



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

March 2019

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

# Order of Charity Newsletter

## EDITORJAL—Għaliex inkunu kuntenti meta ngħinu lil haddieħor?

Għax ilkoll inħossu li l-kuntentizza ngħinu biex is-soċjetà timxi l quddiem. tagħna tiddependi fuq il-ferħ ta' Ma rridu lil hadd agħar minna, haddieħor. Nistgħu nkunu kuntenti speċjalment dawk li huma qrib tagħna, biss f'dinja fejn kulhadd ikun ferħan. il-familja tagħna. Izda l-imħabba u l-F'kazijiet estremi, haddieħor jista' jkun għajjuna ma jeqfux hemm. Irridu irrabjat u jasal biex jagħmlilna d-deni. nħobbu u ngħinu mhux biss lil dawk li L-altruizmu huwa importanti ħafna fil- għandhom bżonn izda lil kulhadd, anke ħajja. Irridu naħsbu f'haddieħor, fil- l-għedewwa tagħna. Dik hija l-fidi proxxmu tagħna, f'dawk li l-iżjed tagħna bħala nsara. għandhom bżonn. B'hekk inkunu qed

Li tkun kapaci tagħmel xi ħaġa għall-gid iħossok ħafna aħjar fil-ħajja. Hija ħaġa logika li tferrħek. U din inħossuha mhux aħna l-insara biss, izda r-religjonijiet l-oħra kollha. Teżisti motivazzjoni psikoloġika għax biex tkun fil-paċi miegħek innifsek trid tibda billi tgħin lil haddieħor, tagħmel il-karità, tuża l-influwenza tiegħek biex tirrangà dak li jkun ħażin, iggib tbissima fuq wiċċ xi hadd. Din il-motivazzjoni gġagħlek tħoss li ma tkunx kuntent jekk ma tmiddx idejk biex tgħin,

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biex tagħti sehmek int ukoll, biex ikollna dinja aħjar.

Žgur li ma nħossux ruħna kuntenti wara li ngħinu lil xi ħalliel. Izda ċertament li nħossuna aħjar meta ngħinu biex jinqabad il-ħalliel. Għall-istess raġuni, ħadd minna ma jieħu pjaċir jgħin lil xi ħadd jixtri jew ibiegħ id-drogi. Il-kuxjenza tagħna tgħallimna kif għandna ngibu ruħna. Aħna għadna hawn għax l-antiki tagħna kienu jgħinu lil xulxin, ma kinux jaħsbu għal rashom biss. U dan għadu jgħodd anke għal-lum. Din hija l-umanità.

Ħafna jsemmu l-karma u l-ġenna, iżda hemm raġuni oħra. Meta ngħinu lil xi ħadd inħossuna kuntenti. Naħsbu li aħna nies tajba u ġenerużi meta rnexxielna nagħmlu l-ġid lil xi ħadd. Inħossuna li għamilna d-differenza fil-ħajja ta' ħaddieħor. U għaliex le? Fl-istess ħin, hemm ħafna li jħossuhom tajbin meta jgħinu lil xi ħadd għax iħobbu jaraw il-pożittiv bl-impatt tagħhom. Raġuni oħra li jħossuna kuntenti meta ngħinu hija li nafu napprezzaw kif iħossu l-bniedem li jsib l-



għajnuna tagħna. Jekk immur fil-kċina biex nagħmel kikkra te u naqbad naħsel il-platti li



jku qed jistennew fis-sink, tieħu pjaċir tara wiċċ li jitbissimlek u jgħidlek grazzi. Meta

ngħinu lil-lebbużi jħossna li qed nagħmlu xi ħaġa għall-ġid, biex inferrħu lil ħaddieħor fil-bżonn, biex ikollna dinja aħjar u isbaħ.

Il-bniedem evolva ruħu fis-soċjetà. Mill-bidu nett, dejjem għex flimkien ma' ħaddieħor, qatt waħdu. Aħna lkoll nafu li ma nistgħux ngħixu waħedna. Lkoll għandna bżonn xulxin, illum jien u għada int. Għalhekk, li tgħin lil min hu fil-bżonn hija parti min-natura tagħna. Irridu nħossu li niswew għal xi ħaġa meta nagħtu daqqa t'id. Hija ħaġa naturali li tħossok apprezzat. Għalhekk tajjeb li qatt ma ninsew ngħidu l-kelma Grazzi.

Jiena persważ li l-ftit għajnuna fis-sena li nagħtu lil -lebbużi ġġib ħafna ferħ u apprezzament min-naħa tagħhom. Huma jiddependu mill-ġenerożità tagħna biex isibu x-xogħol għall-familji tagħhom, biex jgħixu ħajja normali, biex ifiequ u jku bħal ħaddieħor, biex jitbissmu huma wkoll.

CHEV. TONY C. CUTAJAR

## Storja ta Sabiha Akhter



Meta Sabiha Akhter kellha biss 6 snin ommha innutat dawra ħamrija fuq il-minkeb ta 'Sabiha u ħaditha ghand it-tabib. Izda, it-tabib iddijanostika ħazin, u għalhekk id-dawra kompliet tikber.

Tliet snin wara, fil-Jum Dinji tal-Lebbra

2017, omm Sabiha attendiet waħda mill-avvenimenti ta 'għarfien fil-komunità fir-raħal tagħha fil-Bangladexx. Wara li saret taf li s-sintomi ta 'Sabiha jistgħu jkunu lebbra, hija gabet it-tifla tagħha f'wieħed miċ-ċentri ta' riferiment, fejn giet iddijanostikata b'mod korrett u pprovdewla t-trattament.

Omm Sabiha kienet ferm kuntenta li Sabiha kienet giet iddijanostikata malajr u qalet:

“Rajt kif il-lebbra tolqot lin-nies. Fortunatament, it-tifla tiegħi bdiet il-kura fil-ħin, bl-għajnuna ta 'Lepra' u se tirkupra kompletament.”

Sena wara, Sabiha spiccat tieħu l-medicina u minħabba d-dijanjosu bikrija hija ma żviluppat l-ebda diżabilità u issa kompletament imfejjqa.

“Kienet tassew sorpriża għalija meta sirt naf li d-dawra li kelli ta 'kukur ċar kienet sinjal tal-lebbra,” tgħid it-tifla. “Ippanikjajt nisma li kienet lebbra; il-ġenituri tiegħi ħasbu li se jifirduni mill-familja u mis-soċjetà. Izda t-tobba assigrawna li le.”

Huma qalu li l-lebbra tista 'titfejjqa u t-

trattament huwa bla ħlas. Jien qatt ma qbiżt li nieħu doża waħda ta 'medicina għax kieku ma ħadtx il-medicina regolament, setgħa jkollu diżabilità. Issa jien kompletament mfejjqa u jien verament grata lil Lepra għall-appoġġ tagħhom.”



Sabiha, issa għandha għaxar snin, giet imfejjqa għal kollox u m'għandha l-ebda diżabilità, minħabba d-dijanjosu bikrija u t-trattament.

Sfortunatament għad hemm daqstant komunitajiet li m'humiex konxji tal-lebbra u s-sintomi tagħha, jiġifieri ħafna tfal u adulti qed jgħixu bil-lebbra u mhumiex iddijanostikati, ma jafux li għandhom il-marda, jew jibzgu wisq li jersqu għat- trattament

<https://www.lepra.org.uk/sabihastory>

### FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE ORDER OF CHARITY—YEAR 2018

Total Income	€ 8,022.69
- Donations	€ 8,021.51
- Interest on Savings account [less tax]	€ 1.18
Total management expenses	€ 2,045.46
- Newsletter distribution – Printing & Postage	€ 200,2.48
- Stationary	€ 29.00
- Bank fees	€ 13.98
Philanthropic Report - 2018	
A total of € 29,994.14 was donated to various organizations. These included:	
Institutions	Euro
- Lepra U.K. Artificial hands project	4,347.48
- Capuchin Fathers	5,000.00
- Conventual Franciscan Fathers	5,000.00
- Sr Ann Catania (Philippine Mission)	5,000.00
- CIOMAL (Switzerland)	4,636.66
- Association Française Raoul Follereau	5,010.00
- Donation to two Maltese lepers	1,000.00
Total	€ 29,994.14
Financial Report	
Bank account - Balance 31.12.2018	€ 16,620.05
- Savings Account no. 40018214000	€ 3,881.84
- Current Account	€ 12,738.21

## Screening campaign aims to eliminate leprosy in Egypt

On 9th May 2018, the WHO country office Egypt, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population's leprosy control programme, conducted a 10-day active screening campaign in Esna from 15 to 25 April 2018 to identify people with leprosy and provide them with treatment. Esna, a district in Luxor, has one of the highest prevalence rates of leprosy in Upper Egypt.

Twenty seven villages were selected for inclusion in the campaign based on the number of

new cases registered in each village in the previous 10 years and consistency of reporting. All index cases

and their close contacts were examined and members of the community were screened for leprosy and other dermatological diseases. Suspected cases were referred for examination and treatment.



Active screening is essential for the early diagnosis of leprosy, which is curable, and treatment in the early stages can prevent disability. In Egypt, treatment is provided free of charge which encourages patients to seek treatment when diagnosed. The treatment schedule lasts for one year.

Since 1994, Egypt has met WHO's global leprosy elimination goal of reducing prevalence to less than 1 per 10 000 population; however, there are still governorates in which prevalence rates are higher. Sustained efforts since 2004 have reduced the number of these governorates.

Almost 60% of new cases detected each year in Egypt originate from only 6 governorates, mainly located in the south of the country. These governorates have not

yet reached the national elimination goal. Approximately 6% of new cases reported annually are children under 15 years of age.

<http://www.emro.who.int/egy/egypt-events/last-mile-activities-on-eliminating-leprosy-from-egypt.html>

## Abu Zaabal: A glimpse into Egypt's leprosy community

Although leprosy is on the verge of extinction and many people have completely forgotten about this disease, there are still some leprosaria, or leprosy colonies as they are often called. This is not a story about suffering and misery, but rather about a strange micro-cosmos, a place unknown to most people: the leprosy colony Abu Zaabal in Qalyoubiya, 40km north of Cairo. All tourists that fly into Cairo could see it from above as it is quite close to the airport if they would know that it is there. About 750 patients are still living there, and another 3,000-4,000 cured lepers are living in the adjoining Abdel Moneim Riad village.

The bacterium responsible for leprosy was discovered in 1873 by the Norwegian Dr Armauer Hansen, and a whole section in Cairo's Agricultural Museum was dedicated to bacterial diseases like leprosy and tuberculosis. The display in the museum remains as if nothing has changed since.

Until the 1930s, the illness was seen as incurable and highly infectious. Left untreated, leprosy can be progressive, causing permanent damage to the skin, nerves, limbs and eyes. In fact, leprosy is not highly infectious, as approximately 95% of people are immune and sufferers are no longer infectious after only a couple of days treatment.

Abu Zaabal was built in 1933 encompassing a hospital and agricultural land in order to be self-sustainable.

Lepers were brought in by police and were not al-

lowed to leave for isolation was seen as the only treatment. It was a big open air prison. Circumstances back then were horrible with mice chewing away on lepers' wounds while they slept.

Over the past decade Abu Zaabal has received a total make-over and has become a more friendly, peaceful place with all of the necessary facilities.

When Dr Karam Shakshak and Dr Ahmed Al Thokaby, the recent director, arrived at the beginning of this decade, they first renewed the water station as the whole place had no clean water at all. Now there is a waste water treatment plant on the grounds of the colony and provides the hospital with clean water.

Three Comboni Sisters and two Elisabethine Sisters, two Italian orders, come every morning from Cairo-Heliopolis to Abu Zaabal to help the leprosy patients. Sister Vittoria (left) has lived for 45 years in Egypt and works for 26 years in Abu Zaabal.

Abu Zaabal has a big section for men and a smaller for women because generally less women get infected by leprosy. There are bigger and smaller sleeping wards, where every patient has his/her own bed and cupboard. Most rooms have a TV as well.

Patients who lost their legs or parts of it get well fitting prostheses and learn to live with them.



All wards have their own kitchens where men or women cook together like in a flat share. But for those who are too weak and sick there is a big kitchen where healthy food is prepared for them.



Most mornings patients with open wounds come to the clinic to get their bandages changed. In the old days, patients received one bandage per month and had to wash it with unclean water every few days.

The operation rooms received better equipment, especially for ear, nose and throat operations. And most importantly the hospital received a back-up generator after power cuts occurred during surgery causing a disasters.

In fact the hospital here is now better equipped and kept cleaner than many governmental hospitals in Egypt.

After helping in the clinic Ibrahim continues working in his little workshop where he fabricates special shoes for those who have deformations on their feet.

Six years ago Jehad, aka Manuela, a German woman, who has lived in Egypt for more than 20 years, turned the uncared of and full of rubbish grounds of Abu Zaabal into a paradise-like garden.

A team of 13-15 men, all cured patients, are helping to keep the garden clean and beautiful. They receive a small salary for their work. Most ex-lepers, especially if they have deformations can't find jobs

anymore.

Ahmed Mohamed (49) is one of them. The disease started when he was 18, but like many others the doctor discovered very late that he was suffering from leprosy. In 1980 he came to Abu Zaabal and received Multi Drug Treatment (MDT) and was finally cured. He met his wife here, also a common story, and they have five healthy children.

Jehad does not only take care of the garden she also visits those patients who suffered so much from leprosy that they have to spend their lives in bed. Sheikh Sayed, 88, suffered from leprosy since he was six years old. But only when he had an eye operation at the age of 18 the doctor diagnosed him with leprosy.

For 63 years now, he has lived in Abu Zaabal, blind, with disfigured mouth and nose and limbs. But he listens to the radio every



day and is up to date with world news.

Despite his tough destiny he still likes to joke. "Hagiblik gateau?" "Can I get you

some cake?" he said and giggled at his own joke when I spoke to him.

Gohari ,18, is the youngest male patient at Abu Zaabal. He finished his MDT treatment and now receives physiotherapy for his hands. Effective treatment for leprosy appeared in the late 1930s with the introduction of dapsone and its derivatives. However, leprosy bacilli resistant to dapsone gradually evolved and became wide-



spread, and it was not until the introduction of Multi Drug therapy (MDT) in the early 1980s that the disease could be diagnosed and treated successfully. Belonging to the younger generation Gohari does not want to spend his life in the colony but wishes to go return to Kafr El Sheikh, his home town, and continue school.

<https://www.egyptindependent.com/abu-zaabal-glimpse-egypt-s-leprosy-community/>

## 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 tiegħu hsieb 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' filghaxija.

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

**ĊEMPEL** 2380 2380  
**ŻUR** [hsbc.com.mt](https://www.hsbc.com.mt)  
**MUR** fl-eqreb fergha



Nirnexxu flimkien

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[http://stlazarusmalta.org/aff\\_0oC.html](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.

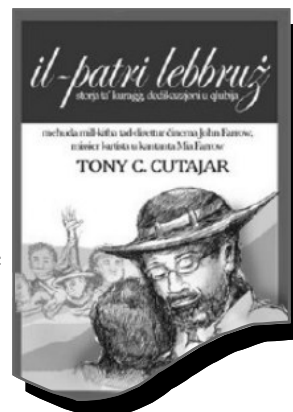


Raoul Follereau

*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 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. 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