

Introduction

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In this introduction, I shall briefly explain why the Gozo Centre was set up, and discuss how the objectives of the Centre relate to the theme of this book.

The aim of the Gozo Centre is not only to organise University courses in Gozo so that, as much as possible, those Gozitans who find it very difficult to attend University courses in Malta, are given an opportunity to study at University level in Gozo. The Centre also aims at creating, in Gozo, a total University presence, with its three dimensions, namely teaching, research and cultural development.

I was never in agreement with Cardinal Newman, who held that the function of a University is only to teach, and that research should be left to Academies. But I agree with the Cardinal's German opponents, who held that teaching cannot attain a satisfactory level, unless fertilised by research.

On the other hand, I agree with Cardinal Newman that the main objective of a University is to provide an environment conducive to reflection, where students can cut themselves off from the routine of daily life, and with suitable means, are enabled to meditate in depth and liberate their imagination.

In this regard, Gozo has a number of advantages when compared to the island of Malta. Those same features which attract quality tourists to Gozo, are also favourable to certain aspects of university life. A quality tourist is probably a person who wishes to explore a culture which is different from his own, and to mix with people with a different philosophy and a different way of life from his own. However, he would not probably be able to do so, unless he is helped

by others to understand and explore the symbols and ceremonies, the work and the play of the host country. In this regard, the presence of a University Centre in Gozo, could be conducive even to attracting quality tourists to Gozo.

For this reason, the University Gozo Centre aims to organise not only teaching courses, but also research activity and communication of research findings. This was in fact the purpose of the seminar "Tourism in Gozo", during which the papers included in this book were presented and discussed. Meetings of this type need not focus only on Gozitan affairs. Discussion on any topic during a meeting held in Gozo, could be enriched by the fact that it takes place within a Gozitan environment. When the Centre is further developed, and has its own premises, it will be possible also to hold international meetings, under the auspices of the University or the Foundation for International Studies of the University.

The third dimension of a University, namely contributing to culture, is also conducive to development. In this regard the fact that Malta has a University is something desirable, not only because it offers teaching, research and cultural facilities in Malta, permitting the Maltese to obtain them without having to go abroad, but also because it creates a store of expertise which the country can use in all spheres of life. The University Gozo Centre is also a means of facilitating the provision of these facilities, first and foremost for the Gozitans themselves, and also for foreigners, including tourists.

Most probably the provision of teaching courses will remain the main objective of the Gozo Centre. I hope that such courses will take various forms, including summer courses, which would attract foreigners to the island of Gozo.

I have no doubt that this book, to which a number of University members have contributed, will make an important contribution to the literature on tourism in Gozo, and will shed light on a subject which is becoming increasingly important in Malta and Gozo. I also trust that this publication will help Gozitans to look at themselves through the eyes of others. This is always a useful exercise in a University environment.