



Mouvement International d'Apostolat des Milieux Sociaux Indépendants
Movimiento Internacional de Apostolado de los Medios Sociales Independientes
International Movement of Apostolate in the Independent Social Milieus

ECHOES OF OUR MOVEMENTS' LIFE



XIV General Assembly of MIAMSI

International Forum on the theme:

« Dialogues, Peace et Reconciliation »

28th October to 1st Novembre 2016 in Burkina

** Burkina Faso, land of dialogue*

** Expected impact in Burkina Faso, the sub-region and Europe*

Mediterranean symposium

20 to 22 November 2015 in Sicily

** Mediterranean: a road in the sea.*

** Migration, peoples, cultures and religion*

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Various testimonies

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Dear friends,

"The common home" is the name that our Pope Francis gives our planet in his latest encyclical "Laudato Si". It enables us to better contemplate Creation but also be aware of the dangers which threaten it.

This encyclical is to read and study in connection with the many thoughts and research of our respective movements and we will see that our method: See-Judge -Act is still effective and above all allows us to be attentive to the "signs of the times".

In this "Echo" you will discover the dynamism and the many lines of enquiry being considered by our members faced with the great issues of the world, in order to improve "our common home"

Enjoy your reading!

*Maryse Robert
MIAMSI President*

Burkina - Successful Interfaith Dialogue!

The experience of interfaith dialogue in my country that I want to show here is essentially that of a dialogue of life that takes three forms: dialogue as mutual hospitality, dialogue of active solidarity and common commitment to the service of peace.

Dialogue as mutual hospitality

In Burkina Faso, the religious leaders - Muslim, Protestant, Catholic, and traditional leaders have initiated mutual visits in recent years, especially during happy or unhappy events (Ramadan, Tabaski, Christmas, Easter, New Year, deaths, weddings ...). These are testimonies of fraternity and solidarity which give rise to a climate of sharing and mutual esteem and foster collaboration for the promotion of dialogue and social peace.

This type of dialogue is based on the following conviction: to understand others, one had better be their host. This is to take the first step towards others:



The first step in prayer: this is the place *par excellence* to welcome another person.

On all Muslim holidays, our bishops will pray at the mosque with our Muslim brothers. During the great Christian festivals or ceremonies, traditional chiefs, imams, attend Church to support their Christian brothers.

The first step by visiting the brothers of other religions:

From a distance we see others as in a distorting mirror.

When I take a step towards others, I discover them in their truth and give them the opportunity to see me in my truth. This is what a Tibetan apologist asserted: "From a distance I thought I saw an animal. It came closer and I realized it was a man. He came even closer, and I saw that it was a brother." Mutual hospitality allows me to discover that the other person, despite differences in cultures or religions, is a brother who specifically enriches me by his differences.



The dialogue of active solidarity

To be fruitful, dialogue should take differences into account and rely on a common basis which is that of our common humanity whose fundamental characteristics constitute the human condition. Our young people have taken part in a sub-regional forum for reflection and interfaith exchange.

In Bobo Dioulasso, the town many Muslims and all our close there is a happy or unhappy event our presence and provide any kind ing month, we turn to our wish them a good fasting time by porridge or drink.



where I live, for example, there are neighbours are Muslims. When in their family we take part through of support. During the Muslim fast-neighbors and Muslim friends to presenting them with sugar for their

I would also note that there are many marriages between Muslims and Christians, on which occasions we all go to the church or mosque.

Burkina - Successful Interfaith Dialogue! (followup)

The common commitment to Peace

For believers in Burkina Faso, peace is a gift from God and also the fruit of men's efforts. And as the folk wisdom of the African savannah has taught, "Every member of the family is invited to the family palaver. Every family member must be involved in the family's work."

To promote reconciliation, the moralization of politics, justice and peace, religious leaders always come together with us for this service to the nation. Messages of peace and mediation initiatives in certain circumstances are also initiated by religious and traditional leaders.

Effective, open communities with the common good is alive and is



collaboration of religious state in promoting the common good to be encouraged.

The family is able to safeguard the fundamental values of the nation, religious beliefs, a sense of responsibility and fra-

ternity. ways the natural place best

Similarly, the school tries to play its role as a place of socialization and empowerment, knowledge and respect for others different from oneself. Our schools welcome children and young people of all religions without discrimination. For example in the high school where I teach, dialogue sessions on faith are organized once a week where adults and youngsters in each class have the opportunity to express themselves and seek all means to mutually accept each other and live as brothers while still keeping their personal beliefs.

Since this is a Catholic school we have Mass every Friday afternoon. Many young Muslims come to pray and even go so far as to join the choir and do the readings. This may seem shocking but we



let them do so as young people are very sensitive and are easily frustrated. If we do not welcome them and they feel excluded from this circle that is somehow their second family; they will experience this as discrimination.



Photos of young members of a club which is an initiative of MIAMSI Burkina.

Burkina - Successful Interfaith Dialogue! (end)

However, this apparent peace is not taken for granted, we need constant work to maintain it, for in a regional and international context where there is a disturbing increase in conflicts and wars or religiously motivated violence, interfaith dialogue is the royal road to establish a culture of peace in society. Promoting the culture of peace through dialogue is a long process because peace never comes cheaply.

Cardinal Philippe OUEDRAOGO said, "Interfaith dialogue must be understood not as a dialogue between religions but a dialogue between believers of different religions. It is essentially a dialogue between real people who have different creeds, religious beliefs, worldviews and religious practices."

Finally I still borrow what my cardinal said in a statement on the same subject:

There is no peace among nations without peace among religions

There is no peace among religions without interfaith dialogue;

Peace is achieved more efficiently and sustainably through dialogue than force or military deterrence.

*Valerie Sylvia KI,
MIAMSI Burkina Faso*

"Dialogue, peace, reconciliation" International Forum

Expected impacts on Burkina Faso, the sub-region and Europe

The exchanges will, I hope, find ways to counter the threats to peace faced by several entities that are families, countries, the sub-region, Africa and the world in a context of rising blind terrorism.

An interfaith dialogue initiative, added to all similar initiatives here and there, helps to establish trust between followers of different religions in order to achieve more knowledge and enrichment of respective differences.

An initiative to raise awareness among the youth of the continent, region by region, on the challenges and issues of "living together" through inter-

faith and cultural dialogue; promoting an operational, consensual culture of secularism, promoting preventive security measures involving public forces and citizens groups in social vigilance.

Recalling the role of education in promoting universal values shared by religions: this new task can be assigned to the movements that will analyze its feasibility.

The final Forum message or manifesto may invite education stakeholders and decision makers to take up this compass to introduce methodical, practical and effective syllabuses in schools, training

centres and schools of all kinds, based on the Preamble to the Constitutive Act of UNESCO.

One aspect of peace issues in Africa is finding African solutions to African problems: educating children for peace, social cohesion reconstruction. The European Union is engaged in long-term stabilization of the Sahel region through the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative (ACT) and can support some of the aspects mentioned above.

*Prosper Honagbode,
President of
MAMP – HUENUSU*

The Mediterranean: a road in the sea. Migrations, people, cultures and religion

Malta: Alarming refugee situation

Shared by Dr Katrin Camilleri, who works with the Jesuit refugee network in Malta (JRS).

For your information, in October 2013: 400 refugees were rescued by fishermen in Lampedusa. With the Syrians ... someone fired on the boat ... who? Why?

130 people were educated, with passports, they were trying to have visas but we know that if we ask for protection, all doors are closed. They risk their lives for a better future. From the boat a call was sent, Italy said that Malta was coming

The boat sank before help arrived. 260 dead. Afterwards, all the authorities were questioned.

One of the survivors said, of course we do not blame you for killing our children. We are not stupid, we know it is we who have killed our children.

As Maltese Christians, we are shocked because we thought we were responsible for this tragedy. The wall that we built to protect ourselves may be this huge responsibility.

Only those who work and live with the refugees can have a fair view of the situation, not ourselves with what the media tell us. (The waiting time for decisions for instance... feeling powerless) God's vision for humanity is different from what we have built as a society. Isaiah 25 with a banquet for all peoples. God will wipe away tears from all faces, the walls of fortresses disappear.

One wonders ... opening our hearts. What tangible gift to make? Most people here are not happy to open their doors because we are afraid of losing our peace, jobs ... because of the difference ... losing our identity.

Migrants who are rescued are brought to Malta and kept in detention centres for months.

When the application is rejected ... 18 months ... except for the vulnerable. No alternative has been found ... you cannot leave people like that in the streets...

Sometimes they say the procedures in Malta go against human rights but this is not understood ... many words, not many deeds...

This problem is particularly difficult because we are struggling against an outside enemy we do not know. We built this wall, but the wall is the result of our fears, selfishness, indifference ... these physical walls match the walls in our heads and in our hearts. We are also builders of the wall to exclude those who need our protection.

We believe that this issue is a much broader problem. A global issue. Those who come here can go elsewhere, even to northern Europe. Solving this problem.

And if European countries wait too long, the numbers will keep growing... From January to August 100,000 arrivals in Italy ... our European culture is threatened. How to maintain it without turning one's back on the suffering of these people who want to live with dig-

nity? This is the most burning issue facing Europe today

Question :

A couple tried to go rescue those in the sea ... but it is a drop in the ocean. Mare Nostro and other programmes (Frontex) exist but the traffickers use more fragile boats because they know that boats from organizations were coming to help people. The "no-turnback" policy also poses many problems.

We feel that our society is changing ... refugees with the opportunity to work come on the labour market ... and are picked up by builders with one-day contracts...

It provides an opportunity for these people but what happens to those who did the work before? Maltese society that used to be so welcoming now feels threatened by all this.

The presence of Muslim refugees also changes the game ... with representatives of the Islamic State ...

And this remark from the Australian Prime Minister challenges us: Welcome everyone. If you accept my rules, ok, if not, you go back to where you came from.

It is probably by helping the migration countries that a solution can be found? Finding a solution at the source. OK, that's done by Europe. But the funds coming in .. where do they really go?

Every man is different but all men are equal vis-à-vis rights to health, education... This should always be before us.

Malta: Alarming refugee situation

As Western countries, we have serious foreign policy/industrial responsibilities... we cannot say that this does not concern us! Our politicians are inconsistent for the time being. But we, as a movement and citizens, have a duty to help politicians do their job properly... Can we do something?

As Independent Milieus we advocate freedom of movement, linked to a better life for our children to study abroad ... our children will not risk their lives for a better

life... What about the movement of people across the world!

But the issue of abiding by the law must be taken into consideration...

It is with broken hearts that Malta is in a position of having to refuse or cut back reception... especially since the Christian foundation nurtures culture and politics.

The transition from Mare Nostro to Frontex should be looked at:

Current refugees are linked to war more than hunger, this type of refugees also have money in this case.

We can accommodate them and also be a word in Europe to say that this is a European issue ...

Probably important to say something, after the Malta meeting, in the context of Council of Europe meetings.

And the fear of diseases is currently important.

Rinascita Cristiana, Italy « Stop the migrant tragedy»

Rinascita Cristiana expresses its deep sorrow and dismay at the cruel tragedy that occurred a few days ago in the Sicilian Channel; a tragedy that is constantly repeated, every day, in the Mediterranean Sea.

The whole movement joins in prayer to entrust to Pope Francis the terrible fate of our

brothers and their families' pain.

Today especially we ask that European leaders seek the way to find peace, hospitality and solidarity.

The victims, as Pope Francis reminded us, are "men and women like us, our brothers who seek a better life, hungry,

persecuted, injured, exploited, victims of war."

We cannot accept that their attempt to seek happiness turns into an encounter with death.

We have joined **the joint appeal of Catholic organizations as members of the Food for All Campaign.**

Dialogue on North-South migration in Lagos Portugal

The Subcommittee for cooperation with non-EU countries of migration origin and transit, of the Council of Europe's Commission on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, organized a conference on "Dialogue on North-South Migration" in Lagos, Portugal on 30 - 31 March 2015.

This event was organized in cooperation with the Council of Europe North-South Centre and the Portuguese Parliamentary Assembly in the activities of the joint programme between the Council of Europe and the European Union "Strengthening democratic reform in the Southern region (South programme)."

So how to ACT?

With clear, transparent admission processes - Fighting human trafficking together - Developing countries by implementing common strategies - Creating multiple support for development with institutions that can do it - The diaspora can and must build bridges between North and South - Supporting the Diaspora Parliamentary network.

Testimony of an expatriate in Hamburg

If I look back on that first year in Hamburg I would say it was multiple meetings with both Germans, Spaniards (because Hamburg is a host city port where many communities from different countries live) etc... The meeting which marked me the most was with my English teacher, a political refugee from South Africa, we talked a lot about Mandela and that made me understand that sure, I'm an expatriate but free to go home without ending up in jail. Similarly when you brush shoulders daily with Syrian, Afghan, Iranian refugees... who have made their home in the reception centre in our street since January: freedom of movement is priceless.

The French expatriates became aware of their presence quite quickly and experience it positively, as opposed to the elderly in neighborhood who are bothered by it, they make a mess. To me, that's just a form of racism.

Then the meeting with the Toulouse people at the French high school was very helpful in making us "feel at home" in Germany. Which is not easy in the first months when you don't fully master the language and the cultural and social codes.

Then I was lucky enough to be pregnant in Germany, which confronted me with the German health system, it was not much fun: we have nothing to envy in their

very American health system that primarily emphasizes sales rather than care. I was still lucky because my gynecologist had travelled and worked particularly in France, Thanks to her, I managed to go through a carefree pregnancy and give birth in the most natural, fam-



ily-oriented conditions in Hamburg Hospital. That was also where I met Viviane, my German roommate and admirable mother of 4 children, which is very unusual in Germany.

For us there was no question of giving birth in a private maternity clinic as they have almost all been bought by Saudi groups, and ethically it didn't suit us.... Yes, Germany is growing but at what price: that of its citizens? Yes, everything is paid for here and not everyone is lucky enough to have super expat health insurance ...

Moreover, it seems to me that the German people are becoming aware that German growth is bothering them: precarious contracts, no minimum wage ... So we lived through strikes galore: Lufthansa, nurseries for 2 months, the postal service, trains and the underground ... France is not the only country to strike?

And then there were the Charlie Hebdo attacks, it was hard for the French to be in Hamburg for this event for, faced with this tragedy, one feels more French than ever and more than ever misunderstood by some Germans, because I even heard some whispering "there is no smoke without fire" but fortunately, our German and Irish rugby club coaches were not of this opinion and were the first to show their support for our beautiful homeland.

We have a Syrian camp 300m from our home, new issues are raised. Together with the French expatriate families, we have become aware of their presence. We do not have much information but have changed some habits: donations of toys and clothes are made to the camp manager (before, we gave them to the Red Cross). We are aware that for them it is not easy, we see them constantly walking in the city just recently we've begun to smile at each other.

Thank you to all those who have accepted to testify, to share what they live, and those who have translated the articles

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