

IDEA DEL MESE

Dicembre 2022

Love: a rock to lean upon

The need for stability and peace is so timely! We too, personally and collectively, are living through dark moments in history that threaten to crush us under the weight of uncertainty and fear for the future.

How do we overcome the temptation to allow the difficulties of the present to bring us down and make us become closed in ourselves, cultivating feelings of suspicion and distrust toward others?

First of all, one possible answer is to courageously "renew" our confidence that love can do anything. We are encouraged to do so by our own experience. Surely at times we have known the support of a friendly hand, the presence of someone who has become our neighbour and who shares the way with us when life's pathway becomes dark, narrow and steep.

But this belief does not mean being passive. On the contrary, it asks us to be active, creative and responsible protagonists in building a 'new city', founded on the law of mutual love. This city has open doors and welcomes everyone, especially 'the poor and oppressed.

As we travel along this path, we will enjoy the companionship of the many men and women who hold dear the universal values of solidarity and the dignity of every person, as well as respect for creation, our 'common home'.

In the Spanish village of Aljucer, an entire community is committed to building fraternal relationships based upon open and inclusive forms of participation.

They tell us: 'In the summer of 2008, we set up a cultural association, with the

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aim of carrying out activities of various kinds, both of our own initiative as well as in collaboration with other associations in the area. Our goal was to promote spaces for dialogue and international humanitarian projects.

For example, every year since it started, we have promoted a solidarity dinner for the Fraternity with Africa project, to finance scholarships for young Africans committed to working in their country for at least five years. These are dinners that bring together about two hundred people and are supported by shopkeepers and other groups.

We have also been very happy to work with another association for many years. Together we organise an annual event which is open to people from the worlds of culture, music, painting and literature, as well as representatives engaged in politics, business and medicine. It is an opportunity for all of them to share experiences from their working lives and the deeper reasons for the choices they have made.ⁱ

Christmas is just around the corner. Let us celebrate it by being builders of fraternity. The love we give will free us from limitations and enslavement and we will see a revolution of love explode, capable of transforming the society in which we are immersed

ⁱ *Esperience taken from www.focolare.org.*