



Workshop of September 29, 2022

SHARE TO CO-CREATE

betocare.org

Summary

This workshop proposes to open a **dialogue** to share **experiences and learning**, recognize the **challenges** of the present and imagine solutions for the future through a **co-creation** exercise.

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Presentation

The unprecedented development that humanity has achieved in the fields of technology, economics, and communication offers a wealth of resources that can help eradicate inequalities and alleviate the shortages that we continually encounter: of affection, relationships, food, housing, work, education, values, ideals, rights, health, freedom, meaning... We perceive these shortages as a denial of something inherent to the dignity of each person and of society.

Individual and social challenges, which are global and complex, call for a new "**creativity in charity**" that promotes not only the effectiveness of the help given, but also the ability to be close to and be in solidarity with those who suffer (St. John Paul II, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, no. 50), contributing to the integral development of each person.

On June 10, 2021, a [message from the Prelate](#) was published on the Opus Dei website in which he invited us to look forward to the centenary of the Work. Some of the key words of the message were: **participation, listening, reflection, care, the youth, renewal, service, the Church, the world.**

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These terms converge in a direction that can be expressed in the form of a question: **how can we live the message of Opus Dei profoundly, in service of the family and the individual, through educational, cultural, economic and political initiatives?**

St. Josemaría used to say that Opus Dei was born among the poor and sick of Madrid. There, in the neediest neighborhoods, he visited them, gave catechism to the children, and counted on their prayer as most valuable. This was not a circumstantial fact, but the expression of a profoundly Christian and permanent reality. **In love for the poor we find the strength to renew and rejuvenate the Church, Opus Dei, and the personal Christian vocation.**

Among the topics that could be reflected in the grand panorama of the centenary are:

- The sanctification of work and its consequences for the improvement of society.
- The transformation of the world from within.
- The social commitment of Christians, citizenship and social friendship.
- The attraction of bringing to life the social doctrine of the Church.¹
- The importance of caring for creation and for people, especially the most vulnerable.

¹ In speaking of faith, St. Josemaría said that "it enlightens our consciences, spurring us to participate with all our strength in the vicissitudes and problems of human history. In that history, which began with the creation of the world and which will end with the consummation of the centuries, the Christian is not a stateless person. He is a citizen of the city of mankind, with a soul filled with the desire for God" (*Christ Is Passing By*, no. 99).

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Moreover, reflection calls for transforming and lasting action, which is **why the centenary could leave a legacy**, as happened with the canonization of St. Josemaría, after which Harambee was born, among other initiatives. The beatifications of Don Álvaro and Guadalupe also gave rise to social projects, an expression of commitment in moments of special gratitude and joy.

On October 6, 2022, Harambee will celebrate its 20th anniversary. On that occasion, the centenary committee of Opus Dei has convoked this meeting of professionals who, **inspired by St. Josemaría, have promoted social work or work in public or private social organizations, or have launched personal projects in various fields** including poverty, hunger, human rights, decent work, education, health, the environment, peace and coexistence.

This is how the meeting of September 29, 2022, was born, as an opportunity to reflect together, to listen and learn from each other, to share experiences and ideas.

The conversation of the day will revolve around three axes:

1. Awakening social sensitivity. The formative activity carried out in the initiatives promoted by Opus Dei is aimed at helping each person to bring the Gospel message to life in his or her own circumstances. The first axis of the day would be to offer suggestions that can help, in the present circumstances, thinking especially of young people, to qualify formation in the area of social sensitivity, so that each person in his or her family, work, city, environment, expresses this sensitivity in a generous and creative way.

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2. Revitalization of initiatives. In the more than 90 years of the life of Opus Dei, many initiatives of a social nature have begun and developed. In some cases, they are apostolic works of the Work while others are personal projects. Some have been in existence for many years; others are just beginning to take off or are in full growth. Each one faces the challenges inherent in the different stages of an institution's life. The question arises as to how to take advantage of the centenary celebration to revitalize in a Christian way what is already being done. At the meeting on the 29th, we could outline some general questions, although the answers may correspond to each of the participating initiatives.

3. Possible legacy of the centenary. The third axis on which we could begin to discuss is the possible legacy that the celebration of the centenary of the foundation of the Work could leave.

To facilitate the conversation, a questionnaire with some questions on each axis is provided. They are not intended to exhaust the topics, but rather to propose a few that would help move the dialogue forward.

The third part of the document contains the schedule for the 29th. The day will begin with two plenary sessions: first the Prelate, Msgr. Fernando Ocáriz, will speak, and then the participants will be informed about the development of the sessions, which will be basically of two types. There will be three workshops, in which the participants will be divided into smaller language groups (Spanish and English). Each workshop will

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last one hour and will be dedicated to one of the thematic axes mentioned above (awakening, revitalization, legacy). At the end of each workshop, the participants will meet again to share reflections of the groups. The day will end with a session of conclusions, from which a final document can be drawn up.

The meeting on the 29th is preceded by the sessions of the 28th, dedicated to the horizons of solidarity after the pandemic: these interventions serve to provide a framework and context, to consider what are the most pressing social needs; what initiatives are proving effective; how to involve many young people.

On the 30th, the celebration of 20 years of Harambee itself will take place. The whole event is organized by Harambee Africa International in collaboration with the centenary committee and is called Be to Care (www.betocare.org).

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Questionnaire

Possible questionnaire on the three axes mentioned. The objective is to encourage dialogue on the topics that will be discussed in person on the 29th.

Awakening social sensitivity

- What are the habits or virtues that make us capable of caring for those around us?
- What are the formative modalities in this area that are most appreciated by young people?
- How do we develop sensitivity towards the neediest, both in the personal practice of charity and in the way of carrying out one's professional work, with a spirit of service and the aspiration to transform structures with criteria of justice, equity, and dignity?
- How is formation in the Christian virtue of poverty with effective concern for the neediest integrated?
- How do we transmit the social doctrine of the Church in a clear, practical and incisive way?

02 Questionnaire

- How do we deal with the different elements of "integral human development"²?
- How can the elements of the "integral ecology"³, which harmonizes personal, ethical, environmental and social aspects, be declined? For example, is the relationship between peace and development, between peaceful coexistence and environment perceived in formation?

Initiatives

- What are the main lessons learned from experience?
- What are the successes, the failures, and regrets, and what could have been done differently?
- What are the main difficulties you face?
- What can be done to better serve the society in which each work operates, according to the current needs and challenges of each location?
- What would be the best way to revitalize the purpose of the initiatives, taking into account the preparation for and celebration of the centenary?
- Would it be possible to involve more young people, projecting into the future the work that is already being done? How do you deal with generational dynamics in your organizations?

² "The development We speak of here cannot be restricted to economic growth alone. To be authentic, it must be well rounded; it must foster the development of each man and of the whole man" (Paul VI, *Populorum Progressio*, 14).

³ Integral ecology can be briefly defined as "an approach to ecology which respects our unique place as human beings in this world and our relationship to our surroundings." (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, no. 15).

02 Questionnaire

- Is it possible to collaborate more closely with other entities that share the desire to serve their respective communities?

Legacy and commitment to the future

- Taking into account the circumstances of our time, what kind of legacy would be more convenient?
- What needs should be addressed?
- What possibilities and resources could be brought into play?
- What service could be provided?
- Which projects would be most likely to attract young people to get involved?
- How should this initiative be promoted?

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Schedule

9.15-9.30	Welcoming of the participants
9.30-10.15	Lecture by Msgr. Fernando Ocariz, Prelate
10.15-10.45	Introductory session
10.45-11.00	Coffee at the <i>cortile</i>
11.15-12.00	Workshop 1: Awakening social sensitivity
12.15-13.00	Sharing 1: Awakening social sensitivity
13.00-14.00	Lunch at the <i>cortile</i>
14.15-15.00	Workshop 2: The mission to serve of social initiatives
15.15-16.00	Sharing 2: The mission to serve of social initiatives
16.15-17.00	Workshop 3: Possible legacy of the centenary
17.15-18.00	Sharing 3: Possible legacy of the centenary
18.00-18.45	Conclusions and photo