

Course Syllabus:

The Spirituality of Unity

February 2025 - April 2027



Souls in the past sought God present in their hearts. It is as if they were in a great garden full of flowers observing and admiring a single flower. They gaze on it with love, in all its details and as a whole, but they do not observe the others. God asks us to look at all the flowers, because he is in them all, and only by observing them all do we love God more than the individual flower.

Chiara Lubich, November 6, 1949

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Why this course?

<https://youtu.be/IAP1eUXpClS>

Who is this course for?

There are no prerequisites for this course.

This course is for anyone who has the desire to deepen their understanding of the Spirituality of Unity experienced by members of the Focolare Movement.

This is not a crash course, but rather an introductory, complete presentation of the 12 points of the Spirituality of Unity and the 7 aspects of its culture (which simply means how we live our daily lives). If this is what you are looking for, this course is for you.

Where & when will this course take place?

23 Lessons will be provided via a 2-hour zoom session with a 10-minute break.

Every 2nd Saturday of the month

- 9AM-11AM Pacific Time
- 10 AM - noon Mountain Time
- 11 AM - 1 PM Central Time
- Noon - 2 PM Eastern Time

We do not meet during the months of July and August.

This course begins Saturday, February 8, 2025, and ends Saturday April 10, 2027.

Anyone may join the course at any time.

Once you have registered and provided your email address & cell number, you will receive a reminder a few days before each zoom session, along with a zoom link, and google classroom link.

How much does it cost?

Thanks to the many generous team members who offer their time and energy to make this course happen on an ongoing basis, the course is free to all participants.

Donations

Donations can be made by mailing us a check payable to Focolare Movement. Please indicate "Spirituality Course" in the memo. Our mailing address is:

Focolare Movement
Spirituality Course
4560 Mount Vernon Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90043

How to register for this course?

Just fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/GMBEbdno6JtjGpWj7>

How to access all course material and handouts?

Be sure to click on the “Classwork” Tab when you go to:

<https://classroom.google.com/c/Njk1MDY3OTY2MDA4?cjc=vn5gqyt>

Or you can also access the course by going to classroom.google.com & your classroom code is **vn5gqyt**, then click in the “classwork” tab.

How to turn in your homework

1. HOMEWORK: The **Participant** goes to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, selects UPLOAD to upload his/her brief, no more than a half page response and posts it. The post will include:
 - a. Participant’s (your) Name,
 - b. Participant’s (your) Sharing Group,
 - c. Title of the Lesson,
 - d. Your comments,
 - e. Your questions.

Ideally, he/she will post by the end of day on the Thursday before the lesson. It is not obligatory to do and upload your homework ahead of time, however, in doing to, we have found that the lesson becomes more meaningful for your and your participation and possible questions allow you to better penetrate the topic.

Our Helpdesk

For any questions about this course, including technical help, please contact us by sending an email to course.help@focolare.us

Certificate of Completion

A Certificate of Completion will be provided for those who

- have a verbal one-on-one conversation with your group leader
- attend the zoom sessions of 80% of the lessons (18 of the 23 lessons),
- read the book, Blessed Chiara Badano,
- watch the movie, Love Conquers All,
- provide a written document to your group leader with your reflection (1 or 2 sentences) of each of the 23 lessons

OPTIONAL: Prepare a 30 second video of your impression of the course, answering these questions:

- Has your daily life changed in some way after listening to the lessons about the Spirituality of Unity? If so, how?
- Would you like to stay engaged with those who live the Spirituality of Unity? If so, what interests you the most? What would you like to connect with?
- Would you recommend this course to others? Why?

Methodology

We are using a combination of two methods. The 721 (7 steps to 1 concept) and the Flipped Classroom method.

The 721 Method has, in recent years, been developed by a team of members of the Focolare Movement. The name simply means there are 7 steps to delivering one main point or theme. These points include:

1. Initial Input
2. Introduction to the theme
3. Elaborate on the theme
4. Feedback from the participants
5. Present the main theme of the lesson
6. Communion in small groups & Feedback
7. Commitment to living

The Flipped Classroom Method is widely used in Universities across the US. It is based on 4 main concepts:

- Flexible Learning Environment: One of the hallmarks of a flipped learning classroom is that it provides fluid timelines for student work and comprehension.

- Learning Culture: Teachers foster a rich environment that allows students to delve further into topics and provides them with opportunities for self-reflection.
- Intentional Content: Teachers decide ahead of time what direct instruction to pair with in-class activities. Students should feel challenged but able to understand the material on their own.
- Professional Educator: Monitoring students during lessons and offering feedback ensures no gaps in student knowledge are being created with the flipped classroom model.

WorkTeams

Those who have taken this course become attracted to this spirituality and its cultural expressions. We gather together to work together for a more united world. We're just at the beginning, however it is exciting to see spontaneous groups that are forming include: Inmates, Artists, Parishes, Health Care professionals, and trained volunteers who provide you with the Spirituality Course. There is also a group of entrepreneurs who aspire to an economy based on this spirituality. If you might be interested in joining a group and working together, just let us know by sending us an email at course.help@focolare.us

Getting Started

This course is based on the **books** "A New Way", by Chiara Lubich and "Blessed Chiara Badano", by Geraldine Guadagno and can be purchased at New City Press:

A New Way <https://www.focolaremedia.com/bookstore/new-way>

Blessed Chiara Badano <https://www.focolaremedia.com/bookstore/blessed-chiara-badano>

You get a 20% discount when you use the coupon code: FORMATION.

For information about book orders you can contact orders@newcitypress.com

We invite you to also view the **movie** about Chiara Lubich and the beginnings of the Focolare Movement, *Love Conquers All* .

To do so, go to FORMED at:

https://watch.formed.org/chiara-lubich-love-conquers-all?_ga=2.237991040.149649502.1688770945-2022810912.1688770945

And click **Subscribe**

A 1 month subscription is \$9.99

(Be sure to **unsubscribe** after you have viewed the movie, unless you wish to continue your subscription with Formed).

What will you learn? Course themes, homework, & makeup work:

1. What is a Collective Spirituality?

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

Read pp. 17-27, of the book, *A New Way*.

Read the text, *Becoming Saints Together* (see attached, READ BEFORE CLASS).

Jot down at least one thing that touched you and at least one question and share this in the google classroom stream. Be sure to:

1. Go to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, select UPLOAD to upload his/her half page response and post it.
2. Indicate,
 1. Your name
 2. The name of your sharing group
 3. And the title of the lesson, "What is a Collective Spirituality?", then, add your comment and any questions you may have.

Please try to do so before the zoom session begins, preferable at least a couple of days beforehand.

Optional: To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.

2. Chiara Lubich and the Focolare Movement

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

Read pp. 27-36, of the book, *A New Way*.

Read the text, *The Pact of Mercy* (see attached, READ BEFORE CLASS).

Jot down at least one thing that touched you and at least one question and share this in the google classroom stream. Be sure to:

1. Go to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, select UPLOAD to upload his/her half page response and post it.
2. Indicate,
 1. Your name
 2. The name of your sharing group
 3. And the title of the lesson, "Chiara Lubich & the Focolare Movement", then, add your comment and any questions you may have.

Please try to do so before the zoom session begins, preferable at least a couple of days beforehand.

Optional: To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.

3. God is Love - Our Image of God

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

Read pp. 37-41, of the book, A New Way.

Read the text, *He is God* (see attached, READ BEFORE CLASS).

Jot down at least one thing that touched you and at least one question and share this in the google classroom stream. Be sure to:

1. Go to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, select UPLOAD to upload his/her half page response and post it.
2. Indicate,
 1. Your name
 2. The name of your sharing group
 3. And the title of the lesson, "God is Love", then, add your comment and any questions you may have.

Please try to do so before the zoom session begins, preferable at least a couple of days beforehand.

Optional: To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.

4. The Will of God

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

Read pp. 41-43, of the book, A New Way.

Read the text, *Why the Will of God is not always clear* (see attached, READ BEFORE CLASS).

Jot down at least one thing that touched you and at least one question and share this in the google classroom stream. Be sure to:

1. Go to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, select UPLOAD to upload his/her half page response and post it.

2. Indicate,
 1. Your name
 2. The name of your sharing group
 3. And the title of the lesson, "The Will of God", then, add your comment and any questions you may have.

Please try to do so before the zoom session begins, preferable at least a couple of days beforehand.

Optional: To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.

5. Love for our Neighbor

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

Read pp. 44-46 of the book, A New Way.

Read the text, "*Recognize one another as brothers and sisters*" (see attached, READ BEFORE CLASS).

Jot down at least one thing that touched you and at least one question and share this in the google classroom stream. Be sure to:

1. Go to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, select UPLOAD to upload his/her half page response and post it.
2. Indicate,
 1. Your name
 2. The name of your sharing group
 3. And the title of the lesson, "Love for Our Neighbor", then, add your comment and any questions you may have.

Please try to do so before the zoom session begins, preferable at least a couple of days beforehand.

Optional: To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.

6. The Word of God - Living the Gospel

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

Read pp. 46-48, of the book, *A New Way*.

Read the text, *The Effects of Living the Word* (see attached, READ BEFORE CLASS).

Jot down at least one thing that touched you and at least one question and share this in the google classroom stream. Be sure to:

1. Go to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, select UPLOAD to upload his/her half page response and post it.
2. Indicate,
 1. Your name
 2. The name of your sharing group
 3. And the title of the lesson, "The Word of God", then, add your comment and any questions you may have.

Please try to do so before the zoom session begins, preferable at least a couple of days beforehand.

Optional: To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.

7. Mutual Love - The Law of Heaven

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

Read pp. 48-51, of the book, A New Way.

Read the text, *Nothing is small if it is done out of love* (see attached, READ BEFORE CLASS).

Jot down at least one thing that touched you and at least one question and share this in the google classroom stream. Be sure to:

1. Go to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, add your comments and questions for the upcoming lesson. select UPLOAD to upload his/her half page response and post it.
2. Indicate,
 1. Your name
 2. The name of your sharing group
 3. And the title of the lesson, "Mutual Love", then, add your comment and any questions you may have.

Please try to do so before the zoom session begins, preferable at least a couple of days beforehand.

Optional: To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.

8. Jesus Forsaken - the Key to Unity

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

Read pp. 51-53, of the book, A New Way.

Read the text, *Jesus Forsaken, A more complete explanation* (see attached, READ BEFORE CLASS).

Jot down at least one thing that touched you and at least one question and share this in the google classroom stream. Be sure to:

1. Go to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, select UPLOAD to upload his/her half page response and post it.
2. Indicate,
 1. Your name
 2. The name of your sharing group

3. And the title of the lesson, "Jesus Forsaken", then, add your comment and any questions you may have.

Please try to do so before the zoom session begins, preferable at least a couple of days beforehand.

Optional: To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.

9. Unity

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

Read pp. 54-56, of the book, *A New Way*.

Read the text, *Unity and Universal Brotherhood* (see attached, READ BEFORE CLASS).

Jot down at least one thing that touched you and at least one question and share this in the google classroom stream. Be sure to:

1. Go to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, select UPLOAD to upload his/her half page response and post it.
2. Indicate,
 1. Your name
 2. The name of your sharing group
 3. And the title of the lesson, "Unity", then, add your comment and any questions you may have.

Please try to do so before the zoom session begins, preferable at least a couple of days beforehand.

Optional: To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.

10. Jesus in the Midst

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

Read pp. 56-61, of the book, *A New Way*.

Read the text, *Jesus in the Midst Transforms the World* (see attached, READ BEFORE CLASS).

Jot down at least one thing that touched you and at least one question and share this in the google classroom stream. Be sure to:

1. Go to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, select UPLOAD to upload his/her half page response and post it.
2. Indicate,
 1. Your name
 2. The name of your sharing group
 3. And the title of the lesson, "Jesus in the Midst", then, add your comment and any questions you may have.

Please try to do so before the zoom session begins, preferable at least a couple of days beforehand.

Optional: To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.

11. The Eucharist

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

Read pp. 61-62, of the book, *A New Way*.

Read the text, *The Presence of God in the Eucharist* (see attached, READ BEFORE CLASS).

Jot down at least one thing that touched you and at least one question and share this in the google classroom stream. Be sure to:

1. Go to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, select UPLOAD to upload his/her half page response and post it.
2. Indicate,
 1. Your name
 2. The name of your sharing group
 3. And the title of the lesson, "The Eucharist", then, add your comment and any questions you may have.

Please try to do so before the zoom session begins, preferable at least a couple of days beforehand.

Optional: To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.

12. The Church

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

Read pp. 62-66, of the book, *A New Way*.

Read the text, *The Church, An Introduction, Church=Communion* (see attached, READ BEFORE CLASS).

Jot down at least one thing that touched you and at least one question and share this in the google classroom stream. Be sure to:

1. Go to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, select UPLOAD to upload his/her half page response and post it.
2. Indicate,
 1. Your name
 2. The name of your sharing group
 3. And the title of the lesson, "The Church", then, add your comment and any questions you may have.

Please try to do so before the zoom session begins, preferable at least a couple of days beforehand.

Optional: To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.

13. Mary

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

Read pp. 66-70, of the book, *A New Way*.

Read the text, *Mary and the Holy Spirit* (see attached, READ BEFORE CLASS).

Jot down at least one thing that touched you and at least one question and share this in the google classroom stream. Be sure to:

1. Go to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, select UPLOAD to upload his/her half page response and post it.

2. Indicate,

1. Your name
2. The name of your sharing group
3. And the title of the lesson, "Mary", then, add your comment and any questions you may have.

Please try to do so before the zoom session begins, preferable at least a couple of days beforehand.

Optional: To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.

14. The Holy Spirit

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

Read pp. 70-72, of the book, *A New Way*.

Read the text, *Mary and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit* (see attached, READ BEFORE CLASS).

Jot down at least one thing that touched you and at least one question and share this in the google classroom stream. Be sure to:

1. Go to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, select UPLOAD to upload his/her half page response and post it.
2. Indicate,
 1. Your name
 2. The name of your sharing group
 3. And the title of the lesson, "The Holy Spirit", then, add your comment and any questions you may have.

Please try to do so before the zoom session begins, preferable at least a couple of days beforehand.

Optional: To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.

15. Our Culture and the 7 Colors

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

Read pp. 75-78, of the book, A New Way.

Read the section entitled "Intro" in OPENING COMMENTS & PADLET EXERCISE for this lesson.

Jot down at least one thing that touched you and at least one question and share this in the google classroom stream. Be sure to:

1. Go to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, select UPLOAD to upload his/her half page response and post it.
2. Indicate,
 1. Your name
 2. The name of your sharing group
 3. And the title of the lesson, "Our Culture and the 7 Colors", then, add your comment and any questions you may have.

Please try to do so before the zoom session begins, preferable at least a couple of days beforehand.

Optional: To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.

16. Red - Love is Communion

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

Read pp. 79-84, of the book, A New Way.

Read the text, *Work and the Rediscovery of Social Awareness* (see attached, READ BEFORE CLASS).

Jot down at least one thing that touched you and at least one question and share this in the google classroom stream. Be sure to:

1. Go to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, select UPLOAD to upload his/her half page response and post it.
2. Indicate,
 1. Your name
 2. The name of your sharing group
 3. And the title of the lesson, "Red - Love is Communion", then, add your comment and any questions you may have.

Please try to do so before the zoom session begins, preferable at least a couple of days beforehand.

Optional: To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.

17. Orange - Love is Contagious

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

Read pp. 85-94, of the book, *A New Way*.

Read the 2 texts, *The Discovery and Everyone is a Candidate for Unity* (see attached, READ BEFORE CLASS).

Jot down at least one thing that touched you and at least one question and share this in the google classroom stream. Be sure to:

1. Go to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, select UPLOAD to upload his/her half page response and post it.
2. Indicate,
 1. Your name
 2. The name of your sharing group
 3. And the title of the lesson, "Orange", then, add your comment and any questions you may have.

Please try to do so before the zoom session begins, preferable at least a couple of days beforehand.

Optional: To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.

18. Yellow - Love Inspires

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

Read pp. 95-107, of the book, *A New Way*.

Read the text, *What is Prayer?* (see attached, READ BEFORE CLASS).

Jot down at least one thing that touched you and at least one question and share this in the google classroom stream. Be sure to:

1. Go to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, select UPLOAD to upload his/her half page response and post it.
2. Indicate,
 1. Your name
 2. The name of your sharing group
 3. And the title of the lesson, "Yellow", then, add your comment and any questions you may have.

Please try to do so before the zoom session begins, preferable at least a couple of days beforehand.

Optional: To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.

19. Green - Love Heals

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

Read pp. 108-126, of the book, *A New Way*.

Read the text, *The Communion of Saints* (see attached, READ BEFORE CLASS).

Jot down at least one thing that touched you and at least one question and share this in the google classroom stream. Be sure to:

1. Go to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, select UPLOAD to upload his/her half page response and post it.
2. Indicate,
 1. Your name
 2. The name of your sharing group
 3. And the title of the lesson, "Green", then, add your comment and any questions you may have.

Please try to do so before the zoom session begins, preferable at least a couple of days beforehand.

Optional: To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.

20. Blue - Love is Beauty

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

Read pp. 127-145, of the book, *A New Way*.

Read the text, *An Introduction on the Blue* (see attached, READ BEFORE CLASS).

Jot down at least one thing that touched you and at least one question and share this in the google classroom stream. Be sure to:

1. Go to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, select UPLOAD to upload his/her half page response and post it.
2. Indicate,
 1. Your name
 2. The name of your sharing group
 3. And the title of the lesson, "Blue", then, add your comment and any questions you may have.

Please try to do so before the zoom session begins, preferable at least a couple of days beforehand.

Optional: To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.

21. Indigo - Love is Wisdom

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

Read pp. 146-164, of the book, *A New Way*.

Read the text, *What is Wisdom?* (see attached, READ BEFORE CLASS).

Jot down at least one thing that touched you and at least one question and share this in the google classroom stream. Be sure to:

1. Go to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, select UPLOAD to upload his/her half page response and post it.
2. Indicate,
 1. Your name
 2. The name of your sharing group
 3. And the title of the lesson, "Indigo", then, add your comment and any questions you may have.

Please try to do so before the zoom session begins, preferable at least a couple of days beforehand.

Optional: To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.

22. Violet - Love Unites

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

Read pp. 165-180, of the book, *A New Way*.

Read the text, *Unity & Universality* (see attached, READ BEFORE CLASS).

Jot down at least one thing that touched you and at least one question and share this in the google classroom stream. Be sure to:

1. Go to the HOMEWORK assignment for that specific lesson, select UPLOAD to upload his/her half page response and post it.
2. Indicate,
 1. Your name
 2. The name of your sharing group
 3. And the title of the lesson, "Violet", then, add your comment and any questions you may have.

Please try to do so before the zoom session begins, preferable at least a couple of days beforehand.

Optional: To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.

23. Paradise '49

Homework to complete prior to this zoom session:

To experience a more meaningful time together during the zoom session, you may wish to read over and become familiar with the "additional material" for this session as well.