

Education, our only possibility

Europe Day 2022 in Italy: Videoconference about good practices in education offered by young people belonging to diverse Movements

Good practices in education

An overview of formal and informal education being carried out by groups of young people: videoconference, Italy, May 8, 2022.

Young people have carried out good practices in education. In doing so, they showed that it is possible to establish a dialogue between diversities that become richness through the sharing of gastronomic, religious and cultural traditions. This is indeed what the Pope John XXIII Community is doing as part of its ministry in welcoming refugees.

Another practice is: how to promote a culture of peace in schools and in an entire city. This is what happened in Trent, northern Italy: it all started with a small group of boys and girls and the 'cube of peace', which produced lived-out experiences and acts of fraternal love in daily life. This spread to other schools and even the mayor was intrigued, and this resulted in the setting up of a monument in the city centre. This practice was illustrated by a teacher who embraces the ideal of unity of the Focolare Movement.

Then it was the turn of young people from the southern part of Italy, Palermo. Their focus was to help other young people overcome addictions and bullying, and to give witness to respect, courage and non-violence. This is the initiative of an Association linked to the Pentecostal Movement: "I am Rev", which means "I am revolution" – the revolution of the Gospel.

A young woman from the St Egidio Community explained the richness experienced through inter-generational relationships between young people and their grannies, or the elderly living in retirement homes. These relationships are a source of handed-down values and the foundation of a peaceful future.

Other practices included the commitment for solidarity of a Scouts' group; that of the Ambassadors of the European Union (*Fondazione Antonio Megalizzi*); an experience of reciprocity between guards and lifers in a prison in Florence, which resulted in personal maturation.

We were touched by what persons who welcomed refugees from Ukraine shared with us: "Yesterday I met Mascha in the corridor. She had just learned that one of her sons has been shot. Oksana, a mother of two small children was crying with her; her husband was killed on the frontline just a week before. I didn't know what to do! I went up to them and gave them a big hug, one on my right and the other on my left. I felt like hugging Jesus as he cried on the cross..."

A cry that was transformed into a prayer, an imploration for peace with multiple voices - Catholic, Lutheran, Greek Orthodox... and yet, just one voice.

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