

XIII ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS
7-28 OCTOBER 2012

The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith

Mrs. Gisèle MUCHATT's intervention (summary)

Regional Manager of the " New Families " Movement (SYRIA)

When I got married thirteen years ago I was aware of the fact that I was doing so in order to do God's will and that I would have done whatever it took with my husband to fulfill His design of love for us and our family. I was supported a great deal in this journey by the Christian formation I received in the parish as well as by the spirituality of Communion of the Focolare movement, which reminds me constantly to return to the Gospel as a path to tread in order to change my way of thinking, acting and desiring and seeking to match that of Jesus, and to live to carry God's love to the world. With my family we seek to put charity into practice, transmitting the Christian faith into that which is the most life-giving: a personal relationship with God, with Jesus, which springs forth in new ways from individual and family prayer and from love of neighbor.

We share this journey with many other families (New Families) in Syria who are involved both individually and collectively in living the Gospel and proclaiming it in personal contact as well as in small meetings, attentive to the educational, economical and cultural challenges that the Christian family in Syria faces.

Thanks to the efforts of New Families, a project for local distance adoptions has been in operation in Syria since 2005 which provides monthly assistance to children and a school for deaf and mute children, both Christian and Muslim, born of one couple's generous work.

In the current tragedy in Syria, New Families, with many others, is opening up to the needs of refugees, seeking to keep alive at all costs faith in God, for whom nothing is impossible. In Aleppo, in August, spontaneous small groups were organized in various neighborhoods to pray the Rosary, so that the voice of prayer might frequently be raised even amidst the noise of gunshots and bombs.

The unity that was experienced strengthens and gives peace even in danger; faith in God's love is stronger, hope is alive.