

“Love never fails”

“Nobody can be discarded, because we are all vulnerable. Each one of us is a treasure whom God allows to grow in his or her own way.”

A tweet from Pope Francis, 21st March 2018
(Word Down Syndrome Day)



“Disabled persons have the inherent right to respect for their human dignity. Disabled persons (...) have the same fundamental rights as their fellow-citizens of the same age, which implies first and foremost the right to enjoy a decent life.” (UN Declaration on the rights of disabled people, article 3)

Regional Conference



The Regional Conference held in Bangkok from 11 to 15 June was a new opportunity to analyse Caritas’ identity in Asia, in its various geographical and social conditions, through reports of projects

and activities that aim to respond with ever-growing professionalism to the needs of the poorest, without however losing the “dimension of the heart”. At the same time, this is always a special chance to make contacts, exchange experiences, and look for partnerships that can make our organization grow, being as it is at the start of its development path. So during this conference some interesting ideas for co-operation with Caritas Taiwan, Caritas Singapore, Caritas Korea and Caritas India emerged. Our next step is to define more precisely the terms and objectives of these fraternal joint projects, so as to take the most advantage of the potential of each organization.

June
2018

Regional Conference

Fraternal visit to
Aktau

The daycare centre
continues its work

Formation for a person
with Down syndrome

Caritas Italia and
Taiwan support
integration

Remote physiotherapy



Fraternal visit to Aktau



In April we received an invitation to visit the Apostolic Administration of Atyrau, and in particular the Caritas that is registered in the city of Aktau. The reason for this invitation was the desire to receive help in structuring their organization, not yet having a precise identity, and possibly organize a training course for the head and other co-workers or volunteers who will have a role in the organization's activities. Our two days visit had the nature of an exchange of experiences. Their director, Fr. Aleksandr, told us the story of the organization, as well as the problems arising at this stage of the work, the opportunities that the area presents and the needs of everyday life. For our part, we were able to explain how our organization had set out on a new path, thanks to the support of other regional and international Caritas. Then we gave a brief report on the projects under way in Caritas Almaty, and those that are in the pipeline aiming to respond to the many situations we encounter every day. We discussed several ways of fostering this dialogue as the organization grows in those regions. The first to be planned is a meeting in September for all priests, nuns and volunteers working in the territory of the Apostolic Administration of Atyrau to convey to them the fundamental elements of Caritas' identity and its work, and also outline a programme of work and development for the near future.



The daycare centre continues its work

In recent years, in Kazakhstan and specifically in Almaty, several initiatives have been set up to organize one-off events or permanent activities for the elderly. Certainly, elderly people are one of the most vulnerable categories of our society, particularly in large cities. This phenomenon has been well known in the West for several decades. Old age is no longer a value, no longer a source of traditions, of memory, of experience. Sadly, old people are increasingly a “problem” for their families, so some kind of solution is being sought.

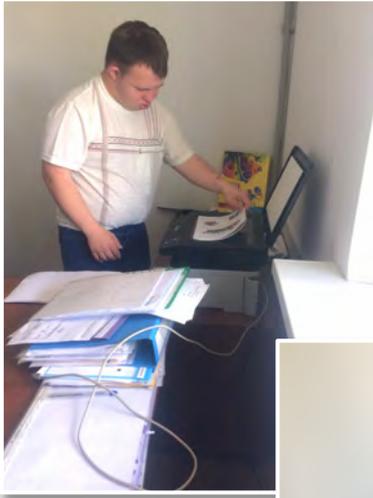
This is exactly what Pope Francis calls the “culture of discarding”. When we have finished using something, or when we believe that someone is no longer useful for society, we throw them away, we try to remove them from the heart of life. Perhaps we do this unconsciously to avoid being reminded by them that one day we too will be in their place.

Here’s what our day-care centre for the elderly has as its main aim. Recently, its activity has been revamped and a meeting organized to give the elderly the opportunity to enjoy each other’s company, and also to learn about the ways in which everyone can take part in Caritas activities, making themselves and feeling useful to others.



Formation for a person with Down syndrome

We have successfully finalized the training period for N., as we reported in the latest issue of our bulletin, aimed at preparing him for the job in a national company in Kazakhstan. We started this new experience with some apprehension, having no past experience, no defined parameters or guarantees of success. We relied on the experience and advice of prof. Sangalli, supervisor of the project from Italy, and on our limited experience of almost three years of work. Well, we must say that we have been amazed by the results.



Of course they were positively influenced by the efforts over the years of N.'s family which took advantage of all the opportunities for his development, despite the lack of specialists and adequate facilities. Besides, N.'s human qualities, his having always expressed a great wish to find a job, certainly played an important role.

During this time we worked to increase his resistance to fatigue, an important aspect in enduring the daily work rhythm, as well as on specific skills that will be required in the company's offices:

photocopying and scanning documents, performing simple operations with the computer, putting the office documentation in order. N. has passed all the tests with full marks, and now, in a few days, he will be accompanied by one of our tutors to start his first real work experience. The tutor will be

with him for the first few days, until N. has settled down, and proved that he can be totally independent. Certainly, it will be a challenge for the employees of the company, called to face an absolutely new work situation; however, we are sure that everyone will do their best to achieve our common goal. We wish him a good journey!

Caritas Italia and Taiwan support integration

Caritas Italy and Caritas Taiwan have agreed and signed off the project in support of young people with Down's syndrome. Caritas Italy will finance the salaries of two tutors for one year; they will guide the young people who come to the Almaty centre on their path of professional education. One of them will be responsible for more strictly professional training in the context of some particular activities that will be implemented within the centre. The other will deal with the more educational aspect that can have positive results as jobs become available.

Caritas Taiwan, on the other hand, will economically support the building of a greenhouse on the centre's land, with the dual aim of providing professional training for young people and possibly becoming a source of self-financing for Caritas projects.

Remote physiotherapy

The support project to the parents of Down's syndrome children is becoming the standard model for other projects in the same field. We co-operate with some Italian physiotherapists. For the time being, it deals with remote consultations and monitoring for two children



of the Talgar's Ark Village who need diagnosis and physiotherapy. However, the idea is to develop the project very soon and increase the number of children who can benefit from this activity and also to start a training job for local specialists, with the support of books, video lessons and tests, so that they are able then, to continue the activity under the supervision of Italian specialists.

How to help us

Bank account:

Caritas Almaty
BIN 020340006439
"Kazkommertsbank",
Almaty, Kazakhstan
SWIFT: KZKOKZKX
CORR/ACC No. 890-0223-057
"Bank of New York", NY, USA
SWIFT: IRVT US 3N
CHIPS: 0001
(account in USD)

Caritas Almaty
BIN 020340006439
"Kazkommertsbank",
Almaty, Kazakhstan
SWIFT: KZKOKZKX
KZ349261802192358000
(account in KZT tenge)

*Thank you
for your support*



With this issue, we conclude our so-called "social year" and say goodbye for the summer holidays. As we always say, charity never goes on vacation, and Caritas Almaty will continue its work even in the summer months. We shall meet with you in September to resume our monthly appointments even more enthusiastically. Happy holidays to you and your families.

We accept applications for those people who are in need or who wish to join the group of volunteers of Caritas Almaty.

For any questions related to the activities of Caritas Almaty, you can contact us at: director@caritasalmaty.org or by phone +7 (727) 296 97 73 or +7 701 943 74 62

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