbaijan and in Bulgaria. This prevents me from meeting with you, but not from being close to you spiritually! And I am certain that you too, with your prayers and affection, will accompany me and support my apostolic trip.

2. You, “Young for Unity”, understand very well why I leave the Apostolic See in order to visit distant churches and nations. It is part of my service as the successor of Peter the Apostle, appointed by Christ to safeguard and promote the unity of the entire people of God. All bishops are at the service of unity, but the bishop of Rome is so in a special way and with a stronger responsibility. Likewise, all Christian boys and girls are “for unity”, but you, who adhere to the Focolare Movement, are so in a special way!

The same Spirit moves us, my dear friends, the same Spirit unites us. It is the Holy Spirit of God who, in a mysterious way, urges the Church towards an ever deeper communion with God. He does so not as an Absolute, which subjects and dominates everything, but as Love, which gives, vivifies and sanctifies everything.

3. Who gives us this wonderful “theology”, that is, this doctrine on God? It comes to us from Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God made man and born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus is the revealer of the Father, the image of the invisible mystery, the “face” of God in a man like us, the faithful “witness” of his love. This is why he came on earth, why he dedicated himself to preaching the kingdom of heaven and inaugurated it with signs and miracles, curing those who were imprisoned by evil (see Acts 10:38). This is why he willingly gave himself up to death leaving us, in the paschal Supper, the testament of his

sacrifice. This is why the Father raised him from the dead and brought him at his side, constituting him Lord of the world and of history. In the name of Jesus, salvation is offered and announced to every person, of every language, people and nation.

Yes, Jesus is the Savior of the whole world. He is the Prince of peace. Indeed, as the Apostle Paul says: "He is our peace" (Eph 2:14), because he has knocked down the wall of hostility which separates people and nations. Jesus is our hope, the hope for all humanity which, in every generation, is called to build peace in justice, truth and freedom.

4. Dear boys and girls, Christ calls you to be announcers and witnesses of this splendid truth. He calls you to be apostles of his peace. Build peace in every situation you find yourself in every day: in the family, at school, with your friends, in sports and in your free time.... Always be ready to listen, to dialogue, to understand. Do all you can to join courage and meekness, humility and constancy in doing good. Learn from the divine Teacher that we cannot stand up for truth with violence, but with the strength of truth itself. Learn from the school of the Gospel to keep justice and forgiveness united, because true peace is the fruit of both of these. Animated by the Spirit of Jesus, love those who do not love you and do good to those who do not do good to you, so that the kingdom of God will grow in the world, which is "justice, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Rm 14:17). In this way, dearest friends, you will truly be builders of unity and peace.

5. Dear boys and dear girls, be apostles of peace! I would like to repeat to you what I said at Assisi on the 24th of January, on the occasion of the Day of Prayer for Peace: "Young people of the third millennium, young Christians, young people of all religions, I ask you to be, like Francis of Assisi, courageous and "meek guardians" of true peace, founded on justice and forgiveness, on truth and on mercy! Advance towards the future holding high the torch of peace. The world needs its light!" (Discourse in Assisi, n. 7: *L'Osservatore Romano*, 25 January 2002, p. 7). This is what the Pope wants because this is what Jesus wants.

May the Virgin Mary help you. She loves every disciple of Jesus as her own son and daughter. Love her, dear boys and girls, as your mother, and always allow her to guide you along your journey of life. I willingly accompany you with great affection and I heartily send you a special blessing.

From the Vatican, 18 May 2002

John Paul II

BEGINNING DANCE

SONG: "You have one life to live"

David: Ciao to everyone!"

Kate: (In English)

Serena: Special greetings to those who have linked up with us in this moment via RAI-THREE! We know that many other countries of the world are watching this live transmission.

David: Here we are, from 90 countries. We are more than 12,000 young people from different cultures and beliefs. And we represent very many other young people in the world who want to live for peace.

Serena: We agreed to meet today, here at the Coliseum, in order to witness to our common commitment to build a more united world.

Jeremy: From this place, a symbol of proud choices in defense of human rights, we want to say, all together, our 'YES' to peace.

Rap: "Sorgente" (Source)

WITNESS OF JOYCE MURRAY (Maryland – USA)

David: We all witnessed the tragedy of September 11. And perhaps, as we watched the images on television, hardly able to believe our eyes, we had the impression that, together with the towers, many certainties were also collapsing. We experienced feelings of fear, of uncertainty for the future.

We have Joyce with us here, who arrived from the United States. We would like to ask you: How have you reacted in New York?

Joyce (in English)

That day changed our country forever. As soon as the city recovered from the huge initial shock, we realized how the suffering had generated an incredible sense of solidarity, and really united the whole country. The walls of indifference that you usually experience in the city melted as everyone reached out, ready to do anything to help the others. It was so touching to see how people packed into their churches, turning to God in spontaneous prayer, everywhere – from the steps of the capitol to the streets and parks.

But there was also anger and resentment. At school, a few of my friends started to be disrespectful to the students from the Middle East. It really hurt to see this kind of discrimination. We felt that we had to be the first to try to go beyond the suffering in order to love everyone – we were convinced that this would be the only way to find the path to peace. Together with others we also started to collect money for the victims and for the Afghan people.

We also felt it was important to get together with our Muslim friends who are working with us to build a united world. While we were meeting together in their mosque, we heard the radio announce that the attack on Afghanistan had begun. But at that moment the war felt so far away – so much stronger was the reality that we could be together as one family. All of us, Christians and Muslims, felt part of the same goal: to work together for universal brotherhood.

WITNESS OF E. WAJIHA (Pakistan)

Serena: From Pakistan, we have _____, Christian, and Wajiha, Muslim. We imagine that you too lived moments of tension.

A boy (in Urdu):

Yes, Pakistan had suddenly entered the world scenario and everyone was looking to see what would happen. Then the bombings in Afghanistan began. Faced with suspension and fear we felt that everything was crumbling. God alone remains.

Many Christians we knew stocked up their food supplies and locked themselves in their houses. We felt serene and trustful because God knows how to draw good even from evil.

We tried to communicate this certainty to the people around us, and many of them found peace again.

Wajiha (in Urdu):

It seems absurd, but precisely in this situation of hatred and diffidence, I felt more united to God and to my Christian friends, even though I am Muslim. Together, we asked Almighty God for the miracle of peace.

We discovered that we were all united, like rings of a chain that can no longer be broken. In Dalwal, a village of Punjab in Pakistan, there is a school where students and teachers, Christians and Muslims, live together in peace. It is not easy to forgive someone who has offended you, not to expect anything in return, to be the first to love, but this is exactly what we learn, together with mathematics, in Dalwal.

In this way, many children can grow up in an atmosphere of openness, of dialogue and mutual respect. These are the foundations of true peace.

WITNESS OF SAMUEL CHABA (Nigeria)

David: Samuel arrived from Nigeria, where there are ethnic conflicts. You were faced with a difficult choice, weren't you?

Samuel (in English):

In my country, for more than 100 years, the two hundred ethnic minorities have lived in peace and in harmony.

During the same period in which the Twin Towers crumbled in New York, also in Nigeria civil war broke out caused by the contrasts between the ethnic groups, between Christians and Muslims, with looting and massacres on both sides.

The government tried to restore order but it wasn't successful and both the Christians and the Muslims formed surveillance groups. I was in one of these groups too and I fought on the part of the Christians.

One night, while making our rounds, we ran into a group of Muslims. We had surrounded our enemies. The majority of the Christians suggested that we kill them. But I didn't want to do it: the Gospel says that we must love everyone, whether they are Christians, Muslims or Buddhists. And that we must love our enemies too.

I called our group leader and proposed to him and to the others to spare their lives, not because they hadn't done us harm, but because those of the other ethnic group are children of God, like us. These words struck everyone and the lives of those Muslims boys were spared.

I was happy because, even though they were enemies, the will of God for his children is that we love one another as brothers and sisters.

Kate: In the heart of the Amazon forest two tribes, previously enemies, decide to put down their weapons and to forget their reciprocal hatred.
From Brazil (name of dance).

INDIAN AMAZON DANCE (Recife)

WITNESS OF HIND (Jerusalem)

Aurelio: Hind is here from Jerusalem and he brings us the greetings of the “Young for Unity” of his country which, given the difficult situation, were not able to come. Is it difficult to believe in peace?

Hind (Arabic):

The discovery that God is Love and that he loves us all in the same way changed me. I understood that there is no difference between Christians, Muslims and Jews and that I have to love everyone, without discrimination. The first step was that of meeting with a Jewish girl who also wants to live the ideal of a united world. It was the first time in my life that I was speaking to a Jewish person. And it was very important: each one of us said what we thought about the situation, but the beautiful thing, is that we realized that both of us want to build peace. I truly discovered that it is possible to build relationships among us.

To go to school every day I have to wait in a long line at the Israeli road block. This angers me, but I try to love everyone. One day, when my turn came, some soldiers sent me back to the end of the line. When my turn came up again, I handed my document to the soldier with a smile. He, surprised, asked me why. I said that I believed in God and that He gives me joy. When he asked me about the attack in the United States, I explained that God is not the one who does bad things, but human beings. He replied: “I’ve never met anyone so happy in this situation!”

When the situation in our country deteriorated, we launched the “time-out”: a moment of silence and prayer for peace which the “Young for Unity” do every day around the world. In Jerusalem there are 600 of us now who do it in various schools.

If each one of us is a living stone in the construction of a united world, we will succeed in making our globe a house where everyone can live in peace.

Serena: Ciao Sveta, you've come here from Chernobyl where there was a great explosion years ago in a nuclear power plant which provoked an ecological disaster with grave consequences to the people. In spite of this, do you believe in peace?

Sveta (in Russian):

The consequences of that accident were terrible: thousands of hectares of land were contaminated and they can't be used even today. 450 towns and cities have disappeared. Thousands of people developed cancer and babies were born with leukemia. This is the fault of human beings who, in the frenetic rush towards a better life, forget about faith in God, about honesty and love towards others.

I also suffer the consequences of that incident on my own body. At times, I've felt disappointed and discouraged, but God has stayed close to me, helping me to rediscover confidence in myself and in others. Thanks to the love I received, I've regained the strength to be happy again.

I will never forget today: now I am no longer alone. I have many friends who, like me, want to live for peace by bringing love into the world again, love among all.

WITNESS OF GEORGE (Dogodogo Center – Tanzania)

Serena: George is here from Tanzania. He speaks on behalf of many young people of Africa, a land torn by grave problems: by poverty, war, hunger. But he hasn't given up...

George (in English):

In my country many children live on the streets, and to survive, they are forced to get involved in criminal activities. They're dressed with rags, undernourished, and sick. I was one of them too. In my family, ten of us lived in a hut. We are very poor and after third grade I had to leave school. I looked after the sheep, but when I was nine years old, I left home. I cried desperately, I was alone. I asked God not to abandon me and my family.

That was the beginning of my adventure on the road of hunger, sickness, begging, suffering, humiliation. I always hoped to go back to school. One day I climbed onto a train for Dar-es-Salaam. I traveled two days without food, hiding under the seats because I didn't have the money for a ticket. The police discovered me and beat me. I was exhausted.

While I was looking through the garbage for something to eat, I heard some people speaking of the Dogodogo Center which looks after street children. They took me in and took care of me. I found a family with 160 boys like me. We belong to different religions, but we are united in starting a new life.

I went back to school and made up for the years I had lost with excellent grades. I would like to become a lawyer and work to defend the human rights of children: of orphans who are victims of AIDS and of the war.

Many boys and girls like me in Africa would like to study, but they don't have this possibility. I am very happy to be here today to witness with all of you that peace is possible and that love conquers everything.

Song: "Your Love is in Me"

“SCHOOLMATES” Video

I'm Rafi and I come from Switzerland. Friends, I'm Bernadette from Brazil. Dear friends, I'm Marie from France. I'm Delaram, of an Iranian family, and I'm Muslim. I'm David and I'm writing to you from Colombia. Ciao, ciao! Lucia from Argentina. Ciao, I'm John from New York.

Dearest Pamela, I'm writing to you from Rome, and even though we don't know you personally, you are part of our class. I'm from the Philippines and I'm happy to be your friend. We think you very much and we ask you to pray with us that the war may end in Congo. We are from Colombia and to build a better world, a united world, we must also study.

Among us there are neither rich nor poor: we are one family. I discovered how beautiful it is to give. What's the point of having money if you don't have any friends?

My classmates and I met David from Bolivia. We write to one another often, and in his letters he tells us about his family, his friends, his village. He also sent us some photos of his land which is splendid but very poor.

With our help, some months ago, David and his friends were able to begin attending school.

Would you like to give us a hand? You and your classmates can participate in this project: all the children of the world have the right to study. It doesn't take much to become "schoolmates" from one part of the globe to another.

**WITNESS OF BOYS
OF THE SYNAGOGUE
AND OF THE JEWISH SCHOOL "ANGELO SACERDOTI" OF ROME**

Aurelio: Today we have many special guests, together with boys and girls of various religions who have arrived from different parts of the world and whom you can see behind us. A good-sized group from the Synagogue and of the Jewish School of Rome are present. They will recite some verses in Hebrew from _____ which express their desire to live in peace.

A boy and a girl of the Jewish community alternate:

"Lord our God and the God of our Fathers,
Lord of peace, King bearer of peace,
please give peace to your people Israel.
May peace be multiplied and fill all those who come into the world.
May there no longer be jealousy nor rivalry,
nor victories nor motives for discord among people
but may there be love and peace among all.
May each one know love of neighbor,
inasmuch as his neighbor seeks his good
and desires his love and longs for his constant success,
so that he can meet with him and be united to him
in order to speak together and tell one another the truth in this world.
A world which passes in the twinkling of an eye, like a shadow.
Not the shadow of a palm tree or a wall,
but the shadow of a flying bird...."

WITNESS OF MUSLIM CHILDREN

Serena: Together with Muslim children from 15 countries of the world, Oumarou arrived from the Ivory Coast, where he met the “Young for Unity”.

Oumarou:

Yes, noticing how they acted, I thought: “I would like to be like them”. I knew that they were Christians and this blocked me, but I really wanted to get to know them so I asked one of them if I could be part of their group even though I belonged to another religion.

They welcomed me at once. I discovered that I could live the same Ideal they were living. Ever since then, seeking to build a united world in every moment has become my lifestyle too. This also helps me to be a good Muslim: now I am more diligent in carrying out the five moments of prayer every day, and even though I am young, I carefully respect the fasting during the month of Ramadan.

Serena: Dalel comes from North Africa and wants to launch a message to everyone.

Dalel:

We Muslim children want to promise along with you to love everywhere, in every moment, without expecting anything in return. If each of us is a builder of peace wherever he or she is, if we ask God for his help, the united world that we have experienced during these days will soon become a reality.

PRESENTATION OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS

David: There are a number of religious leaders from various parts of the world who have arrived here with groups of young people of their Movements. We welcome them now with a great round of applause: Vinu Aram, of the Shanti Ashram Hindu Movement, of India, one of the presidents of the World Conference on Religion and Peace; Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, of the Myochikai Buddhist Movement of Japan, born after the experience of Hiroshima and aimed at educating the new generations towards peace; Mr. Hoshina, of the Rissho Kosei-kai of the Japanese Buddhist Movement; Mr. Ajaib Singh, spiritual guide of the Sikh community of Rome; Imam Allal Bachar, who comes from Spain.

**EXCERPTS FROM MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER
TO THE SUPERCONGRESS 2002**

(images of John Paul II with children of various parts of the world)

I wish to greet each one personally and I would like this message of mine to reach the minds and hearts of each one of you. You greatly wished to involve the Pope in this event which is very important to you.

All Christian boys and girls are “for unity”, but you, who adhere to the Focolare Movement, are so in a special way! The same Spirit moves us, my dear friends, the same Spirit unites us.

Jesus is the Savior of the whole world. He is the Prince of peace. He is our hope, the hope for all humanity.

Christ calls you to be announcers and witnesses of this splendid truth.

Build peace in every situation: in the family, at school, with your friends, in sports and in your free time.... Always be ready to listen, to dialogue, to understand. Love those who do not love you and do good to those who do not do good to you. In this way, you will truly be builders of unity and peace.

Young people of the third millennium, young Christians, young people of all religions, I ask you to be courageous and “meek guardians” of true peace. This is what the Pope wants because this is what Jesus wants.

Do not be afraid to give yourselves completely to the Lord.

INDIAN DANCE

SUPERCONGRESS 2002

COLISEUM – LIVE TRANSMISSION
SUNDAY, 26 MAGGIO 2002

CHIARA LUBICH'S MESSAGE TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS OF THE WORLD

Rome, 26 May 2002

Dearest “Young for Unity” and all the boys and girls here today,

You have come here to the city of Rome, a city resplendent with sunshine, brimming with history, the center of the Catholic Church. You are here from 92 nations of the world and you represent many cultures and many faiths: Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, Zoroastrians, traditional African religions and Christians of 14 Churches.

You are here beside the Coliseum, where many Christians of the early centuries paid for their faith in Jesus with martyrdom.

You are here to celebrate and to speak out in favor of a very great ideal: peace.

Peace. But is peace of such great interest today?

Yes it is, of course, and perhaps more than ever before. And not only because of the dozens of wars that have broken out here and there on our planet, but also because today peace is threatened in a different, more insidious way.

You see, even though several months have now passed, that terrible September 11th and the crumbling of the twin towers in New York is still alive in your youthful hearts. And it is alive especially during these days in which new similar threats of terrorism seem to loom on the horizon. In view of this situation, there is a growing consensus on the part of distinguished and illuminated persons that all this is not only the fruit of hatred among individuals or peoples, but it is the effect also of the dark force of Evil with a capital E.

The situation is serious then. Because if this is the way things are, it is not enough to oppose such danger solely with human forces. We need to engage the forces of good with a capital G.

And you all know what this Good is: it is God and all that is rooted in him: the world of the spirit, of great values, of authentic love, of prayer.

This was the reason for the day of prayer in Assisi on the 24th of January, when John Paul II invited, for the second time, representatives of the major religions of the world to the city of St. Francis in order to invoke peace from heaven.

However, peace is so precious that all of us, adults and young people, leaders and ordinary citizens, must be actively involved in safeguarding it. You boys and girls as well.

Naturally, in order to know how we should act, we need to be familiar with the deepest causes of this dramatic situation today.

You know as well as we do that justice does not prevail in the world, that there are rich countries and poor countries, whereas God's plan for humanity would be for everyone to be brothers and sisters, in one big family with one Father.

This imbalance is one of the factors, perhaps the most decisive, that generates resentment, revenge, terrorism.

Well then, how can we create greater equality, how can we bring about a kind of communion of goods? It's obvious that we can't move goods unless we move hearts. Therefore, we need to spread love, that reciprocal love which generates brotherhood. We need to invade the world with love! And we need to begin with ourselves.

Also with you, boys and girls.

But, someone here might ask me: "Is love, loving one another, compatible with the lifestyle that our cultures have handed down to us?"

Yes, it is: look in your sacred Books and you will find – in almost all of them – the so-called "Golden Rule". Christians know it in this form: "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Lk 6:31). Israel says: "Do to no one what you yourself dislike" (Tobit 4:15). Islam: "None of you is a true believer if you do not desire for your brother what you desire for yourself" (Hadith 13, Al Bukhari). And Hinduism: "Do not do to others what would make you suffer if it were done to you" (Mahabharata 5: 1517). All these phrases mean: respect and love your neighbor. And if you, a Muslim boy or girl, love, and you, a Christian, love, and you, a Hindu, love, you will certainly reach the point of loving one another. And the same among all. This would already be a portion of universal fraternity.

Then we need to love other neighbors, and you, in particular, should love the boys and girls you meet in life: because if it is true that "birds of a feather flock together", boys and girls are more easily convinced and persuaded to embrace great ideals by other boys and girls.

Loving then is one of the great secrets of this moment.

But it is a special kind of love. It is certainly not a love which is directed only towards our relatives and friends. Rather, this love is directed towards everyone, pleasant or unpleasant, rich or poor, children or adults, fellow countrymen or foreigners, friends or enemies... Towards everyone.

We should be the first to love, by taking the initiative, without waiting to be loved.

We should love not only with words, but concretely, with facts; and we should love one another.

My dear boys and girls, if you do this, if we all do this, universal brotherhood will spread, solidarity will blossom, goods will be distributed more justly, and the rainbow of peace will shine over the world, the world which, in a few years, will be in your hands.

SONG: "Our Prayer" (Philippines)

THOUGHTS ON PEACE

David: We are boys and girls of different races, languages and religions, and we have discovered that there is something that unites us: love, expressed in the so-called “golden rule”: love, which binds all the various faiths and is present in each human heart.

Serena: It says: “Do to others as you would have them do to you. Do not do to others as you would not have them do to you.

If we all live this “golden rule”, we will soon see a world that is truly united.

Kate: ”We are Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, Zoroastrians, and Christians. We want to live the so-called “golden rule”: love, which binds all the various faiths and is present in each human heart.

Jewish children: (2 from Argentina, 1 from Brazil
(children sing in Hebrew)

And peace will return to us and to the whole world.
Shalam-Shalom (“Peace” in Arabic and in Hebrew)

Muslims from various countries: (Pakistan, Middle East, Ivory Coast):
(read by a gen 3)

Salam alaikum: peace be with you all. This is the initial and final greeting of a Muslim. Salam alaikum is the conclusion of the five daily prayers of Islam. Peace, the very name of God in the Koran in which he calls us all to peace: “Enter all of you into peace and do not follow the path of evil” (Koran 2:208). Then it reminds us of our true brotherhood: “God created you all as one person!” (Koran 4:1), “in truth, believers are all brothers so bring peace among your brothers...” (Koran 49:10). Salam alaikum, peace be with you all.

Buddhists from Japan and Thailand - RKK, Myochikai, Prateep Foundation, a gen 3 from Thailand - (read by a boy of the Risho Kosei Kai)

Whoever reaches the supreme state of soul with illumination on the truth of the universe, can live in harmony with all creatures and can enable the other person to live, and this becomes reciprocal. This is eternal peace.

Hindu from India – Sunny, 1 Shanti Ashram, a gen 3 from India –
(read by a Hindu gen 3)

If there is rectitude of heart, there is beauty of character. If there is beauty of character, there is harmony in the home. If there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation. If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world. (Hymn to peace – Swami Vivekanda)

A Zoroastrian from India – a gen 3 from India –
(read by a Zoroastrian gen 3)

For every bad thought I might have ever had, for every bad word I might have ever said, and for every bad action I might have ever been guilty of, I repent and firmly resolve never to do again. I admire rectitude.
(Ahura-Mazda Khodae)

Children from the Sikh community of Rome – 3 Sikh children –
(read by a Sikh girl of Rome)

I pass through life but once. Whatever good I can do or whatever kindness I can express for my fellow man, let me do it now. Do not let me put it off or neglect to do it because I will not pass this way again.

Members of the traditional African religions of the Ivory Coast –1 boy from the Ivory Coast – (read by a boy from the Ivory Coast)

Loving the person who hates you is equivalent to loving the rain when it falls in the forest. Love must be reciprocal. Where there is love there is never darkness, where there is love, there is always joy.

Christians of various Churches – Catholics, Orthodox – Sveta, Lutherans: a gen 3 – (read by Rita)

Today all together we want to make a pact to love one another so that what Jesus asked of the Father may be accomplished as soon as possible, “May they all be one”, and humanity may become one family of peoples all united to one another.

COMMITMENT FOR PEACE AND UNITY

Serena: Today we want to commit ourselves all together to building peace. We want to say that we all want to defend it, to bring it about everywhere, in every corner of the world. And this is why we would like to make a pact among us boys and girls: to seek always what unites us putting into practice love, the “golden rule” that links us all.

David: So that we never forget this moment, we want to express our commitment also with a gesture: now some of us, representing the various religions of the world, will leave their imprint of peace on this panel.

Kate (in English)

David: But you too who are in the square and you who are following us from home and via satellite in many countries of the world, you can join us. Leaving your imprint of peace on this web site: www.lascialatuaimpronta.it. There, you can all say your “yes”.

Serena: Let’s live in a way that the imprint we leave today will never be cancelled and that our commitment for peace and for a united world, will go out from this Coliseum to the very ends of the earth.

Jeremy: (in English)

Song: “Oração Pela Paz” (Prayer for Peace)
(Sung by Amiude – Brazil – Assembly of God Church)

Song: The Golden Rule

CHOREOGRAPHY (Naples)

SAYING GOOD-BYE TO THE TELEVISION AUDIENCE

David: The live transmission which has united us in many countries of the world, is about to conclude. We want to thank Raitre, Telespazio, the European Space Board, the CRC of Canada and Telecom Italia who made this live transmission possible via satellite and via internet.

Serena: A special thanks also to the International RTP of Portugal thanks to which this transmission could be followed in all of Africa and Asia.

Thanks also to the many television networks who are following us live in Europe and in the Middle East and, later on, in the Americas.

Aurelio: While the program continues here at the Coliseum, we say good-bye to those who followed us from home.

Let's always live the "golden rule" that we discovered today.

Kate: By living the "golden rule", we will see the world change!
Thanks again to all those who helped us put together this transmission.
Ciao to everyone!

SUPERCONGRESS 2002**COLISEUM – AFTER THE LIVE TRANSMISSION
SUNDAY, 26 MAGGIO 2002****PRESENTATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE
OF OTHER MOVEMENTS AND ASSOCIATIONS**

Serena: Today we have the joy of having with us some boys and girls who represent other Movements and Associations. In particular, we want to greet our friends of the Italian Catholic Action, of the Community of St. Egidio, of the Charismatic Renewal.

Ciao, you are_____ of the Community of St. Egidio. We know that you have begun many initiatives. What do you do in particular?

Boy/girl of the Community of St. Egidio:

Serena: Also you from the Catholic Action have been in the front lines in building a more united world with an activity for which you have recently worked a lot. Can you tell us more about it?

Boy/girl of the Catholic Action:

WITNESSES OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS

David: Thank you!

And now we want to invite on the stage Vinu Aram, of the “Shanti Ashram” Gandhian Movement of India, who is very much involved in the field of interreligious dialogue. She will greet us now.

DR. VINU ARAM, HINDU “SHANTI ASHRAM” GHANDIAN MOVEMENT

Vinu Aram (in English)

Dear Friends,

Many greetings of peace! The coming together of 12,000 of you, children from so many nations, religions, races and cultures is a testimony to the precious diversity our world possesses and the richness it offers to human life. I congratulate the Focolare Movement for organizing this remarkable Super Congress.

Each one of you gathered here is special because you bring to this unique event your dreams, your creativity, your talents, your energies and your commitments. You have not only the opportunity to dialogue but also the chance to see how you can contribute in making this world more peaceful.

The world is a witness today to many initiatives for children. Earlier this month the UN Secretary General commented on the first ever participation of children in the UN as being historic. Much has been done to improve the state of the world’s children. Yet we know that poverty, disease, illiteracy and violence still affect significant numbers of children... this situation is unacceptable!

Mahatma Gandhi, one of the 20th century’s great apostles of peace said: “The world has enough for everyone’s need but not for everyone’s greed.”

Our religious traditions give us faith and examples of how determined efforts can overcome challenges and celebrate unity amongst diversity. Together we can forge a new partnership – one that is based on love, sharing and mutual respect.

David: Thank you.

And now, remaining in Asia, we invite Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, who is here from Japan together with a group of young people who belong to the Myochikai Buddhist Movement. Rev. Miyamoto, how did your commitment for peace begin?

**REV. KEISHI MIYAMOTO
“MYOCHIKAI” BUDDHIST MOVEMENT**

Keishi Miyamoto:

First, let me express my heartfelt gratitude for the invitation to attend today's gathering. Myochikai has been undertaking activities for the realization of peace for more than half a century. But we may ask ourselves, where are conflicts born?

In Buddhism, it is taught that in human hearts there are two fundamental orientations: one towards evil, characterized by an unceasing craving, and the second one towards good. There are few people who realize that one of the sources of conflict is the unceasing craving that human beings bear. The role of faith is to help people become aware of this. Unfortunately, it is not easy to teach this awareness. However, people of faith must overcome this challenge.

There is a story in one of the Sutras preached by the Buddha, called “Zappozokyou”, which goes like this.

“Once upon a time, there was a forest at the foot of a mountain in the Himalayas. One day a forest fire broke out. The lions and tigers living in the forest made every effort to extinguish it, but all was in vain. Finally, sensing the danger, they hid themselves behind a large rock. At just that moment, a little bird tried to extinguish the blazing fire with the little water it could carry on its wings. Seeing this, the lions and tigers cried, “Stop it, stop it! It is no use for you to bring those few drops of water. Even the big animals like us cannot put out the fire.” The little bird replied, “I know very well that I am not able to do it. But I cannot just stand by and watch the fire burn down our forest. I cannot help but carry some water and try”.

This story reveals to us the spirit of Buddhism through the figure of the little bird, which, without thinking about whether it will succeed or not, cannot help but take action. I believe that a truly wise human being is one who tries to continue to do what he or she should do without stopping to consider whether he or she will succeed or not.

With this spirit, from this day forward, focusing on interfaith dialogue and cooperation, Myochikai wishes to continue to contribute to activities for society and peace.

PRESENTATION OF THE DANCE FROM BOLIVIA

Aurelio: Bolivia is a country in the heart of South America, a place where people who belong to more than 30 different ethnic groups have not always lived in peace.

The dance that we will see now shows the contrast in the Bolivian landscape, from the Amazon to the highland, and it symbolizes the building of unity beyond the differences, in respect of the characteristics and traditions of each one.

BOLIVIAN DANCE

LAUNCHING THE PEACE MARCH

David: Our program here at the Coliseum is coming to an end and now, with this new commitment we have taken together to work towards a future of peace and unity, we can begin our march which will bring us to St. Peter's Square.

Kate: We would like Rome to see on its streets a piece of a united world already achieved.

Aurelio: This is why we want to involve all the people we meet and share our joy with them.

Serena: Before leaving, let's call on the "Young for Unity" of Naples who will show us some choreographic movements with umbrellas. We can all do them together as we walk.

Let's learn them together, all right? We're all ready with our umbrellas in hand!

CHOREOGRAPHY (Belgium)