The Raoul Follereau Foundation (Malta) - The Order of Charity
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Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands
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March 2017

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

Order of Charity Newsletter

EDITORJAL

Għaliex ngħinu lill-morda bil-lebbra?

Il-lebbra hija marda li l-effetti tagħha jibgħu jinħassu tul il-ħajja. Immaġina li ma tistax tagħlaq għajnejk, lanqas biex torqod. Ikollok tgħatti għajnejk b'biċċa ċarruta kull meta tkun trid torqod. Immaġina li ma tkunx tista' terfa' jew tiġbor xejn għax subgħajk ikunu ggrunċjati. Immaġina li bl-ebda mod ma tista' tħoss ħruq jew uġigħ. Din hija l-lebbra fil-ħafna forom tagħha. Hija marda li twassal għal nuqqas ta' sensazzjoni. Min ikun marid bil-

lebbra ma jħoss l-ebda uġigħ f'dawk il-partijiet tal-ġisem li jkunu affettwati mill-marda. Lanqas biss jindunaw li jkunu ħarqu subgħajhom bin-nar jew bl-ilma jagħli, jew li jkunu mxew fuq ix-xewk jew fuq xi ħaġa ppuntata. Jekk dawn il-feriti ma jiġux ikkurati, dawn jistgħu jwasslu għall-infezzjoni u diżabilità li hija assoċjata mal-lebbra. L-akbar traġedja hi li l-marda ma

tiġix mid-deni jew l-uġigħ. Għalhekk in-nies jibdew jieħdu passi meta jibdew jisfiguraw ruħhom, u forsi jkun tard wisq.

Il-pajjiż fejn l-aktar hemm morda bil-lebbra hija l-Indja. Hemmhekk din il-marda taffettwa madwar 150,000 ruħ, li għaxra fil-mija minnhom ikunu tfal. Il-pajjiż għandu kważi 60% tal-każijiet ġodda tal-marda mad-dinja kollha. Bejn l-2013 u l-2014 kien hemm tnax-il elf każ ġdid tal-lebbra qalb it-tfal fl-Indja, u sitta u erbgħin elf qalb in-nisa. Fl-Indja hemm aktar minn elf kolonja tal-lebbrużi fejn dawk infettati huma obbligati jgħixu. F'waħda minnhom f'Tahipur jgħixu ħamest elef familja. Minkejja li għandhom nuqqas ta' spazju, latrini miftuħa u ħafna żibel, hija l-aktar kolonja żviluppata għax hemm l-ilma u t-toilets. Il-liġijiet tal-pajjiż għadhom sal-lum jiddiskriminaw kontra dawn il-povri nies.

"Chev. Tony C. Cutajar

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GANDHI AND LEPERS

The picture of Gandhi nursing a patient suffering from leprosy is a well known one. Do you know the name of the patient? He is Parchure Shastri who was in Yeravada Jail in 1932, along with Gandhi but was placed in a separate ward for leprosy patient prisoners. Gandhi had requested the Superintendent for permission to see Parchure Shastri but the prevailing prison laws did not allow that. Thus Gandhi started a chain of correspondence with him. While in prison Gandhi started his epic fast for Harijans and when the Poona Pact was signed and he ended his fast, he immediately asked for Parchure Shastri to recite Mantras from Vedas and Upanishads. Some years later, in 1939, Parchure Shastri wrote to Gandhi asking for his permission to come and stay in his Ashram at Sevagram and even before Gandhi could reply he had arrived. Gandhi was in a dilemma. Knowing that he was suffering from a highly infectious type of leprosy, he was debating within himself whether to allow him to reside in the Ashram where so many men, women and children were living and for whose health and welfare he was responsible. And yet, by turning him away he would be insincere to his own pronouncements. Gandhi placed his predicament before the Ashramites at the morning prayers. They rose to the occasion, saying they were prepared to receive Parchure Shastri in their midst. A neat cottage was hurriedly put up close to Gandhi's; he personally nursed him and supervised his diet. Parchure Shastri lived there for two years and recovered sufficiently to act as a priest at a marriage ceremony in Sevagram Ashram in 1940, at Gandhi's special request.

How is it that Gandhi managed to find so much time, in the midst of all his preoccupations, to devote to the problem of leprosy?

The answer is found in a moving incident, in his own home in Porbandar when he was barely thirteen years old. At that impressionable age he had come into close contact with a man named Ladha Maharaja who used to recite verses from the Ramayana to Gandhi's sick father. Ladha Maharaja, it was believed, had been completely cured of leprosy by applying Bilwa leaves and regular recital of Ramayana. Such close contact with a man who had suffered from this dreaded disease
had helped him overcome his fear of the same and instilled in him a life long concern for those suffering from this.

Even while in South Africa, a beggar had come to his door in a highly advanced state of the disease. Gandhi had dressed his wounds, given him food and made him stay as his guest.

There are many such incidents throughout his life which express his compassion and tenderness towards leprosy patients.

STATISTIKA MAĦRUĠA MINN LEPRA – 2015-2016

Il-membri tal-Lepra jaħdmu fl-Indja, il-Możambique u l-Bangladesh.

Ġew immedikati 279,971 adulti u tfal

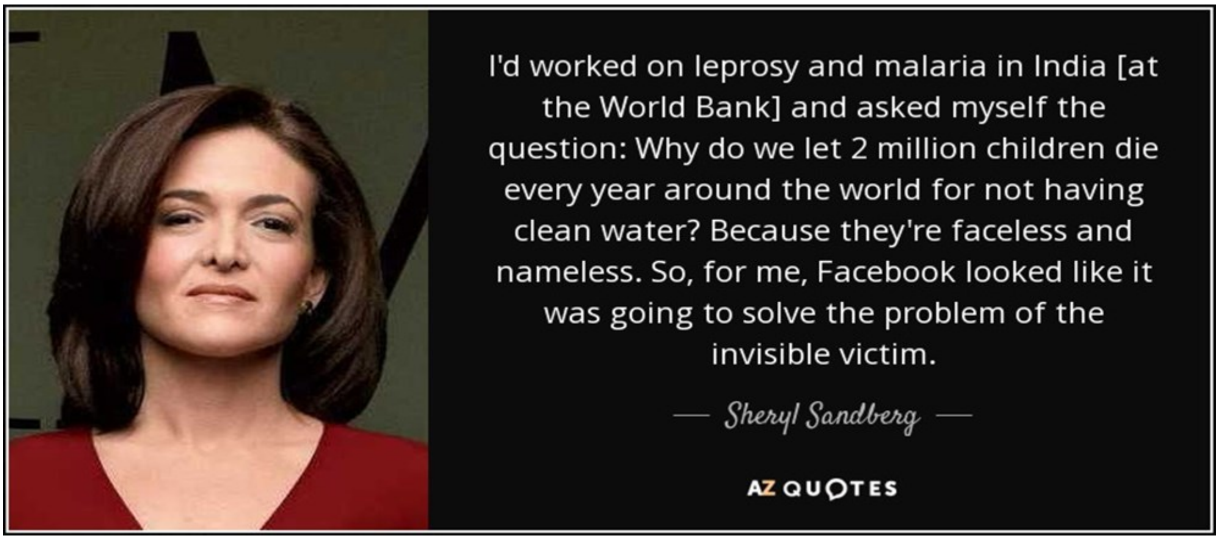
Sabu 12,332 każ ġdid ta' lebbra

Ittrenjaw 20,710 volontiera u għalliema

Biddlu l-ħajja ta' 594 permezz tal-kirurġija

Xtraw 25,888 par żarbun biex jgħinu lil dawk diżabbli

Żaru 222,502 tfal fl-iskejjel biex jgħallmuhom dwar saħħithom.



KIF PATRI DAMIAN SAR QADDIS

Fl-1999, Audrey Toguchi, għalliema irtirata, marret pellegrinaġġ fil-gżira ta' Molokai biex iżżur il-qabar ta' raġel li qatt ma kienet iltaqgħet miegħu. Flimkien ma' żewġ ħutha daħlet fiċ-ċimiterju tal-knisja ta' Santa Filomena. Waqfu quddiem il-qabar twil tal-irħam li kien imżejjen bil-fjuri u qabdet titlob: Jekk jogħġbok, Patri Damien,

għaddili kelma tajba. F'Settembru tal-1998, Audrey kellha bżonn miraklu. L-x-ray wera li kellha l-inkwiet fil-pulmuni u dan kien ġej minn tumur li kellha ħdejn ġenbha. It-tobba qalulha li l-kirurġija kienet impossibbli u li l-kemjoterapija setgħet ittawlilha ħajjitha forsi għal ftit xhur. Il-kirurgu tagħha, Dr. Walter Chang, qalilha li ma sata' jagħmlilha xejn. Il-kanċer kien se joqtolha.

Mrs. Toguchi ma riditx tagħmel il-kemjoterapija u daret għat-talb. Minn dejjem kienet mara devota u li tħobb titlob, anke bħala tifla waqt l-eżamijiet, aktar tard meta żewġha kien marad u issa. Bdiet tgħid ir-rużarju tliet darbiet kuljum u ma tgħaddix mingħajr il-quddiesa.

kuljum u ma tgħaddix mingħajr il-quddiesa.

Oħtha Velma talbet is-sorijiet ta' Regina Pacis, il-qassisin irtirati tal-Monasterju ta' San Patrizju u t-tfal tal-iskola ta' Kapahulu biex jitolbu għaliha. Ċemplet lil DunChristopher Keahi u talbitu parir. Huwa ssuġġerielha biex jitolbu lill-Patri Damien. "Ħadd ħliefu," qalilha "ma jista' jgħinha meta kien għen tant nies imsejkna minn Hawaii."

Mrs. Toguchi tiftakar li meta kellha tmien snin, it-tebut ta' Patri Damian għadda mit-toroq ta' Honolulu, filwaqt li n-nies sellmulu bid-dmugħ f'għajnejhom. Il-purċissjoni baqgħet sejra sax-xatt minn fejn it-tebut ġie meħud il-Belġju fejn kien twieled Damian. Qatt ma nsiet kif il-qassis kien kiseb l-*aloha*, l-imħabba, tal-poplu.

Hija qalet lill-ħabib tagħha, Dun MacNichol, li kien beħsiebha tmur Molokai. Il-qassis, li kemm-il darba kien attenda pazjenti b'mard terminali, ħares lejn il-kalendarju biex jara kellux ħin imexxi funeral ix-xahar ta' wara.

Imbagħad ġara xi ħaġa. Meta Mrs. Toguchi marret lura Honolulu, it-tobba tagħha raw xi ħaġa mhux tas-soltu fl-x-ray ta' wara. Il-kanċer aggressiv li kellha ma kompliex jixtered. Infatti, naħa minnhom kien sar iżgħar.

Xahar wara sar x-ray ieħor li wera li l-kanċer kollu kien qed jiċkien. Fl- x-ray tar-rebbiegħa t-tobba raw li fil-pulmuni ma kien hemm xejn. "Donnha fieqet kompletament li ħadd ma jista' jifhem," kiteb fir-rapport l-onkoloġista.

Il-kelma ġriet fost it-tobba u ħadd ma sata' jifhem x'kien ġara. Qatt ma kienu semgħu li xi ħadd jibqa' ħaj meta jkollu pleiomorphic liposarcoma b'metastases fil-pulmuni. "Ma nafx kif irnexxielek," qalilha wieħed mit-tobba.

Mrs. Toguchi qaltlu li mhux hi kienet. "Kien mingħand xi ħadd mis-sema li sibt l-għajnuna."

Leprosy Remarkably Unchanged from Medieval Times

http://www.livescience.com/37424-history-of-leprosy-bacterium.html

Leprosy causes deformaties of the skull, seen in this medieval skull from Winchester, UK. Credit: Image courtesy of University of Winchester

Leprosy is much less common today than it was during the Middle Ages, but the bacterium that causes this debilitating disease has hardly changed since then, a new study finds.

Reserachers sequenced the surprisingly well-preserved genome of the leprosy bacterium in skeletons exhumed from medieval graves in Europe. It's the first time an ancient genome has been sequenced "from scratch" (without a reference genome), and reveals that medieval leprosy strains were nearly identical to modern leprosy strains.

Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, is due to a chronic infection of the bacterium Mycobacterium leprae. The disease causes skin lesions that can permanently damage the skin, nerves, eyes and limbs. While it doesn't cause body parts to fall off, those infected with leprosy can become deformed as a result of secondary infections.

The disease often strikes during the peak reproductive years, but it develops very slowly, and can take 25 to 30 years for symptoms to appear.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Income—2016: Total funds raised €23,067.98

- **Donations** **€23,066.85**
- **Bank Interest** **€1.13**

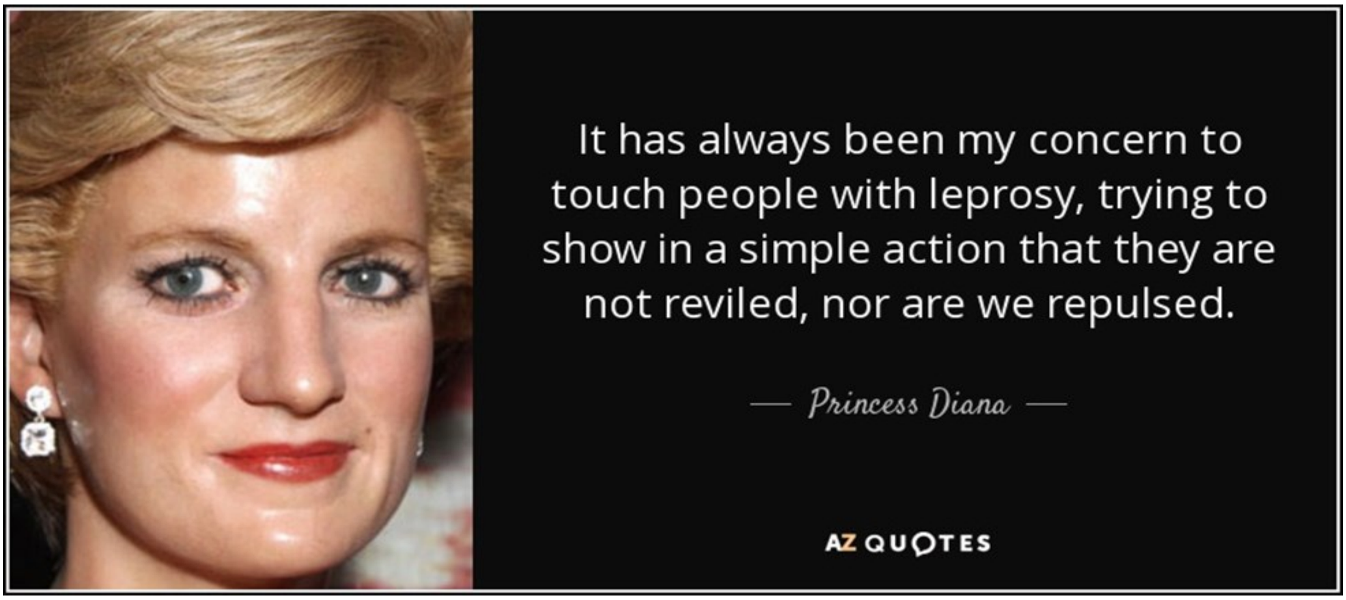
Donations - 2016: Total funds donated €56,058.16

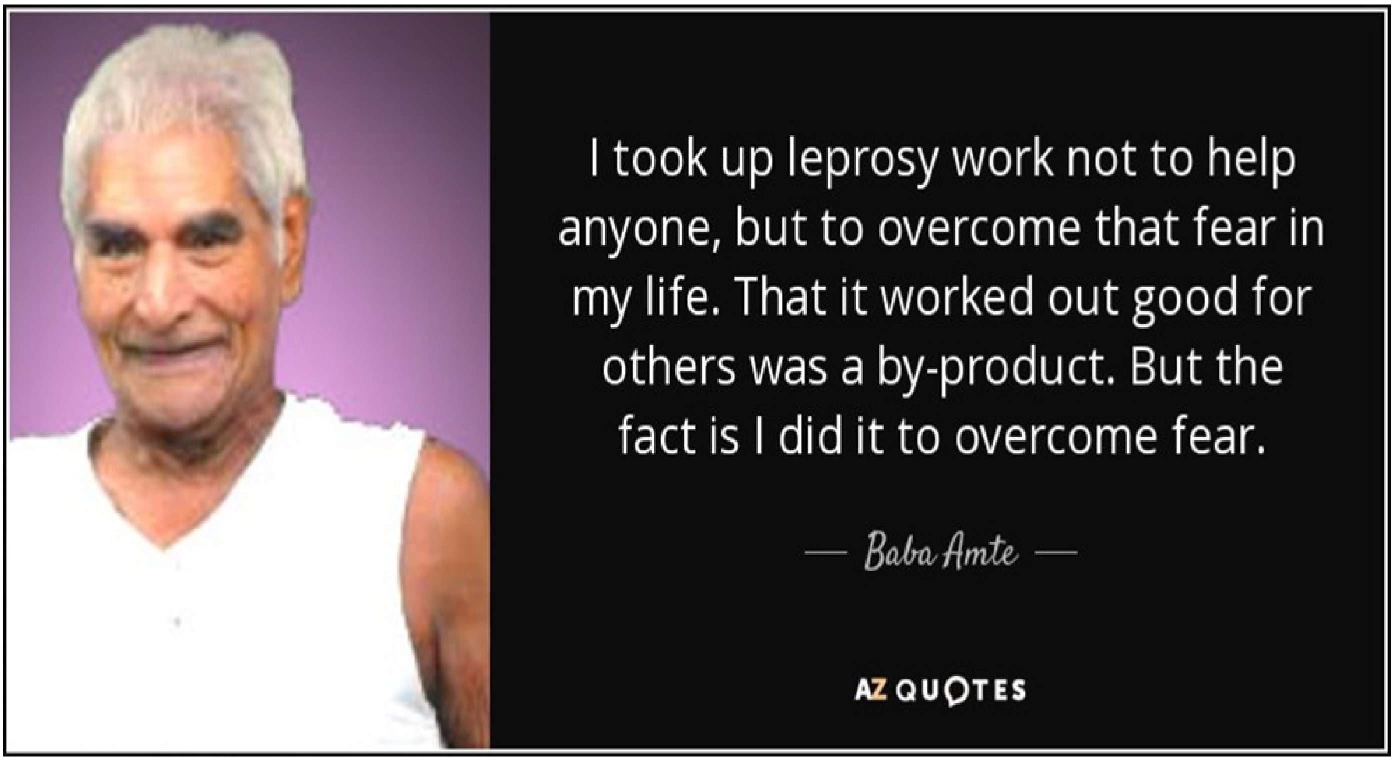
- **Lepra U.K. Artificial hands Project** **€11,027.43**
- **Capuchin Fathers** **€5,000**
- **Conventual Franciscan Fathers** **€5,000**
- **Sr Ann Catania (Philippine Mission)** **€5,000**
- **Sr Maria Consaga (Nigeria Mission)** **€5,000**
- **Prof. Horatio Vella (Ethipian Mission)** **€5,000**
- **CIOMAL (Switzerland)** **€4,994.73**
- **Associazione Italiana Amici Raoul Follereau** **€5,010**
- **Damien Dutton Foundation, Belgium** **€5,010**
- **Association Francaise Raoul Follereau** **€5,010**
- **Donation to two Maltese Lepers** **€1,000**

Actor R Madhavan is goodwill ambassador against

Mumbai, May 30: Actor R. Madhavan feels proud to be the goodwill ambassador for the LEPRA India Organisation that fights against diseases like leprosy and tuberculosis.”I am proud to be a goodwill ambassador for LEPRA India spreading the word that leprosy is curable and no one needs to live with it,” Madhavan tweeted on Monday.

LEPRA India is a non-government organisation working in the fields of leprosy, tuberculosis, malaria, HIV/AIDS and community health. On the work front, Madhavan was last seen on the silver screen in 2016 “Saala Khadoos” directed by Sudha Kongara.




I took up leprosy work not to help anyone, but to overcome that fear in my life. That it worked out good for others was a by-product. But the fact is I did it to overcome fear.
— Baba Amte —
AZ QUOTES

HSBC
Il-bank tiegħek fil-qalb tal-komunità
L-HSBC huwa l-bank li jinsab fil-qalba tal-komunità tiegħek. B'għarfien internazzjonali u esperjenza lokali, aħna nistgħu ngħinuk tieħu ħsieb aħjar il-finanzi tiegħek. Il-fergħat tagħna huma miftuħin kuljum f'diversi lokalitajiet madwar Malta u Għawdex, b'xi wħud mill-fergħat joffru wkoll servizz ta' filgħaxija.
Għalhekk ejja żurna u flimkien niddiskutu l-bżonnijiet bankarji tiegħek. L-impjegati tagħna, kollha mħarrġa fil-customer service u mmexxija minn branch manager b'esperjenza kbira fil-qasam bankarju jinsabu ħerqana biex ikunu ta' servizz għalik.
Ċempel 2380 2380
Żur hsbc.com.mt
Mur fl-eqreb fergħa
HSBC
Approvat u maħruġ mill-HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. 116, Triq l-Arċisqof, Valletta VLT1444.

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Catholic Institute,
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http://stlazarusmalta.org/aff_OoC.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:

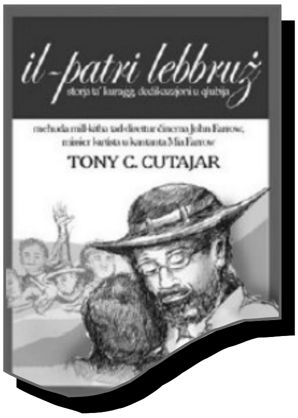
- **to encourage social help to those suffering from leprosy;**
- **to ascertain that these people are treated as they should;**
- **to help lepers find their place in society;**
- **to give financial help to leprosaria and missions working with them.**

Raoul Follereau

Help us help fight the scourge of leprosy

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

- 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 elettroniku jew pubblikata.
- Billi tagħti donazzjoni b'kull ammont li tixtieq int. Sintendi kull donazzjoni tigi rikonnoxuta b'rcevuta
- Billi tixtri il-ktieb *Il-Patri Lebbruż* li jippreżenta storja ta' kuraġġ , dedikażżjoni u qlubija tal-qaddis li gie ddikjarat il-patrun tal-presuni morda bil-lebbra.Il-Patri Lebbruz Damjan ta' Molokai kien mar jaħdem f'kolonja tal-lebbruzi abbandunati minn kulħadd. Ġħalihom kien sacerdot, tabib, bennej, mexxej, ħabib, missier. Fi ftit kliem kien l-għajn tas-salvazzjoni u t-tama tagħhom. Jum fost l-oħrajn, beda l-omelija tiegħu bil-kliem: "Ġħez iez ħuti lebbruzi..." biex hekk qasam mal-kompatrijotti tiegħu fuq il-Ġz ira ta' Molokaj, l-aħbar li hu wkoll kien ittieħed 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. Ibgħat cekk ta' €6.50 pagabbli lill-Ordni tal-Karita.



Offerta mill-qalb

Jiena ______________________ Nru tal-ID __________ li noqgħod

______________________________ Kodiċi Postali ________,

Email: ______________________________________

⇒ qed nibgħat ċekk nru ________ bhala donazzjoni bis-somma ta':

€5 ☐ €10 ☐ €15 ☐ €20 ☐ €25 ☐ donazzjoni libera €___

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

⇒ Lest nircevi in-newsletter b'moghod elettroniku………...☐

⇒ Nippreferi in-newsletter pubblikata…………………...☐

⇒ Nixtieq nixtri il-ktieb Il-Patri Lebbruz…………………………………...….€6.50 ☐