



The Raoul Follereau Foundation (Malta) - The Order of Charity
is a registered NGO [No. VO/0980]
administered by the
Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands
of the
Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem

April 2016

RAOUL FOLLEREAU FOUNDATION (MALTA): NGO NO. VO/0980

Order of Charity Newsletter

EDITORJAL

L-Istigma tal-Lebbra

Il-kelma "imgiddmin" hija kelma kerha u qawwija ħafna, tant li daż-żmien m'għadniex nużawha iżjed. Il-kelma "lebbra" tinstema' aħjar. Izda l-marda tibqa' dejjem l-istess u hija marda kerha ħafna li miljuni ta' nies għadhom ibatu biha.

Kull min għandu xi esperjenza mal-morda tal-lebbra jgħidlek dwar l-istigma u l-marka kerha li l-lebbriżzi għandhom fis-soċjetà, speċjalment f'pajjiżi bħall-Indja. Taqsam qalbek tara l-effetti ta' dan il-preġudizzju. Hija ħasra kbira meta anke tal-familja u l-ħbieb jabbandunaw lil dawk li jkollhom l-iċken sinjal ta' din il-marda, u m'għandhomx għaliex għax din il-marda tista' titfejjaq.

L-edukazzjoni dwar is-saħħa u l-aċċess għas-servizzi essenzjali jagħmlu parti neċessarja fil-ġlieda biex tinbidel il-ħajja tal-bniedem. Bl-għajjnuna finanzjarja tagħna, anke l-iċken għajjnuna, inkunu qed inkomplu noholqu għarfien dwar ix-xogħol li qed isir fil-pajjiżi tat-tielet dinja favur dawn il-morda. Inkunu wkoll qed ngħinu lil dawk li jaħdmu qalb dawn in-nies, fosthom il-missjunarji Maltin li jagħmlu sagrificċju kbir, mhux biss bħala missjunarji 'l bogħod minn pajjiżhom, iżda l-iktar għax qed jaħdmu qalb dawn il-morda li għandhom din l-istigma kerha.

Inkunu minn tal-ewwel li naħdmu favur dawn l-imsejtna li donnu ħadd ma jrid jaf bihom. L-Ordni tal-

Karità u l-membri tagħha ilhom is-snin jirsistu biex bl-għajjnuna tagħhom forsi din il-marda għad tispicċa darba għal dejjem. Inti tista' tgħin ukoll billi tinkuraġġixxi nies oħra biex isiru membri tal-Ordni tal-Karità. Kull min jibgħat imqar €5 isir membru u jibda jircievi din in-Newsletter. Grazzi tal-għajjnuna tagħkom.

Chev. Tony C. Cutajar

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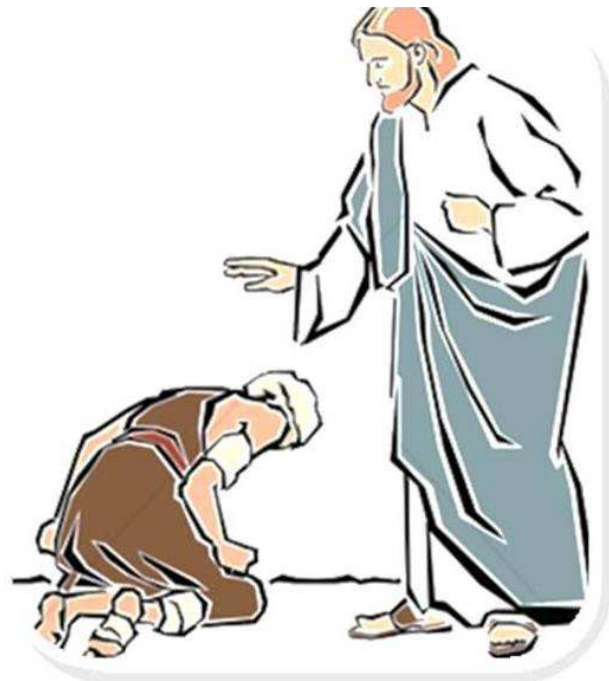
Jesus Heals a Man with Leprosy

A man with leprosy came to Jesus and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."

Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." Instead the man went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer

enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.



**Jesus heals
a man with
Leprosy**

If you are willing to help these people, you can send your contribution to the Order of Charity, Istitut Kattoliku Floriana or contact the organisers on 9976 4776 or by email on ra1sefoundationmalta@gmail.com

Helping in a leprosy village

The RA1SE Foundation for Good Causes recently held a fund-raising occasion in Gozo where €750 were collected for leprosy. The Maltese group went to Ethiopia on 6 September, so that the Order of Charity helped them by donating another €750 to be able to build one hut that accommodates 3-4 lepers and which costs €1,500 to build.

The government was not ready to give the Sisters in charge land where to build new homes for families suffering from leprosy. So the Sisters and the lepers' leader agreed to help some very poor people in the leprosy settlement whose homes are literally in a dilapidated state, as seen the following photos. The two selected very poor single mothers were:

Fatuma Abaraya who lives in the Ginjo leprosy village. She has three children living in a hut where the corrugated

iron sheet is not functional any more.

Adetemam Abameca who lives in the same leprosy village. She has four children living in a hut similar to the one above.

They are living in absolute poverty and their main income comes from begging. They need support and encouragement in all aspects.

**Helping in a
Leprosy
Village.**





Taking the first steps to a future full of hope

Making Anowar's dream a reality

Anowar had always dreamed of starting his own business but, as someone affected by leprosy, this had always remained beyond reach. Yet, with a small loan from the group, Anowar has now opened a village shop. He sells essentials such as oil, rice, spices - and, much to the delight of the local children, sweets!

Working hard to rebuild his life

With the profit, Anowar has recently bought 35 ducks. He is so proud to be supporting his family. He has also had reconstructive surgery on his hand and is waiting for eye surgery too.

Anowar has lagophthalmos, one of the effects of leprosy, and is

not able to close his right eye, leaving him in constant pain and at risk of permanent loss of vision. The surgery costs just £150 but would be impossible for Anowar to fund himself. However, with the help of our supporters, we can refer him for treatment and he will be able to sleep soundly again.

Thanks to the support of his self-help group and his own hard work, Anowar has regained his self-respect and hope for the future.

£150 could fund life-changing eye surgery for someone like Anowar, saving them from pain and permanent sight loss.

Anowar was only 10 years old when he contracted leprosy. Now 30 and with a wife and daughter to support, he is learning to live with the effects of disability.

Anowar has no feeling in his feet and his right hand is clawed. He has hope, though. As part of a self-help group in his village in Sherpur in Bogra district, Bangladesh, Anowar has learned to look after the ulcers on his feet. He is proactive in dealing with prejudice too.

Għadna kemm irċevejna €200 mingħand membru tal-Ordni tal-Karità li kitbitilna hekk: "Nixtieq nagħti donazzjoni ta' €200 biex tifel jew ġuvnott jingħatawlu par idejn biex ikun jista' jibda ħajja ġdid."

Ġimgħa qabel, kellna offerta oħra bħal din mingħand membru ieħor. B'kollox kellna 57 ruħ li għamlu din l-offerta ġeneruża.

GRAZZI TAL-QALB TAJBA TAGĦKOM.



Grazzi għall-generozita tagħkom.

Nixtiequ nfakkrukhom li meta tibgħatu ċekk, dejjem tiktbu isimkhom u l-indirizz biex nibgħatulkhom irċevuta.

Għex qalb il-lebbrużi Patri Gaetano Nicosia

Għex qalb il-lebbrużi
Patri Gaetano Nicosia
Il-Papa Françisku Itaqa' mal
-Patri Salezjan li kien għadu
kemm għalaq 100 sena.
Huwa mar l-Italja għal
vaganza wara li qatta' ħajtu
qalb il-lebbrużi. Huwa mar
iċ-Ċina ta' għoxrin sena
bħala missjunarju wara li
qara dwar il-lebbrużi fiċ-
Ċina.

Għex qalb il- lebbrużi

Fl-1963 huwa waqqaf
missjoni f'kolonja ta'
lebbużi fil-villaġġ ta' Ka
Ho fejn mitt lebbuż kien
mitluqin għal rashom
jgħixu fil-ħmieġ, fil-faqar
u fil-ġuħ. Huwa baqa'
jgħix magħhom anke
wara li għalaq it-tmenin
sena. B'hekk il-villaġġ ma
baqax mitluq u abbandunat
għax bdew imorru t-tobba
u l-infermiera biex jieħdu
ħsieb il-lebbużi. Marru
wkoll is-sorijiet biex jgħinu
lil Patri Gaetano li ħadem
bis-šhiħ għal dawn il-morda

li ħadd ma ried jaf bihom,
lanqas il-familji tagħhom.

Huwa ħegġeġ lill-morda biex
jaħdmu bħala mastrudaxxi,
ġenniena, xufiera u b'hekk il-
villaġġ beda jieħu r-ruħ, kellu
d-dawl u l-ilma u fi kliem il-
lebbużi "minn infern sar
qisu l-ġenna". Il-villaġġ tant

li jittieħed mill-marda.
Kien jgħannaq u jbus il-
morda, jaqsam ħajtu
magħhom il-ġurnata
kollha. Wara li rtira ta'
80 sena, huwa żamm
kuntatt magħhom u
xtaq jibqa' magħhom.
Fost it-tfal ta' dawn il-
lebbużi hemm tobba,
professuri, periti u



sar sabiħ li bdew iżuruh it-
turisti, inbniet knisja sabiħa
minn perit Taljan u n-nies tal-
post saru aċċettati minn
kulħadd. Bniedem wieħed
kien kapaċi jibdel il-ħajja ta'
dawn in-nies u anke l-villaġġ
tagħhom.

Kemm dam qalb il-lebbużi,
Patri Gaetano qatt ma beza'

Robert I, King of the Scots (1306-1329)

The film *Braveheart* released in 1995 featured the story of the Scottish warrior hero William Wallace who spearheaded the Scottish resistance to English dominion and defeated the English king Edward I at the Battle of Stirling in 1297. However, the following year was to see the defeat of Wallace at the battle of Falkirk, leading to his eventual capture and execution. Wallace's capture is, in the film, attributed to betrayal instigated by Robert Bruce the sixth Lord of Annandale [died 1304]. Robert [portrayed by actor Ian Bannister] is in the film presented as a leper living in seclusion, but still retaining control over political events around him and promoting the Bruce Family interests in their claim to the Scottish throne. While there is no documentary proof that the 6th Lord Annandale suffered from leprosy, his son Robert I [portrayed by actor Angus MacFadyen] is



believed to have developed leprosy in later adulthood. Robert I the Bruce [born 1274; died 1329], was crowned King of the Scots in 1306.

The first mention of the possibility that Robert I might have suffered from leprosy appears in the *Chronicon de Lanercost*, a general history of England and Scotland from 1210 to 1346 which has been attributed to an unknown Franciscan friar at Carlisle. This states that Bruce deputed the command of the army during the Weardale campaign in 1327 because he had developed leprosy - "Dominus autem Robertus de Brus, quia factus fuerat leprosus, ilia vice cum eis Angliam non intravit". (10) However, in spite of this contemporary assertion, there has always been some doubt as to whether Bruce, who died in 1329, did suffer from leprosy. It has suggested that his condition could have resulted from "sporadic syphilis", which in the Middle Ages was commonly confused with leprosy.

In 1817, the Magistrates of the Burgh of Dunfermline resolved to rebuild a new church on the site of the nave of the ruined ancient Cathedral Church of Dunfermline. During the clearance of the site, workmen accidentally

came across what appeared to be a royal tomb located at the very centre of the ancient cathedral in front of where the high altar had formerly stood. This was protected by two large stones, a headstone and a much larger stone (six feet in length) into which six iron rings had been fixed by lead. When these stones were removed, they found the complete skeletal remains of an individual entirely enclosed in two layers of lead, with what remained of an embroidered linen cloth shroud over it, the fine linen material being interwoven with threads of gold. Over the head of the individual, the lead was formed into the shape of a crude crown. The find was reported to their Lordships, who directed the Sheriff to secure the tomb. The skeleton, formally exhumed in 1819, was attributed to Robert I on the basis of the sawn sternum; a procedure carried out after death to remove his heart in accordance to Robert's wish to have it carried by Sir James Douglas during a Crusade against Saracens. Douglas obeyed his king's wishes but died during the Crusade. The heart was returned to Scotland and was buried at Melrose Abbey, the most important Cister-

cian house in Scotland. The exhumed skeleton was studied by a number of medical specialists including Dr Alexander Monro tertius, Professor of Anatomy at Edinburgh University. An accurate Plaster-of-Paris cast was made of the skull and mandible by W. Scoular.

All available evidence suggests that the original copy of the cast is now located in the Anatomy Museum of the University of Edinburgh. Copies of this cast have been used to produce the portrait head of Robert I that was displayed in the Royal Scottish Academy in 1958; and more recently the reconstruction of the facial features by George Buchanan and computer-aided reconstruction prepared by Professor Vanesis of the Forensic Medicine Department of the University of Glasgow. The cast confirms that Robert I suffered the loss of his upper incisors and associated alveolar maxillary bone. These features have been interpreted by V. Moller-Christiansen and R.G. Inkster, authorities on the osteological appearance of leprosy, as

typical of facies leprosa, and not those of calvaria syphilitica (syphylitic osteitis). According to the latter authors, the cast displays "antemortem loss of the central and right lateral incisors, and possibly the left lateral incisor". The authors continue: "There are no signs of loss of teeth caused by trauma in vivo. But the most important component of the facies leprosa, the inflammatory changes in the hard palate, cannot be verified in this case because the plaster cast does not show the hard palate, and so does not allow investigation. The plaster cast of Robert the Bruce shows clear signs of facies leprosa, but to be one hundred percent sure of the diagnosis of leprosy, we would have to unearth his skeleton once more and make a proper examination." (7)

NAĦSLU JDEJNA, NAĦSLU JDEJNA

Naħslu jdejna, naħslu jdejna
Sew naħsluhom bis-sapun
B'mod speċjali qabel l-ikel
Kull ġurnata w kull staġun.

Naħslu jdejna, naħslu jdejna
Ħalli nkunu sbieħ u ndaf,
W'hekk inbegħdu il-mard
minna;
Dan ferm tajjeb li tkun taf.

Naħslu jdejna, naħslu jdejna
Speċjalment wara li tagħtas
Jew inkella meta tisgħol
It-tissues ma' mnieħrek
tagħfas.

Naħslu jdejna, naħslu jdejna
Qabel tmiss għajnejk,
imnieħrek
Biex le jkollna infezzjoni
U il-mard jitbiegħed minnek.

Naħslu jdejna, naħslu jdejna
B'hekk ma jkollna l-ebda
ħmieġ;
Importanti li niftakru
Li dan hu parir meħtieġ

TONY C. CUTAJAR



Raoul Follereau Foundation
[Malta]

Order of Charity,
Catholic Institute,
Floriana - Malta

E-mail: tcutajar36@gmail.com
http://stlazarusmalta.org/aff_0oC.html

The Raoul Follereau Foundation [Malta] - Order of Charity is a non-profit organisation set up in Malta in 1967 with the goal of collecting monetary support for the assistance of lepers throughout the World. It forms part of the international Raoul Follereau Foundation established in 1946 by the world famous anthropologist who died in 1977. The main aims of the Foundation are:

- to encourage social help to those suffering from leprosy;
- to ascertain that these people are treated as they should;
- to help lepers find their place in society;
- to give financial help to leprosaria and missions working with them.

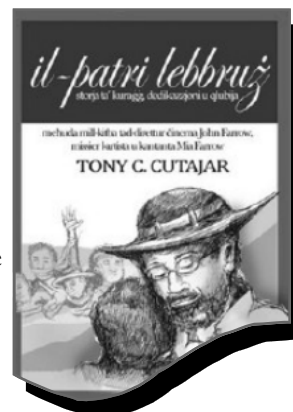


Raoul Follereau

Help us help fight the scourge of leprosy

Kif tista int tghin ix-xoghol tal-Ordni tal-Karità

- Billi issir membru tal-għaqda—dan jiswa biss is-somma ta' €10 fis-sena. Li tkun membru jfisser li tircevi in-newsletter regolari b'mogħod elektroniku jew pubblikata.
- Billi tagħti donazzjoni b'kull ammont li tixtieq int. Sintendi kull donazzjoni tigi rikonnexuta b'rcevuta
- Billi tixtri il-ktieb *Il-Patri Lebbroz* li jipprezenta storja ta' kuraġġ, dedikazzjoni u qlubija tal-qaddis li gie ddikjarat il-patron tal-presuni morda bil-lebbra. Il-Patri Lebbroz Damjan ta' Molokai kien mar jahdem f'kolonja tal-lebbrozi abbandunati minn kulhadd. Għalihom kien sacerdot, tabib, bennej, mexxej, habib, missier. Fi ftit kliem kien l-għajn tas-salvazzjoni u t-tama tagħhom. Jum fost l-oħrajn, beda l-omelija tiegħu bil-kliem: "Għez iez huti lebbrozi..." biex hekk qasam mal-kompatrijotti tiegħu fuq il-Ġz ira ta' Molokaj, l-aħbar li hu wkoll kien ittiehed mill-marda. Miet ta' 49 sena. Huwa u gie ddikjarat qaddis sitt snin ilu mill-Papa Benedittu XVI. Il-Ktieb jinbiegħ €6.50 biss inkluss il-posta. Ibghat cekk ta' €6.50 pagabbli lill-Ordni tal-Karita.



Offerta mill-qalb

Jiena _____ Nru tal-ID _____ li noqgħod

_____ Kodiċi Postali _____,

Email: _____

⇒ qed nibgħat cekk nru _____ bhala donazzjoni bis-somma ta':

€5 €10 €15 €20 €25 donazzjoni libera € _____

⇒ Nixtieq insir membru ta' l'Ordni tal-Karità u nibdha nircevi in-newsletter regolarment....€10

⇒ Lest nircevi in-newsletter b'mogħod elektroniku.....

⇒ Nippreferi in-newsletter pubblikata.....

⇒ Nixtieq nixtri il-ktieb *Il-Patri Lebbroz*.....€6.50