

**CLC-CVX EUROLINK**

**SOCIAL JUSTICE MEETING  
ROMA**

**October 19th 2007**

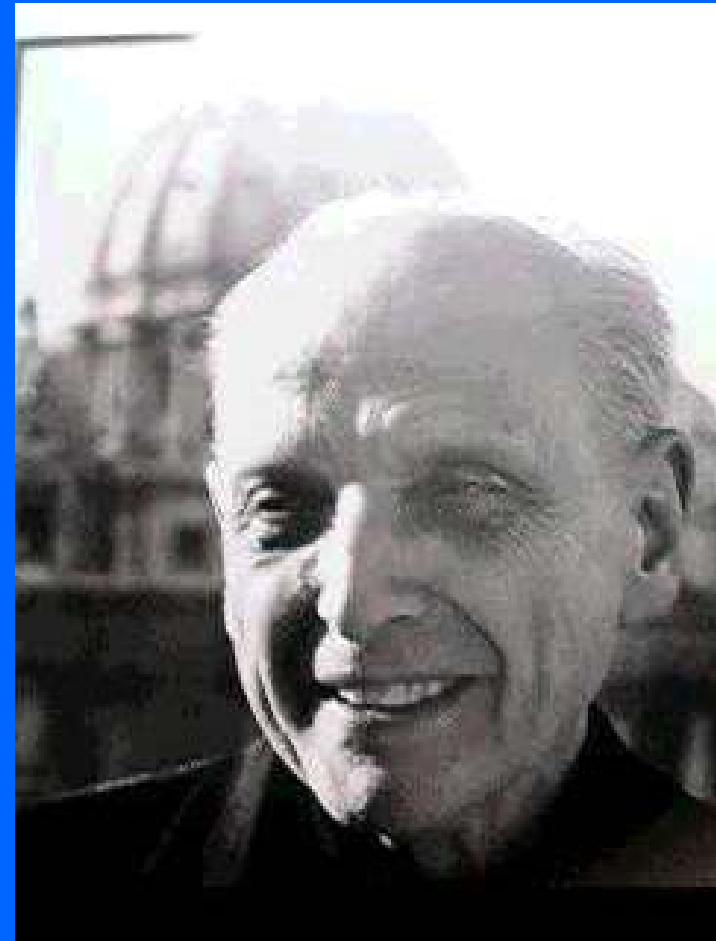


***WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE:  
THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS***

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**REMEMBERING  
THE WORDS  
OF  
FATHER  
ARRUPE**

**November, 14th 1980**



## ***WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS***

***“Struck and shocked by the plight of thousands of boat people and refugees..... sharing my distress with them, I asked what the universal Society could do to bring at least some relief to such a tragic situation”***



# ***WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS***



***" St Ignatius called us  
to go anywhere  
we are most needed  
for the greater  
service of God. "***

# ***WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS***

***“ God is calling us through  
these helpless people.***

***We should consider the  
chance of being able  
to assist them***

***a privilege that will,  
in turn, bring great  
blessings to ourselves  
and our Society.”***



# ***WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS***

**What are we speaking about ?**

**50 millions of refugees or  
asylum seekers in the world**

**40 countries under conflict**

**28 millions migrants in Europe**

**3,3 millions in Italy, more  
considering irregulars**



# ***WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS***

Some escaping persecution

Some escaping war

Some for ungher

Some for desperation,

Some to join husband, wife,  
sons, parents, familiars



## ***WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS***

*.....but they should be consider all as refugees, because forced to leave his own land hoping for a better life.....*

*....and some images speak us better than more words...*

# ***WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS***



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**AT CENTRO  
ASTALLI**

**A HISTORY  
OF 26 YEARS**

**A LONG WAY  
THROUGH  
MANY STEPS**



# ***WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS***

## **EVENING SOUP KITCHEN**

The soup kitchen is the first Centro Astalli's services, born with the voluntary effort of many Italian CLC members



***“ There are many difficulties in running a soup kitchen that, free of charge, distributes meal to asylum seekers ....***

***I think that who has already experienced all kind of abuses has the right of eating not only for hunger, but also for pleasure.”***

**Pierpaolo Burioni,  
responsible of the Soup Kitchen**

# WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS

## MEDICAL OUTPATIENT CLINIC

People can receive medical assistance and psychological support



*“ I do not have much experience about doctors and hospitals. When I was a slave nobody cared to send me to a doctor. They left me there in my small room, making me understand that it was better for me to return to work as soon as possible, that they were not disposed to tolerate my inactivity for a long time. “*

from Cheik,  
refugee from Mauritania

# **WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS**

*A friend of mine coming from Congo, refugee in Italy, victim of torture, today physical therapist, once told me he had been tortured three times in his life.*

*The first time in jail by his torturers, the second time when he was released from prison and went back to his community.*

*In Italy he has been tortured for the third time, because of the way he was received.*

Carlo Bracci, “Medici contro la Tortura”

## **PROJECT FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE**

Among the people addressing to Centro Astalli’s legal office, at least one out of four is a victim of torture



# ***WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS***

## **OUTREACH AND LEGAL ORIENTATION CENTER**



*“ We come from different countries and speak different languages. Teachers have so much patience with us.*

*They give us lessons every day and this is very important to improve the acquaintance of Italian language: day by day. We have learned the history of Rome visiting museums and archaeological sites”*

**Oksana, ukrainian immigrant**

# ***WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS***

*In spite of the real difficulties  
Centro Astalli has interpreted the challenges  
by maintaining historical services  
and developing new projects  
to give voice to the forgotten ones*

# WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS

## CASA DI GIORGIA

*Accommodation Center  
inaugurated in October '99,  
when the arrival of women  
and children seeking for  
asylum in Italy increased*

*"I remember my first turn.  
A silent greeting put an end  
to my initial embarrassment.  
I have always admired their  
capacity of resistance, their  
strength, and their deep faith  
in life"*

**Marisa Bini, volunteer in Casa di Giorgia**



# WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS

## SAN SABA

### Accommodation Center

The parish cinema was transformed into a place to receive young men asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants



*“ I have almost forgotten what a house is.*

*A place to eat and sleep whenever you want, in which you can enter and exit as you want,*

*where you can stay if you are sick or it's cold, where you can cook a supper for a friend.*

*Some times, in the most difficult days, I think I'll never have a house again.”*

from Nizam, Kurd refugee

# **WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS**

*The smell of the meals that hosts and social workers eat together mixes with the sound of the chat in different languages.*

*The fragrance of the breakfast prepared quickly in the morning, just before the mothers come down with their children ready to go to school...and I ask myself: "Will I be able to offer a smile to everyone?". And, once again, the hosts surprise me.*

Francesca Biscetti,  
volunteer in Pedro Arrupe Center

## **"PEDRO ARRUPE"**

### **Accommodation Centre**

The Centre offers many services Italian courses, post school programmes, workshops and vocational training courses.



# WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS

## CASA DI MARCO”

Welcomes children up to ten years, with the help of the social workers expert in children activities of “Pedro Arrupe” centre.

*“ Despite the huge difficulties that they have to afford everyday In order to start and manage a new life for themselves and their children, they are always smiling first.”*



# ***WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS***

## **“IL TASSELLO” LAUNDRY**

The workers, coming from different cultures, languages and experiences, live in a mutual respect, collaborating every day in order to improve themselves and the service.



# ***WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS***

**CENTRO ASTALLI NAPOLI**

*Is aimed to create  
structure of assistance for women,  
families,  
Young people  
laboratory of cultural promotion,  
constructive dialogue between  
people of different experiences  
and cultures.*

# ***WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS***

**CENTRO ASTALLI  
REGGIO CALABRIA**

*is growing on  
food distribution  
medical and legal  
assistance  
new projects*

# WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS

## CENTRO ASTALLI TRENTO



*“ Beyond reception and insertion of refugees, our job, with the help of institutions, is aimed also, and above all, to create in our city a laboratory of cultural promotion, mutual exchanges and constructive dialogue between people of different experiences and cultures.”*

# ***WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS***

## **CENTRO ASTALLI CATANIA**

*is growing on quickly, with new  
services  
and projects answering to the needs  
of many immigrants arriving  
in East Sicily*



# WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS

## CENTRO ASTALLI PALERMO

By accompanying immigrants through the difficult steps of their integration in the town, city, offers language, legal, medical and employment orientation



*Often they leaved the boat,  
loosing luggage  
and documents .....*

*.....most people  
addressing to us  
are not able  
to exercise  
their right .*

*We know many cases  
of expired permits,  
unattended asylum applications,  
situations of absolute irregularity  
often tied  
to the lack of documents.*

a volunteer of Centro Astalli Palermo

# *WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS*

- the way to be taken by a volunteer
- 3 steps for the best approach to the problem
- 3 key-words

*KNOWLEDGE*

*ACCEPTANCE*

*SOLIDARITY*

# *WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS*

## *1. KNOWLEDGE*

- open eyes, to look around*
- feeling to be called to meet the “other”*
- inclined to search the “contact“ with him*
- aware of the responsibility to be undertaken*

# ***WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS***

## ***2. ACCEPTANCE:***

- don't focalize the diversity only***
- look at the whole person***
- to be accepted as he is***
- enter in a mutual relationship***
- undertake a responsibility for him***

# ***WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS***

## ***3. SOLIDARITY***

- *to work for the justice*
- *to help a person to exercise his right*
- *to promote a better quality of his life*
- *to maintain fidelity to the commitment*

# ***WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS***

in comparison with the needs  
that's really a poor thing  
but we shall proceed  
remembering that .....

# ***WORKING WITH POOR PEOPLE: THE EXPERIENCE WITH MIGRANTS***

*...you shall love the stranger,  
because you yourself  
have been a stranger...*

*(Lv 19,24; Dt 10,19)*