



**Mission Permanente d'Observation  
du Saint-Siège auprès de l'UNESCO**  
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## PRESS RELEASE

Under the auspices of UNESCO, the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to UNESCO and the Diocese of Cremona (Italy), in cooperation with the “DON PRIMO MAZZOLARI” Foundation, organize an International Congress on don Primo Mazzolari as peace-builder.

The event will take place between 3pm and 6pm on Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup> 2018 at UNESCO Headquarters (Room II) – 125 Avenue de Suffren – 75007 Paris (France).

The meeting – entitled “MESSAGE AND ACTION OF PEACE OF DON PRIMO MAZZOLARI (1890 – 1959)” – will be honored by

- A video-message of HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS, who went mourning on Mazzolari’s grave on June 20<sup>th</sup> 2017 where He delivered a speech to honor his memory, and
- The presence of H. EM. CARD. PIETRO PAROLIN, Secretary of State of His Holiness, who will pronounce the key-note speech.

After the welcome speech of MSGR. FRANCESCO FOLLO, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to UNESCO, and of H.E. MSGR. ANTONIO NAPOLIONI, Bishop of Cremona, the Deputy Director General Mr. SIG. XING QU, will put forward UNESCO’s point of view on the subject of the event.

Thereafter, the following speakers will have the floor:

- PROFESSOR GUY COQ, honorary president of the association “Amis d’Emmanuel Mounier”,
- PROFESSOR MARIANGELA MARAVIGLIA, member of the scientific committee of “Don Primo Mazzolari” Foundation,
- PROFESSOR DON BRUNO BIGNAMI, president of “Don Primo Mazzolari” foundation.

MSGR. FRANCESCO FOLLO, together with H.E. MSGR. ANTONIO NAPOLIONI, will put forwards some brief conclusions.

It will be an event of international cultural importance focused on the person and the writings of DON MAZZOLARI: drawn by French philosophy, DON MAZZOLARI was contemporary of the French EMMANUEL MOUNIER, (1905 - 1950) philosopher and founder of communitarian personalism, he also read the Review «*Esprit*» which is defined as “a forum for discussion around a few support points wherein Christians, Muslims, agnostics, Jews and unbelievers alike may come together reflecting on the world that we shall all build”. DON PRIMO MAZZOLARI as author, its commitment in the Resistance along with its activity in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War through the fortnightly “Adesso”, cannot be understood without taking into account the influence of French philosophy. Nevertheless, it has enriched personalism with new ideas to strengthen the evangelical vision of man.

To implement these ideas, notably in the fight against poverty, DON PRIMO MAZZOLARI published “Voice to the poor”, also to spread the biblical message of Salvation of the poor and in support of human salvation. Finally, he committed himself through love to achieve a culture of peace, for instance through education and every possible means which can promote a civilization of justice and peace. He was an avant-garde visionary, going alongside UNESCO and its engagement in building peace inside today’s people minds. He was also a pioneer of the relationship model Church-world expressed in the Pastoral Constitution “Gaudium et spes” of the Second Vatican Council

*Here enclosed, the declarations of the Bishop of Cremona H. E. Msgr. Antonio Napolioni, of the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to UNESCO, Msgr. Francesco Follo, and of the president of “Don Primo Mazzolari” Foundation, don Bruno Bignami.*