



**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 2021

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

Order of Charity Newsletter

EDITORIAL

On Sunday 31st January 2021, at the holy mass celebrated for members of the Malta Priory, Fr Joe Cini SDB SchLJ mentioned several personages who had dedicated their energies in favour of lepers. One of those mentioned was Blessed Louis Variara. Here is a brief biography of this man who spent all his energies for the lepers in Agua de Dios, Colombia.

Born in 1875, young Louis was taken by his father to a school run by the Salesian Fathers in Turin, the very same founded by St John Bosco. The saint was still alive and looked intently at young Louis who felt completely attracted to the Salesian cause. He professed as a Salesian in 1892. A Salesian missionary from Colombia was visiting the Salesian seminary in 1894 and from among 188 students he set his eyes on Louis and said: "This is the one I want with me".

The mission of Agua de Dios had 2000 inhabitants, of whom 800 were lepers. As soon as he arrived, Louis won the heart of all the patients, particularly children.



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He organised a musical band, animating the village with an unexpected festive atmosphere. While there he somehow continued his theology studies, and was ordained priest in 1898. He soon turned out to be an excellent spiritual director and an able organiser.

In 1905 he had already built a children's hostel which could host 150 orphans and lepers, and guarantee them education in a trade and a future insertion into society.

In Agua de Dios, the Sisters of Providence had started the Association of the "Daughters of Mary", a group of 200 girls. He was their confessor. From among these girls, he invited some to the religious life, and a bold project was born: an Institute that would allow the acceptance of leprosy patients as religious. They were to become the Congregation of the "Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary", which today numbers 600 religious.

Through his dedicated work during the 25 years he stayed at Agua de Dios, he cared, fed, enter-

tained, educated and gave dignity to those people. He also imbued into them a deep spirituality and love of God and neighbour practiced every day by all.

In 1919 he was diagnosed to have contracted the disease but this proved to be inaccurate. In 1921 he agreed to go to Tariba in Venezuela but arrived in poor health. The doctors there requested he go back to Colombia to Cucuta. He died in 1923 in Cucuta, Colombia. His remains were transferred to Agua de Dios in 1932 where he now rests. He was declared Venerable in 1993, and beatified in 2002. His feast day falls on 15th January. We await his canonisation.

Rev Joe Cini S.D.B



Fr Louis and the boys doing their First Holy Communion.



Band of Past-Pupils with Fr Louis



Salesian church on a festive day.



Fr Louis and boys and young lepers of the hostel

Il-Hajja Tal-Beatu Carlo Agutis

Carlo Agutis twieled Londra fit- 3 ta' Mejju 1991 f'familja Sinjura li kellha eghruq Irlandizi u Pollakki. Gie mghammed Fit-18 ta' Mejju fil-knisja tal-Madonna tad-Duluri Chelsea.

Il-genituri tieghu Andrea Acutis u Antonia Salzano, li ma kienux daqstant religjuzi kienu marru jahdmu Londra u l-Germanja. F'Settembru tal-1991 wara li twieled Carlo marru jgghodu Milan. Fl-1995 meta Carlo kellu 4 snin, in-nannu minn naha t'ommu miet u jinghad li kien deher lil

Carlo f'holma u talbu jitlob ghalih. Meta t-tifel beda jzid l-interess tieghu fir-Religjon sab il-mistoqsijiet tieghu mwiegba mill-governanti Polakka li kienet impjegata mal-familja. Tlett snin wara meta kellu 7 snin talab bil-herqa li jaghmel l-ewwel tqarbina.

Wara li kellmu l-awtoritajiet u pprovdew it-tagħlim il-genituri qatghulu xewqta meta tqarben għall-ewwel darba fil-kunvent ta' San Ambrogju ad Nemus. Wara li rcieva l-ewwel tqarbina Carlo kien dejjem isib ftit tal-hin qabel jew wara l-quddiesa biex joqghod jirrifletti quddiem is-Sagrament. Hu kien jghid kif ikun hemm daqshekk nies biex jidhlu jaraw film imam quddiem it-Tabernaklu ma jkun hemm hadd. Kien jitqarben kulljum u jqerr darba fil-gimgha. Kellu diversi mudelli bhala gwidi fosthom San Frangisk, Frangisku u Giacinta ta' Fatima, San Tarcisju u Santa Bernardette.

Carlo Acutis ircieva l-edukazzjoni tieghu fl-Istitut San Iljun XIII tal-Gizwiti. Hu kien Jinkwieta meta shabu kienu jghidulu li l-genituri tagħhom kienu se jiddivorzjaw u ta'spiss kien Jistedinhom id-dar bhala solidarjeta. Kien jiddefendi lil shabu meta dawn kienu jigu mghajjra u mwaqqa ghac-cajt. Kien jaghmel xoghol volontarju barra l-iskola ma' dawk ta'bla saqaf jew foqra. Kien ihobb il-films, ic-cajt u jilghab bil-Playstation. Kien ihobb isiefer imam Assisi dejjem kien il-favorit, Kien genju fuq il-komputer u l-internet; kien iddedika hafna hin

biex johloq pagna li fiha gabar il-mirakli kollha tal-Ewkaristija tad-dinja kollha. Dan il-progett ,fejn gabar 'l fuq minn 150 miraklu, spiccah fl-2005 wara hidma ta'4 snin. Huwa emmen li permezz tal-internet seta jxandar l-evangelju. Fil-website huwa stqarr li aktar ma nircievu l-ewkaristija aktar insiru bhal Kristu, biex fuq din l-art induqu il-ferh tas-sema.

Meta marad bil-Lewkimja huwa offra t-tbatijiet tieghu għall-Papa Benedittu XVI kif ukoll għall- Knisja. Xtaq kieku jaghmel pellegrinaggi lejn il-postijiet tal-mirakli Ewkaristici imam sahhtu ma hallitux. Meta t-tobba kienu jistaqsuh jekk kienx mugugh kien jirrispondi li kien hafna nies li jbatu aktar minnu. Hu miet fit-12 t'Ottubru 2006 fis-6.45 ta' fil-ghodu wara biss tlett ijiem minn mindu dahal l-isptar. Gie midfun f'Assisi kif dejjem xtaq.

Carlo Acutis gie dikkjarat Beatu mill-Papa Frangisku fl-10 t'Ottubru ta' din is-sena u issa Beda l-process biex isir qaddis.



Indonesia 's anti-leprosy fight paralyzed by COVID-19 challenges

JAKARTA: Indonesia's efforts to ensure an early screening of leprosy cases among children is being hampered by school closures due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and a shift in focus to combating the pandemic.

The prevalence of leprosy among Indonesian children is currently 9.14 percent, well above the government target of 5 percent.

Failure of early detection and treatment in children could result in permanent disability and a lifetime of stigma and discrimination.

governmental organization advocating for leprosy sufferers.

He added that he did not receive treatment until he was 18.

When the six-month treatment finished, he underwent 13 surgeries to reconstruct his deformed fingers.

Although they could not return to their normal condition, Qadri said he could use his fingers for basic tasks such as typing.

Maxi Rein Rondonuwu, the acting director general of disease prevention at the Health Ministry, said in a press conference on Friday that eight of Indonesia's 34 provinces still record the disease, with an average prevalence of 1 in every 10,000 people.



Al Qadri, a 49-year-old leprosy survivor from Makassar, South Sulawesi spoke with Arab News on Jan. 31, World Leprosy Day.

"I was expelled from school after I learned I suffered leprosy when I was six. It was a very painful experience. I never had a chance to graduate from elementary school, but when I was 12 I was taught how to read and write from a local school teacher," said Qadri, who is the deputy chairman of Perhimpunan Mandiri Kusta, a non-

"We are focusing on efforts to treat new cases found in children since they could face discrimination and pose a risk to infect other children," Rondonuwu said.

Siti Nadia Tarmizi, the ministry's director for communicable disease prevention, said the national prevalence of leprosy cases has continuously declined since 2010, with the other 26 provinces having eliminated it.

In 2020, the ministry recorded more than 16,000 new cases.

“But the declining figure does not mean that it was getting better since the COVID-19 pandemic has gotten in the way of active case- finding efforts through schools. In provinces where leprosy is not yet eliminated, infections remain very high, resulting in children being infected,” she said.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), only Brazil and India have a higher prevalence of leprosy.

The country’s 1 million COVID-19 cases and almost 30,000 deaths are the second-highest in Asia after India.

There are still some 200,000 new cases of leprosy diagnosed worldwide each year, and millions are living with some form of disability as a result of the disease, according to WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination Yohei Sasakawa.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1801586/world>

Gonçalves Armando

Gonçalves lives in Ambrósio village, Namanda locality, in Ile District- Zambézia with his family (wife and five children) and he tells us how he is accessing leprosy drugs during this COVID-19 period.

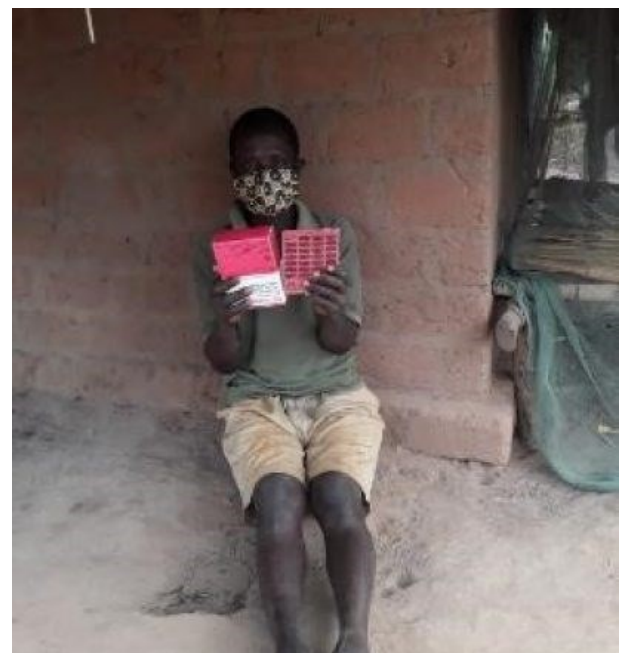
“I realized that I had skin spots three years I go. After participation in a community sensitization meeting, I joined a screening session and I was identified as a suspected case by the community volunteer. Then, the nurse confirmed that I am a leprosy affected person. Now I am in the 6th month of treatment and I joined to the Nnóweherani Yenhu self-care group where I have

regular assistance and advise. We got information about the corona virus and the prevention measures through the local community radio and also by our local leader. Then, we were informed that we could not meet at the group until new orientation. Before the corona virus outbreak, I used to lift my medication at the self-care group.

I was worried when I saw that the medicine was running out in a situation where all group meetings were suspended and I did not even have a mask that I could use to go to the health unit. Today, the health worker came to my house accompanied by the volunteer who left these three wallets to ensure that I have medicines to take for three months. He also offered me this mask that saying it was supported by NLR Mozambique. It will help me to go out if necessary.

I am very grateful for this gesture and I would like the same for all people who are in treatment since we cannot go out on the streets without a mask. Thank you very much.”

<https://nlrinternational.org/news/stories-of-persons-affected-by-leprosy-in-mozambique-during-covid-19/>



Elicete Miqueias

“I am a student at grade 7. I live in Maua District, Niassa and I am a member of Muandece self-care group. I was diagnosed with leprosy two years ago. Since then, I received and finished my treatment. After school, I go to the farm where we produce cassava and lentils for our family consumption. Our group also has a communal land.



I received information about the corona virus through the local leader and also at school. Because of this situation, the lessons were stopped and all students were recommended to stay home as a way to avoid the get the infection. Our church is also closed.

Our group facilitator and community activists also sensitized villagers about the disease and how to prevent infection. Thus, we are no longer meeting in our group as we were taught that is very easy and fast to get infected by the virus. We practice the hygiene such as regular hand wash and no hand shaking. We also use the face mask when we go out and also in crowded places.”

Marcelino Viagem

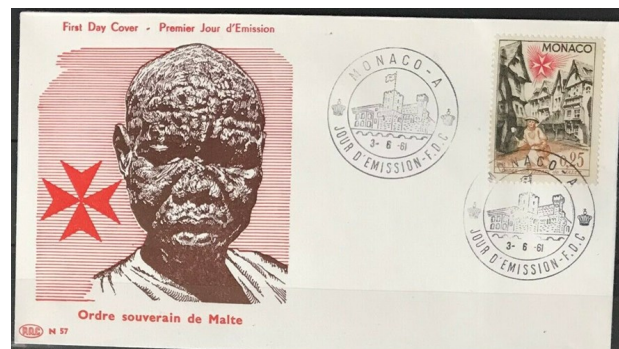
“I heard about the corona virus for the first time over the community radio and in the information

and dissemination lectures at the local health unit. The local leader reported that there would be a training for volunteers to disseminate information on prevention measures and I was invited to take part. After the training, I was well informed about the disease.

Now I feel able to disseminate information, especially which type of preventive measures are needed. With this knowledge I will bring significant change in my community because one of the purposes of the training is that each trained volunteer makes replica through door-to-door visits.”

<https://nlrinternational.org/news/stories-of-persons-affected-by-leprosy-in-mozambique-during-covid-19/>

Order of Malta stamps related to Leprosy



Order of Charity Financial Report

The Order of Charity raises its funds through the regular donations from its registered members. These funds are then used to support a number of internationally-based and Maltese-sponsored organisations working directly with lepers to ameliorate their lives. The subscribed members of the Order of Charity received a number of newsletters throughout the year in hard copy or electronic format depend-

ing on their preference. Expenses for the management of the foundation are minimal and restricted to the publication and circulation of the newsletter. Unfortunately, the large proportion of the membership is elderly and these supporting members are slowly dwindling away becoming deceased. New members interested in supporting the fight against leprosy are difficult to recruit. The outgoing year has been a particularly difficult one because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. This has interfered with the administration process of publishing the newsletter and also has had a toil on our membership base – much of whom are elderly.

Total Income through donations/Bank interest	€ 6,406.65
Total management expenses [newsletters]	€ 1,003.97

Philanthropic Report

A total of € 6,000 were targeted for donations to various organizations.

Capuchin Fathers	€1,500.00
Conventual Franciscan Fathers	€1,500.00
Sr Ann Catania (Philippine Mission)	€1,500.00
Gesu fil-Proxmu	€1,500.00

Chev. Prof. J. Galea
**Principal Administrator &
Treasurer**

Financial Report

Bank accounts - Balance 31.12.2020	€ 16,167.36
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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 Ghawdex, b'xi whud mill-fergħat joffru wkoll servizz ta' filgħaxija.

Għalhekk ejja 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](https://www.hsbc.com.mt)
MUR fl-eqreb fergħa



Approvat u mahruġ mill-HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. 116, Triq l-Arcisqof, Valletta VLT1444. 101009 – 02/2018

Nirnexxu flimkien

**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 leprosaria and missions working with them.

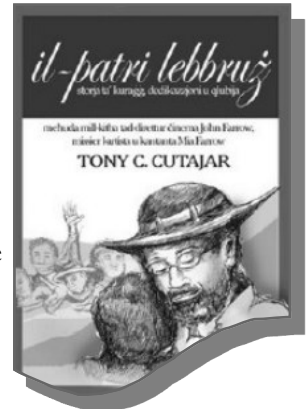


Raoul Follereau

*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 Lebbruz* li jipprezenta storja ta' kuraġġ, dedikazzjoni u qlubija tal-qaddis li gie ddikjarat il-patron tal-presuni morda bil-lebbra. Il-Patri Lebbruz Damjan ta' Molokai kien mar jahdem f'kolonja tal-lebbrazi 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 lebbrazi..." 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 Lebbruz*.....€6.50