

## On the road with St. Francis

Experiences of brotherhood of CA with others, acting together

## **CA ITALY and AGESCI**

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The collaboration between CA and Agesci, the most widespread scout association in Italy, was born from the common desire to get to know each other and reflect together on the educational service for children and young people that both our associations have been carrying out since their birth.

We want to put into practice what Pope Francis indicated to us at the Florence Conference "Remember also that the best way to dialogue is not to talk and discuss, but to do something together, to build together, to make plans: not alone, among Catholics, but together with all those who have good will "and what we wrote in the final document of the XVI National Assembly: we are an association called to" a strong commitment to the cultivation and exercise of communion within the Church: between the different subjects of the People of God, between different vocations and ministries, between the different levels of ecclesial life. Today, the exercise of



communion is an explicit invitation to build and bear witness to a synodal Church, making one savor the beauty of being the Church, People of God with many faces, a people for all peoples, where all are called to full participation for a wider mission that knows no boundaries or exclusions. " The most credible way to promote synodality is to put it into practice and for this reason we have decided to start a process of collaboration and comparison with other ecclesial aggregations, starting with AGESCI, to put the added value of our being layfaithful associates in the wealth of experiences, skills, bonds, experiences, relationships.

The first step was to bring together our National Presidency and their National Committee, which are the governing bodies of the two associations at national level: a moment of knowledge was born in which we talked about our activities in the area, the our facilities and our specific attention.

Together with the meeting and the knowledge we have developed reflections on specific issues: in particular, a working group is carrying out a reflection on educators and scout leaders and their vocation for

educational service. We also organized an appointment of the two national presidencies on "Christus Vivit": on this occasion we combined the moment of listening and reflection, led by Fr. Giacomo Costa, on a walk from Spello to the Eremo delle Carceri, obviously organized by our scout friends.

We have continued to meet regularly at national level and this has allowed us to encourage meetings and collaborations also at the local level: we have in fact experienced how the activities carried out at the national level can be an example and stimulus for diocesan and parish realities to get involved and collaborate. This has meant that in the single local realities various appointments are organized together not only with Agesci but with many layfaithful groups.

We already have the next appointment in the works: in fact we had imagined to propose in May 2020 a moment of reflection for our respective national councils on the "Global Educational Pact". In light of the pandemic, we have moved this moment and we will meet on 7 November next, to try to think together what contribution our two associations, which have always been involved in education and training, can bring to the reflection proposed by Pope Francis.

We are sure that the collaboration between our associations will continue, also and above all due to the bonds of fraternity that we have created in recent years, and that can be an incentive to carry out similar projects.

We have, in fact, understood that to fulfil alliances it is necessary to move and meet, to try to fully live the "action" of our association, to create meeting places, serene confrontation, made up of true listening and mutual respect, of the desire to know each other and of esteem, of desire to work together.