



Run4unity, 12th May 2012

Together for a United World: mathematical signs mark the world

Kia ora koutou! “Hello everyone!” It was this greeting from New Zealand, in the Maori language, that gave the go-ahead to the world relay-race organised by the Teens for Unity of the Focolare Movement. 70 teenagers in Wellington inaugurated this event that involved thousands of others that come from different cultures, ethnic groups and religions.

Different activities took place in 214 cities from 15 to 16 hours in one time-zone after another. There were sport events, but also others pertaining to social, cultural and religious fields.

The participants in Perth, Australia were divided into groups; they decided to clean beaches and other corners of the city, and also to pay visits to lonely people. The Run was held also in Melbourne and Sydney.

In Japan, at Nagasaki and Tokyo, the Run4unity was a joined venture carried out with young Buddhists, belonging to the Rissho Kosei-kai Movement. The initiative took place also at Macao and Hong Kong, and in China. In Thailand, material was collected to help rebuild huts destroyed by torrential rain. In India, the Run took place in New Delhi. It was held in places that symbolically embrace the culture of four different religions. At Amman, in Jordan, Muslim and Christian youngsters wanted to leave a visible mark of their brotherhood by painting on the walls of a school the mathematical signs, symbols of this initiative: + love, - suffering, to **divide**, x everyone, so that there will be a higher % of happy people and..... living in this way = 1, a united world.

This same spirit animated the events that were taking place in other parts of the world.

In Europe, the Run took place from Russia to Ireland, where Catholic and Protestant young people were running together in Belfast to manifest their fraternal love. In Norway, the baton of the relay-race was taken to Oslo, at the Stovner area, which is inhabited by people from 133 different nations. The mayor of the town was also present. 80 European cities witnessed the commitment for a world where more solidarity can be experienced. Among these, there was the farthest north city of Reykjavik in Iceland and the one farthest to the west: Ponta Delgada, in Portugal (Azore Islands).

There were 97 relay-races along 6 different time-zones in America, from Montreal on the northeast of Canada to Trelew, at the very south of Argentina. Here the Teens for Unity freshly painted the public benches, writing on each a positive message. America carries the record where altitude is concerned: the relay-race at Mexico City took place at a height of 2300 metres. The Malcolm Shabazz Mosque, in the Harlem Area of New York, is one of the most symbolic places of this edition of Run4Unity. This is the place, where the historical meeting between Chiara Lubich and W.D. Mohammed, the imam of African American community of U.S.A took place 15 years ago.

The baton of the relay-race arrived at Vancouver, the city farthest to the west, on the west coast of Canada. The edition of Run4Unity 2012 ended here. It was the mayor of this city that inaugurated this activity..

Run4unity was not terminated on 12th May 2012. All these activities will be included in the on-going project: “Colouring our city”. For more information and more details visit the website: www.run4unity.net