



16TH ANNIVERSARY

Your Excellency, friends, and everyone present... thank you very much.

I want to thank His Excellency, Monsignor Carlo Faccendini, Episcopal Vicar for the City of Milan, and all the priests, for celebrating Holy Mass in commemoration of our loved ones; Mayor Giuseppe Sala, the Municipal Administration, and SEA, for their constant caring presence; all the religious, civilian and military authorities who support and accompany us every anniversary; and the "La Verdi" children's choir, whose music took us to a deeper place within our souls in communion with our loved ones.

I want to give our young children a big hug for the great emotion we feel when they bring gifts to the altar and a particularly affectionate kiss to the dear little ones here today. They are the blossoming bud of life, opening toward the future. They are our hope, and their smiles are life blood, energy and courage for us.

It is for them and future generations that we plan, work and pray.

As Tagore says, "Let me make my life simple and straight, like a flute of reed for the Lord to fill with music." This is what our loved ones tell us: to harmonize our lives for a better world.

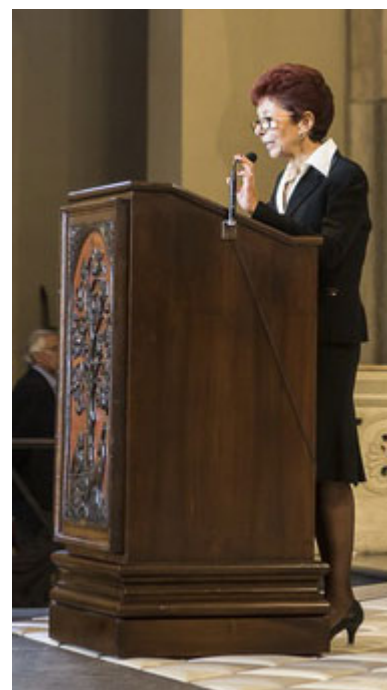
Last year I concluded by saying that many of us would still be here next year: always hopeful, motivated and determined.

Well, here we are again: still numerous, hopeful, motivated and determined.

Pasquale Padovano is here with us. Paolo Pettinaroli is also here with us in spirit, together with all those people who we have encountered on our path all these years who have already reached the Lord's House but I know have never stopped following and guiding us.

Each of us is here with our past and the sorrow of having dramatically lost a loved one. But we are not alone. Sixteen years after the tragedy, we are here – united, close-knit, and supportive. A great soul unites and sustains us, making us realize that our sorrow is not in vain. We have supported and helped one another. We have found the strength to rise and pursue the path of solidarity, courage and love.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul says:



“Love is patient, love is kind.
It does not envy. It does not boast. It is not proud.
It is not rude, it is not self-seeking.
It is not easily angered; it keeps no record of wrongs.
Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres.
Love never fails.”

Our work continues unceasingly.

Another fruitful year has passed in which we have accomplished several projects and elaborated new ideas, always with the indispensable help of our valued friends on the Task Force. All of them, young and young at heart, have always worked with growing enthusiasm. All are driving forces.

The Foundation continues to be at the forefront of air safety and research. It is respected and much in demand, also abroad.

We are very proud. We must therefore proceed, with humility and devotion, with our studies and research in aviation safety and prevention.

We do it with expertise and seriousness, trusting in the help of God and the energy of love that comes from our loved ones. They live on in our heart, which has now expanded to become a place for all and for everyone who has loved and loves them.

We will continue to meet and support one another throughout the year.

Now the Bosco dei Faggi awaits us. A place full of life and highly symbolic for us, it will be a time for prayer and remembering our loved ones at the close of our commemorative day.

Thank you and much love to all.