

Supporting Volunteers in Youth Organizations

Kick-off meeting - 6th March 2021

Erasmus Europe Programme, Youth, 6.3.2021 – RAFAEL CORSO

Dear young people, dear brothers and sisters, it is a pleasure to be able to greet you on the occasion of this working meeting on the project to support youth volunteering, based on the Erasmus programme.

As an ecclesial family, it is inevitable that today we begin with a reference to the apostolic journey of Pope Francis to Iraq, both for its historical character, as a desired meeting of multiple cultures, which was long overdue, and for the opportunity to turn confrontation into cooperation. We pray for this!

We are not talking about a simple subject but about a road strewn with the blood of martyrs for the faith. The original land of the patriarch Abraham, from whom the three great monotheistic religions derive, traditions that have enriched the path of humanisation in an extraordinary way and have also been at the centre of unspeakable confrontations, and which today are called upon by craftsmen to rebuild unity in diversity.

Pope Francis has thus presented himself on this journey as a pilgrim of peace in search of fraternity, entrusted to the humble power of Love. This confirms what he expressed in FT 88: "From the intimacy of each heart, love creates bonds and broadens existence when it draws the person out of himself towards the other".

Dear friends, the meeting that we are beginning at this moment wants to walk this path of encounter, of closeness, mutual knowledge, understanding, communion and necessary cooperation in the face of the enormous needs of our time. One does not love what one does not know! That is why it is essential to overcome the indifference that arises from ignorance of others and their needs and desires.

The saying goes that charity begins at home and that is why it is good to celebrate this project of Support for Young Volunteers, in search of a greater European integration and at the same time not to put a limit to the dream of an expanding integration.

In Christus Vivit 231 Pope Francis tells us that popular leaders are those who have the capacity to incorporate everyone, including the poorest, weakest, most limited and wounded in the youth march. They are not disgusted or afraid of the hurting and crucified youth.

On behalf of the Secretariat of FIAC, I wish you a fruitful work, always looking for what unites you and trying to overcome what differentiates you, in a true Christian, fraternal and supportive spirit.

Finally I share a wish of Cardinal Eduardo Pironio written in October 1994, "The path of Catholic Action coincides with the path of Mary: a path of fidelity and service, of contemplative silence and of the cross, of joy and of hope. It is always the fruitful way of the Fiat and the Magnificat. Of thanksgiving and of total and generous self-giving. May Mary always accompany us with the joyful availability of the disciples, with the ardour of the witnesses and with the serene fortitude of the martyrs.

Thank you for all your efforts and sacrifices, thank you for this journey of community work, thank you to Father Joao for his accompaniment from the Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life, thank you to all those who are making it possible from the coordination of Youth and from the secretariat of the FIAC, thank you to each and every one of you.

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May the love of the living Christ impel you and may St. Joseph watch over you in your work.