



**The Economy of Communion
US & Canada**

Gift, Reciprocity, & Communion in Business since 1991

Volunteers of God Convention
Mariapolis Luminosa
Hyde Park, NY 12538
April 18-21, 2024

Dear Volunteers of God,

On behalf of the Economy of Communion Community, US & Canada, we'd like to extend our warmest congratulations for your convention at Mariapolis Luminosa, entitled "We Are Called, We Are Sent" and we join you in welcoming those who have come from the Focolare Movement's International Center in Rocca di Papa, Italy:

- Juan Ignacio & Fanny Bava, responsible for the men and women VoGs, internationally
- Celeste Mancuso & Mario Bruno; responsible for New Humanity, internationally
- Angel Bartol & Bernadette Ngabo; Counselors for the Zone of North America

We are particularly touched by Chiara Lubich's words when she refers to the vocation of Volunteers of God as the First Christians of the 20th Century: "They are to the world what the soul is to the body. They are the soul of the World." Chiara underscores that what distinguishes your splendid vocation is an element of freedom. "It means being free with the same freedom of God who is free because He is One. [...] We can experience this freedom if we live the present moment." (Chiara with the Volunteers, 2006).

Did you know that when Chiara gave us our name, she specified, the Economy of Communion, *in Freedom*? We have a lot in common!

While traditionally we might ask the question "How should my faith inform my business activities?" the EoC goes beyond this and demonstrates that business can actually nourish my faith and bring about more communion in the world. This is why, when Pope Francis spoke to us, he said, "By introducing into the economy the good seed of communion, you have begun a profound change in the way of seeing and living business. Business is not



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only incapable of destroying communion among people but can edify it; it can promote it. With your life you demonstrate that economy and communion become more beautiful when they are beside each other. Certainly, the economy is more beautiful, but communion is also more beautiful, because the spiritual communion of hearts is even fuller when it becomes the communion of goods, of talents, of profits.”

EoC is rooted in a core belief that as children of God, we want to love others, and to bring about flourishing for all by supporting the common good. In the EoC vision, business itself is the means an entrepreneur can contribute to the common good by bringing about communion, and in doing so find spiritual nourishment through business activities. Business need not be in tension with spiritual well-being but in fact can contribute towards it and establish communion. (Gustafson, Harvey 2024)

Please accept this Company Cube and some of our work experiences <https://thecompanycube.org/work-experiences/> as a sign of our gratitude for the Volunteers of God! WE LOVE YOU!

Sincerely,
The EoC Community

Loretta Rauschuber
President
The Economy of Communion
US & Canada

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