

# RECEPTION CENTRE SJA FOUNDATION

SJA FOUNDATION  
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Monthly Newsletter – Issue No. 1 August 2007

## WELCOME

Welcome to the 1st issue of the Reception Centre monthly newsletter!!!!!!

### *Why do we need a newsletter?*

The Reception Centre would benefit greatly if there is a sense of community among the workers in various teams. The Newsletter goes some way towards this sense of “belonging together”, given that many of us have different levels and times of involvement in the various initiatives of the Centre.

Moreover, it's important that the achievements, problems, obstacles faced by the various teams are known to other workers (volunteers) in good time – not later than one month after they are expressed in minutes of meetings, reports, etc. This sharing will promote respect for the achievements and difficulties faced by others and enhance fellowship. People who can help after reading the Centre news will be able to offer their services. All this can be done through the Reception Centre Newsletter.

The Newsletter should include a calendar of expected future events. Please get into the habit of planning in advance the dates of your future meetings and activities, and of letting the Reception Centre newsletter editor, Miriam, know immediately of these timetables. Please, this is very important – if you know of a future event at the Centre, please do tell Miriam in good time. Everybody will benefit from knowing which group is meeting when, at the Reception Centre, and what else is happening there. People will then be able to meet other people at the Centre because they know they will be there. The place will gradually become more active and interactive! A calendar of past events will also be useful, because the future-calendar will miss certain events if they are planned and held before the next newsletter is issued. So can you please help Miriam collect information about dates and titles past events as well? And how about a text describing what happened?

The Newsletter can also be used in various ways by people like you, who are reading this. The newsletter will be useful for those who wish to appeal to others for assistance, for materials, for ideas, and so on. It may be useful as a way of showing your friends what you are doing – and maybe get some much-needed additional workers into the project. Those workers who are artistically, spiritually, or intellectually inclined can contribute in various ways to the newsletter in order to enhance, deepen, and widen our experience of working through the Reception Centre. The Newsletter could have an occasional feature of “News from the Foundation” which also reminds us of the wider context into which the Reception Centre fits.

So when will you finish your next contribution of material for the Newsletter? Miriam is waiting!

Tony



## VISITING WOMEN PRISONERS

### *Friendship Group*

*"One of the Teams within the SJA Foundation is the Friendship Team which focuses mainly on befriending the lonely, the majority of whom are the elderly, but practically it directs its services to all those who are in dire need of a good friend, a patient listener, one who is also ready to give some good advise where needed. During our first meeting as a Friendship Team, it was agreed that one sector which would definitely benefit from this kind of service was, without doubt, the female inmates within Kordin Prison. A date for our first visit was hence set.*

*On a personal note, I must confess that I was quite uneasy as to what I should expect from such a place..... however, I was ready for a challenge, knowing also for a fact that on the one hand the inmates would definitely appreciate such a gesture, and secondly the Sisters are in dire need of additional help within this field.*

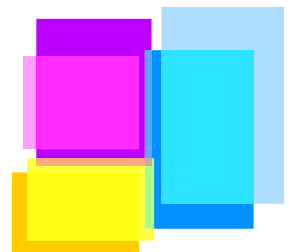
*Sincerely speaking I was expecting the 20 female inmates there, to be desperate, discouraged and dull..... what I was to discover, was the complete opposite. They know the Sisters very well, and admire and love them dearly. However I felt that they warmly welcomed me too, and surprisingly we also had a really good laugh. Notwithstanding their laissez faire attitude, I am sure that deep down, they are very hurt and probably demoralized.*

*They have the opportunity to spend a number of hours in each other's company, sprawled on the old sofas, smoking endlessly. And they surely lack exercise too!*

*Having the right people supporting them, giving them all the courage they need to a) reform themselves , b) face the duration of their prison sentence with perseverance and c) prepare themselves spiritually and mentally for when they are released, could be a determining factor leading them to become law-abiding citizens with good moral values.*

*I really look forward to my next visit..... hoping and praying that some of you would also join"*

*Caroline*



*“I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry of complaint against their slave-drivers, so I know well what they are suffering. Therefore, I have come down to rescue them...”*

*Ex 3, 7-8*

The list of events that have touched and still touch the world is interminable. **The Task Masters**, who maltreated the people, are always more specialized and invisible. **The Pharaohs** more immune and powerful. The cry of the victims is still louder and horrible. **The Exodus**, more numerous and diversified: today more than 175 million human beings migrate in order to procure for themselves better conditions of life.

**God listens to the clamour and goes down to free his people.** To approach like Moses *“it is necessary” before anything else to see “in the cry” of so many of our brothers and sisters “the flame that burns”*; secondly *to listen to God who calls to free his people from the oppression to which it is subjected (one or various causes exist behind every oppression), is to say proximity to God and proximity to excluded and indigent ones, who cry for justice, respect, peace, participation, truth...;* and thirdly *to assume the cause of the excluded and the indigent, listen to the voice of God who says: “Go, I am sending you....” (Ex 3, 10).*

## JEANNE ANTIDE

**St. Jeanne Antide heard the cry of the victims of the French Revolution and said yes to God. That is why in moments of great difficulties and suffering she was strong in her faith. What follows is a quote from a prayer she wrote and in which she express her feelings, her suffering and above all her spiritual strength.**



“God Alone is my All!”

“O my God, I do really want to know you, to love you, to adore you and to serve you only for love and to please you.” (LD. p.144)

### *A cry of confidence in God Alone*

“O my God, Sovereign Lord of heaven and earth, rise, show forth your goodness.....deign to hear my humble prayer, come to my aid, O God. Hasten to help me! It is in you alone my God and my Lord, that I place all my trust and my perfect hope: whoever hopes in you will not be put to confusion. You are the strong God, and it is on you alone that I rely.”

**Jeanne Antide** was sure that since she was on the side of the “excluded”, God was also on her side.

All quotations taken from the Website of The Sisters of Charity;  
suoredellacarita.org

**Sr. M. Salvina Bezzina soc**

## SJA FOUNDATION CORNER

## II-Fondazzjoni Santa Giovanna Antida u l-Pjan Pastoral tal-Knisja f'Malta

## A. Sfond

Fi Frar tas-sena 2006 is-Sorijiet tal-Karità flimkien ma xi lajci bdew proċess ta' ristrutturazzjoni tal-organizzazzjon *St. Jeanne Antide Welfare Campaign*, imwaqqfa minn Sr. Laura Tanti. Din l-organizzazzjoni issa qed tissejjah '*St. Jeanne Antide Foundation*'. L-Uffiċċji tal-Fondazzjoni u r-residenza tas-servizzi li joffri huma f'Hal Tarxien f'parti mill-kunvent tad-dar provinċjali tas-sorijiet tal-Karità ta' Santa Giovanna Antida Thouret.

Il-Pjan Pastoral tad-djoċesi ta' Malta jirreferi għal dan il-proċess f'pagna 34:

"Issir hidma biex tinghata hajja ġdida liċ-Centru St Jeanne Antide', biex ikun post ta' smigh u ghajnuna lill-izjed dgħajfa u mwarra."

### B. Il-Missjoni Tagħna u L-Ghanijiet tal-Fundazzjoni

Il-Fundazzjoni hija magħmula minn sorijiet u lajci li jaħdmu flimkien b'mod sistematiku, f'teams biex joffru support lil dawk il-persuni, familji u gruppi ta' minoranza li huma esklużi mis-soċjetà. Fuq il-linji tas-Sinodu u skond il-karizma tas-sorijiet tal-Karità, l-ghan tagħna hu li nirriflettu l-imħabba t'Alla f'dak kollu li nagħmlu u li naraw il-persuna ta' Gesù Kristu fil-bniedem fil-bżonn. Fl-għażla preferenzjali tal-fqar, l-iskop hu l-qadi, solidarjetà u djalogu kontinwu mal-persuna fil-bżonn, filwaqt li naħdmu biex nagħtu mill-ġdid d-dinjita' ta' wlied Alla billi ngħinu l-persuna tqum fuq saqajha u tiehu inizjattiva fil-hajja. Nishqu fuq 'iċ-centralita' tal-persuna' u fuq 'Eċċellenza fis-servizz'.

### L-Ghanijiet Tagħna

- nidentifikaw, nifhmu u nqajmu kuxjenza dwar kategoriji ta' nies li huma vulnerabbli u esklużi u li ma humiex milhuqin minn ebda servizz;
- nizviluppaw u nwaqqfu programmi għal dawn in-nies vulnerabbli jew nies u familja ta' gruppi fil-minoranza;
- nagħtu appoġġ u taħriġ lil numru ta' nies li jridu jagħtu l-kontribuzzjoni tagħhom lis-soċjeta' u lil persuni fil-bżonn;

- niprovdur l-opportunità u taħriġ lil dawk in-nies li jagħmlu użu mis-servizz sabiex huma wkoll jaslu biex jipprovdu servizzi għal nies oħra li huma fil-bżonn;
- nkunu miftuħin għal xogħol volontarju ta' zaġġaħ li jixtiequ joffru hin u energija b'risq l-oħrajn sabiex jakwistaw esperjenza u vizjoni fil-hajja.
- noħolqu kuntatti ma aġenziji barra minn Malta li jaħdmu fuq l-istess linja sabiex naqsmu esperjenzi, nagħtu u nircievu appoġġ u nwessgħu l-għarfien tagħna.

### C. 1 Għalissa lil min nistgħu nilhqu

- \* Persuni, tfal u familji bi bżonnijiet diversi li jiġu magħrufa fil-visti tad-djar tas-social worker, jew li jiġu riferuti lilna minn aġenziji jew persuni oħra. Aħna noffru għajnuna jew nirreferu għas-servizzi li ga jeżistu.
- \* Appoġġ lill-persuni anzjani weħidhom

### C. 2 X'Qed isir

- Tfassal Deed u Statut godda.
- Qed noħolqu xibka ta' voluntieri magħmula minn Sorijiet u lajci:
  - \* Ex-studenti ta' l-iskejjel tagħna, (*St. Joan Antide u Immaculate Conception*)
  - \* social workers u professjonisti tal-lokal u barra mill-lokal
  - \* assoċjati ta' lajci mpenjati li jhaddnu l-ispirtwalita' tas-sorijiet tal-Karita'
  - \* persuni oħra ta' rieda tajba, ta' hila u ta' esperjenza li lesti li joffru s-servizz tagħhom.
- Bini ta' kuntatti mal-Kunsill Lokali, mal-Kapillan, ma komunitajiet religjużi oħra, ma' l-Għaqdiet diversi u skejjel ta' madwar l-nhawi ta' Tarxien e.g. MCAST biex inkunu nistgħu noffru servizzi reciproci.



**C. 3 X'Servizzi bdejna diġà**

- \* Servizz ta' full time social worker professjonali (Soru tal-Karità)
- \* Sar kors għall-ommijiet żagħżagħ fuq self esteem.
- \* Għajjnuna fil-Homework lil tfal minn familji fid-diffikultà.
- \* Grupp għajjnuna lir-Refuġjati f'koperazzjoni tal-J.R.S.
- \* Żjarat lir-Residenti nisa tal-Facilità Korrettiva ta' Kordin.
- \* Qegħdin nistharrġu l-possibiltà li noffru xi tip ta' għajjnuna lill-persuni bla xogħol

**C. 4 Qegħdin nippreparaw biex fis-sena 2007-2008**

- \* Ikollna tahrig għall-voluntieri kollha tagħna.
- \* Inharrġu grupp ta' voluntiera biex jagħtu servizz fic-Centru ta' Merħba
- \* Nghammru l-istess Centru biex jiffunzjona bhala *drop-in centre*
- \* Noffru appoġġ lil persuni anzjani jew morda wehedhom
- \* Inwaqqfu grupp ta' persuni interessati fl-abbuż ta' l-anzjani biex naraw x'nistgħu naghmlu f'dan il-qasam
- \* Inkabbru n-numru tal-voluntiera tagħna biex inkunu nistgħu nkabbru s-servizzi.
- \* Infittxu lil xi kategorija ta' persuni li l-htigijiet tagħhom għadhom m'humix milhuqa u nistharrġu b'liema mod nistgħu nkunu ta' servizz.
- \* Centru ta' spiritwalità



**Dejjem Tigrja fid-dlam – Meta ser tieqaf fid-Dawl?  
Arti Diġitali – Tony Macelli**

**“PERSONS IN NEED” SEMINAR**

This is not yet a planned activity, but only a possible future one. Supposing that after the summer we organized a series of seminars at our Reception Centre as follows, would you be interested in attending fairly regularly?

**Subject:** Each seminar would be about a single category of vulnerable or socially excluded persons, especially those for whom there do not appear to be adequate services. Examples might be: prostitutes with medical needs; children of separated couples, abused elderly, etc.

**Frequency:** about once a fortnight.

**Structure:** The seminar would consist of a talk by a visiting speaker followed by a dialogue with the speaker or a group discussion.

**Speaker:** The speakers would all be practitioners, such as social workers, doctors, government department executives, etc.

If you haven't yet indicated whether you would like to attend, please do so! We would also like suggestions and ideas such as: which under-served categories of vulnerable or excluded people? Which practitioners/experts? Should these seminars be open to the public? Etc. SJA foundation members should write to the Group A e-group at [sjafoundationgroupa@googlegroups.com](mailto:sjafoundationgroupa@googlegroups.com).

Others may write to Tony on [imagine@maltanet.net](mailto:imagine@maltanet.net). If you do not use email please write to “Persons in need” seminars c/o Reception Centre

## LOGO COMPETITION

A logo is needed for the Reception Centre and for the Foundation, and for the corresponding letterheads.

I am announcing a contest for the best logo submitted for the SJA Foundation and another logo for the Reception Centre of the SJA Foundation. There is no prize, unless some nice person donates something to be used as a prize.

- **Dates:** The contest starts from the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2007, and closes in one month from now, on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Winners and runners up will be announced in the newsletter.
- **Format Guidelines:** use colour, but make sure that the logo would still look good if it has to be photocopied or printed in black-gray-white. Please send an electronic file, JPG type, not larger than 300 KB, or paint the logo on paper and scan it, sending us the file. Use a virus checker before sending any file
- Please put "Logo Competition" in the subject line of an email message, attach your logo or logos to the email message, and address it to [imagine@maltanet.net](mailto:imagine@maltanet.net)
- **Eligibility** – all are eligible; except that Contest entrants may not take part in the judging committee."
- **Copyright** – You must submit only your own work. If you take a logo from another source, you'll get us into copyright trouble
- A judging committee for the competition will be created by a member of the Steering Committee.
- Address your email with 1 or 2 or more logos as JPG attachments, to the email address of the Reception Centre: [sjafoundation@onvol.net](mailto:sjafoundation@onvol.net). Please indicate which logo is for the Centre and which is for the parent SJA Foundation. No single message should exceed 300K. Please ensure you have a good virus checker on your computer that checks your outgoing emails. Submissions by snail mail may be made on paper & posted to:- LOGO COMPETITION, St Jeanne Antide Foundation, 51, Tarxien Road, Tarxien PLA04

### Reception Centre Opening Hours

The current opening timetable applies from now until 31 August:

**Mondays:** 9:30 – 11:30am, 5:00 – 7:00pm  
**Wednesdays:** 9:30 – 11:30am, 5:00 – 7:00pm  
**Fridays:** 9:30 – 11:30am, 5:00 – 7:00pm



**Raxx**

Ċafċifa raxx, ma' ġildi l-ħaġar u l-blat  
 jintefa' w jinstabat il-mewġ ma' dax-xatt  
 u ġhorok, u saffa'  
 u nezza' mill-ktajjen u r-rbit  
 u fetaħ il-pori  
 u ġġedded is-skiet

L-ajru jbexbex u jiehu nifs kbir  
 fost l-eluf ċaqliqiet  
 u l-ħlewwa ta' flawt  
 il-bogħod, il-bogħod

Armonija!  
 Ħa' nimxi warajk  
 Ja seħer bla tmiem

*Pittura Akwarell "Grazzia" u poeziija: Tony Macelli*

## NOTICE BOARD

Fundraising Committee Meeting - 20<sup>th</sup> August 2007  
 18<sup>th</sup> September 2007



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