



**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**

MARCH 2018

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

Order of Charity Newsletter

EDITORJAL

Il-marda tal-lebbra leħqet il-qoffol tagħha fil-Gzejjer Maltin għal aħħar tas-seklu 19 u baqgħet problema tul is-seklu għoxrin. L-Ordni tal-Karità giet mwaqqfa fis-sena 1967 bil-għan li tiġbor flus biex tgħin il-ġlieda kontra il-marda u l-effetti kroniċi tagħha. Dak iż-żmien, il-poplu kien konxju dwar il-preżenza ta' din il-marda u anke dwar l-effetti li tħalli. Il-vittmi ta' din il-marda kienu jkunu isolati fil-leprosarum ta' San Bartolomew l-Imgieret. Kienet marda endemika fil-pajjiż. Kienet marda li tbeżza u ġġiblek ħniena. Għalhekk, l-Ordni tal-Karità sabet għajnuna finanzjarja minn ħafna biex tgħina tikseb l-iskop tagħha. Is-sitwazzjoni tbidlet fis-snin sebgħin. Il-Gvern, fis-sena 1972, beda proġett biex tinqered darba għal dejjem din il-marda mil-Gzejjer Maltin. Il-proġett kien ib-żażat fuq l-ideja li l-kura intensiva b'kumbinazzjoni ta' antibijotiċi setgħet tirriżulta f'kura kompleta tal-vittmi

mingħajr mal-marda tħalli effetti fit-tul. Il-proġett spiċċa fis-sena 1999, meta ma kien hemm l-ebda każ ġdid ta' lebbra irrapportat lid-Dipartiment tas-Saħħa. Il-leprosarum li kien mexa għal Hal-Ferħa il-Għargħur għalaq għal kollox ukoll.

L-Ordni tal-Karità għadha tiġbor flus b'mod regolari biex tgħin pajjiżi inqas żvillupati fil-ġlieda tagħhom kontra din il-marda. Kull sena, l-Ordni tibgħat madwar 20,000 euro lil missjonijiet li jaħdmu ma vittmi tal-lebbra ġewwa l-Afrika u l-Asija. Sfortunatament, minħabba l-fatt li l-infezzjoni ma għadiex teżisti ġewwa il-Gzejjer Maltin, id-donazzjonijiet li l-Ordni tirċevi bil-mod qegħdin jonqsu. Il-poplu Malti, waqt li hu partikolarment ġeneruż, ma għadux iħoss b'mod qawwi għal-vittmi tal-lebbra. Il-problema ma tinħass mil-qrib, m'ħijjix palpabli. Għalhekk, l-Ordni tal-Karità ħadet deċiżzjoni li tifrex ix-xibka tal-mard li ħi ser tibqa tgħin. B'hekk, l-Ordni ser tkompli tagħti kontribut għal vitmi tal-lebbra imma ser ukoll tibda tagħti kontribut għal vittmi ta' mard kroniku li jħalli effetti fiżiċi

serji. B'hekk wieħed jispera li l-immagini ġdid jgħin biex iħajjar iżjed nies biex jikkontribixxu donazzjonijiet għal proġetti li jkunu ta' għajnuna għal vittmi ta' mard kroniku fil-Gzejjer Maltin. Sintendi, il-vittmi tal-lebbra jibqu il-mira primarja ta' l-Ordni.

Prof. C. Savona-Ventura
President Onoraju ta' L-Ordni tal-Karità
Gran Prijur ta' l-Ordni ta San Lażzru f'Malta

Inside this issue:

Editorjal—H.E. Prof . Chev Charles Savona Ventura	1
GANDHI AND LEPERS	2
Message from Geoff Prescott, Chief Executive of	3
KIF PATRI DAMIAN SAR QADDIS	4
Three generations affected by leprosy	5
Morbidity and mortality of leprosy in the Middle Ages BY NATALIE ANDERSON	6
DAN ĠESÙ IEHOR -Tony	7
Kif tista int tgħin ix-xoghrol tal-Ordni tal-Karità	8

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. Gan-

dhi 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,

GANDHI AND LEPERS

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 MAHRUĠA MINN LEPRÀ – 2015-2016

Il-membri tal-Lepra jahdmu fl-Indja, il-Mozambique 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-hajja ta' 594 permezz tal-kirurgija

Xtraw 25,888 par żarbun biex jghinu lil dawk diżabbli

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

Message from Geoff Prescott, Chief Executive of Lepra

As Lepra's new Chief Executive, I am honoured to pick up the baton from Sarah Nancollas. I thank her for her exceptionally hard work and wish her well for the future.

After many years of working overseas in medical humanitarian aid, and my experiences, now long distant, of working at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, joining Lepra feels like completing a circle – returning to my roots in neglected diseases and supporting people fighting against prejudice.

I was drawn to Lepra's history of treating leprosy patients, coupled with our pioneering innovation that improves the lives of beneficiaries everywhere. There are very few Non-Governmental Organisa-

tions with such a storied past, knowledge and credibility. Lepra is special, in that we add advocacy to medicine and health, all with a holistic focus. This is something that resonated with my personal beliefs and values – to focus on the person, not just the disease.

There are currently many inspiring field projects including the development of new case finding methods in the Indian state of Bihar. These activities have a real impact on beating leprosy. Our challenge is to continually develop this early case detection in order to prevent irreversible disability.

At Lepra we have so many hard-working, passionate and friendly people, all focused on the change they can bring to transform people's lives. I look forward to meeting many more great people in the coming months.

For the future, Lepra will continue to be a global catalyst for even better leprosy treatment, disability care and driven to reducing transmission and prejudice. This organisation will continue to thrive and succeed

in support of our goal of making leprosy a disease of little consequence.

I look forward to working together to beat leprosy!

Geoff Prescott
Chief Executive of Lepra



KIF PATRI DAMIAN SAR QADDIS

Fl-1999, Audrey Toguchi, għalliema irtirata, marret pellegrinagg fil-gżira ta' Molokai biex iżzur 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 imzejjen 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 tumor li kellha ħdejn ġenbha. It-tobba qalulha li l-kirurgija kienet impossibbli u li l-kemjoterapija setgħet ittawliha 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.

Oħtha Velma talbet is-sorijiet ta' Regina Pacis, il-qassisin irtirati tal-Monasterju ta' San Patrizju u t-fal tal-iskola ta' Kapahulu biex jitolbu għaliha. Ċemplet lil Dun Christopher 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 Damien 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 Damien. 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-onkologista.

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."



Three generations affected by leprosy

During one of our active detection surveys conducted in Bihar, we met the Manjhis, a family who live in a remote area of the Munger district and over six miles away from the nearest primary health centre. The family are registered as below the poverty line, where father, Baounu, earns a daily wage of 200 Indian Rupees – the equivalent to approximately £2.40.

After carrying out our survey, we found that their two young children both had leprosy. Gudiya, aged ten, who studies at the local school and her brother Pardeshi, aged eight, who attends pre-school. The two children are now receiving regular treatment and, because they were diagnosed

early, they are still able to continue with their studies and will not develop any disability as a consequence.

It was later revealed that there has been a family history of leprosy for three generations. Baounu, contracted leprosy seven years ago, whilst his wife, Kasho Devi, had contracted the disease five years ago, and Baounu's father, (the children's grandfather), Boran Manjhi, has also experienced leprosy. They were all treated at the local primary health centre, but they were irregular in taking the medication and did not receive the required health information to recognise the symptoms in their children.

Due to the thorough nature of our case finding programme, other family members were checked too and, thankfully, nobody

else shows any sign of the disease at this moment in time. Each family member now has the knowledge to recognise the symptoms and if they meet someone showing the signs, they will be able to advise them to seek treatment before the disease causes irreparable damage.

This story highlights just how fundamental active case finding is in our fight to beat leprosy. Without this programme, Gudiya and Pardeshi's story may have been very different, marred by painful disability, poverty and stigma. It's thanks to your support we could find and treat Gudiya and Pardeshi and they can now look to a brighter future.

"After completion of my education I want study to become a nurse so that I can help my village."
Gudiya, aged ten

"I want to be a teacher in my village and teach everyone about health."
Pardeshi, aged eight



Morbidity and mortality of leprosy in the Middle Ages BY NATALIE ANDERSON

During the Middle Ages, nearly everyone in Europe was exposed to the disfiguring, painful and ostracizing disease of leprosy. But did contracting the disease necessarily increase a person's chances of dying?

"You'd think it would be a shut case," says ASU-SFI Center Postdoctoral Fellow Mike Price, an author on a new paper in the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. "But interpreting archaeological data is tricky. Archaeologists must study the bones of people who have died, and dead people are not representative of the living. It's like making conclusions about modern, healthy people by observing sick people in hospitals."

The paper lays out a model that offers a way to explore both morbidity — contracting a disease — and mortality — dying from it — through a unique data set of bones recovered from a rural monastery in Denmark.

"Our paper does say, yes, if you have leprosy, you will

<http://www.medievalists.net/2017/10/morbidity-mortality-leprosy-middle-ages/>



die sooner. But there are subtleties," says Price. Sex and social status also likely played roles in a person's risk of death from leprosy.

Leprosy first presents outwardly as boils on the skin. As it progresses, it can form lesions on the bones, allowing for paleopathological study of the disease.

"There's a paradoxical component to looking at skeletons," says Penn State bioarchaeologist Saige Kelmelis, lead author, who analyzed the skeletons. Say you have bones of two people who were born in the same year. One died at age 25, and their bones are pristine while the other, who died at age 50, has lesions all over their skeleton. Which person was healthier? "This

model takes into account how we calculate age of death and errors in that, and lesion data, to get a picture of someone's risk of death. Then we can say something tangible about what the living population would have been like."

Today, leprosy shows up in different populations in different ways. It's very rare in the US, but is still an enormous problem in other parts of the world, and people in lower socioeconomic statuses are at greater risk says Kelmelis. "Knowing the current state of the disease, we wondered if we could see similar patterns in the past."

DAN ĠESÙ IEĦOR -Tony Cutajar

Din hija storja qawwiya, unika, oriġinali, u li thallik taħseb. Skont l-awtur, din hija parabola ta' žmienna, storja allegorika dwar ġuvni twajjeb u sinċier li jsib min iħobbu iżda wkoll min imaqdru u jakkużah. Huwa ċertament ħafna differenti minn kulhadd, misterjuż, reliġjuż u għal xi wħud anke stramb. Bħala għalliem huwa jiġbed warajh mhux biss it-tfal li kien jgħallem iżda wkoll in-nies tar-ħal fejn kien joqgħod flimkien m'ommu armla. Jibda jiltaqa' ta' spiss ma' numru ta' ġuvintur oħra f'ħanut tax-xorb u li ma jdumux ma jibdeu

isejġu lilhom infushom "dixxipli ta' Manwel".

Bniedem spiritwali, huwa jitlob bis-salmi u jxerred it-tagħlim ta' Ġesù u tal-Knisja tiegħu. Ħafna jqisuh bħala anġlu jekk mhux ukoll bħala Ġesù ieħor. Għalliema sħabu jiġġieldu dwaru meta wieħed minnhom jakkużah li hu omosesswali. Kien hemm min qal li anke kien għamel il-mirakli. Familji jirrangaw bejniethom u jsibu l-paci bil-ħila tiegħu. Tfajla tiġġennen għal warajh filwaqt li oħra, soru missjunarja, tħeggu biex jibda ħajja ġdida.

Jista' jkun li Ġesù reġa' ġie fid-dinja b'ilbies modern biex ikompli jwassal il-messagg tiegħu ta' konverżjoni u ta' mħabba lejn il-proxxmu?

Jeżistu nies li jfakkruk f'Ġesù bil-mod li jgħixu u li jtkellmu? Bħalma l-Madonna dehret f'ċerti naħat tad-dinja, possibbli li Ġesù qed jagħmel l-istess ħaġa hawnhekk? Hekk jaħsbu xi wħud minn sħab Manwel li fih jaraw mhux bniedem normali bħalhom iżda xi anġlu jew Ġesù stess.

Jekk trid li dan il-ktieb jasallek id-dar bil-posta ċempel lill-awtur fuq 21381233.



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, ahna nistgħu nghanuk tiehu hsieb ahjar il-finanzi tiegħek. Il-fergħat tagħna huma miftuhin kuljum f'diversi lokalitajiet madwar Malta u Għawdex, b'xi wħud mill-fergħat joffru wkoll servizz ta' filgħaxija.

Għalhekk eija żurna u flimkien niddiskutu l-bżonnijiet bankarji tiegħek. L-impjegati tagħna, kollha mharrġa fil-*customer service* u mmexxija minn *branch manager* b'esperjenza kbira fil-qasam bankarju jinsabu herqana biex ikunu ta' servizz għalik.

Ċempel **2380 2380**
Žur **hsbc.com.mt**
Mur **fl-eqreb fergħa**

HSBC 

Approvat u mahruġ mill-HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. 116, Triq l-Arcisqof, Valletta VLT1444.

Raoul Follereau Foundation
[Malta]

Order of Charity,
Catholic Institute,
Floriana - Malta

E-mail: rforderofcharity@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 leprosarria and missions working with them.

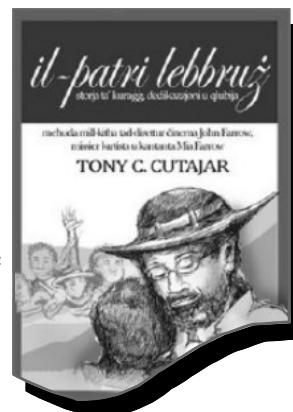


Raoul Follereau

*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 ħuti lebbrozi..." 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 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