

“Love never fails”

“If the ‘dream’ of a peaceful world is shared by all, if the refugees’ and migrants’ contribution is properly evaluated, then humanity can become more and more a universal family and our earth a true ‘common home’.”

John Paul II, *Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2004*



ICMC Plenary Assembly

A couple of months ago we were appointed an organization responsible for finding solutions to problems regarding migrants in all of the Kazakhstan, so the invitation to participate at the ICMC (International Catholic Migration Commission) Plenary Assembly that was held in Rome was a logic consequence. The aim of the Assembly was, firstly, to elect new administration, but also to define the strategy for upcoming years to respond in a more dynamic and effective way to the needs of refugees and migrants all over the world, with the guidance and following indications of Pope Francis, who always follows closely all the problems regarding this aspect of life of the modern society. Not only in “specialized” circles, but all over the world people know four verbs that Pope Francis used to describe what needs to be done: “to welcome, to protect, to promote, and to integrate”.

March
2018

ICMC Plenary Assembly

Global agreements

Fraternal visit to
Kapchagay

The “Smile” project



The participants also had an opportunity to hear the speeches and testimonies from speakers as from the Church, as from the UN, as from different international organizations that work in this field. It is always important to listen to real, human stories that make other words more real, more consistent, in addition to the presentations of main topics.

Global agreements

As Pope Francis reminds us in his Address for the World day of Peace 2018, in the course of this year two global agreements have to be defined and approved by the United Nations: one to protect migrants, the second one regarding refugees. The desire of Pope Francis is for these agreements to be inspired by “compassion, foresight and courage”. That’s why the Dicastery for the Integral Human Development suggests 20 points of action as definite ways to implement the four verbs both into public politics both and in terms of attitude and actions of Christian communities. The task of Caritas will be to spread this document and make it an instrument of dialogue and discussion within the Christian communities as well as in government institutions that are interested in tackling these problems. “To free the oppressed, the discarded and slaves of our time”, - Pope Francis said to the participants of the Assembly that he wanted to meet personally, - “it is essential to promote an open, sincere dialogue with government officials, a dialogue that learns from the experience, sorrows and aspirations of the people, to appeal to everybody to assume their responsibilities”.



Fraternal visit to Kapchagay

Our visits to parochial communities have become an opportunity to exchange experience that enriches everybody. This was the case of the meeting with the Caritas group of the parish of Kapchagay. The members made a detailed report of their work, listed the main needs that they deal with every day, what are the difficulties, and what are the positive results that they have achieved. Without a doubt the community grows when it assumes social responsibility facing the problems of people. The most evident example is the project that developed over time, one that regards reapplying for identity documents for people who lost them, documents that were stolen or damaged. If a person does not have personal documents it often means that he or she does not have primary rights that every citizen must have. That's why this type of work doesn't consist only of carrying out bureaucratic procedures, but more importantly in restoring a citizen's dignity.



What is more, the project lets Caritas show the professionalism and devotion of its employees, whom public servants trust without a doubt. They even forward people in difficulty to Caritas, knowing that every person will find the help that he or she needs. At the diocesan Assembly of last December this project impressed other communities and now some of them think of using the experience of Kapchagay as an example and start a similar project, maybe with the help of the advice and assistance of those who already have a significant experience.

The “Smile” project



The dentist project of Caritas continues, and at the same time it is growing. It is growing because this year Milena and Silvio, husband and wife, dentists from Italy, came back to Almaty for a week of check-ups and treatments for different categories of people. This year they worked again in the dentist's office that the orphanage “Ark Village” in Talgar placed at our disposal. The children of the orphanage were the first patients that were treated by Italian doctors. Then it was the turn of a numerous group of families in need that are receiving help offered throughout the year by the sisters of Mother Theresa. And finally, the doctors treated the children with the Down syndrome from the “Kunbala” association of Almaty, one with which we collaborate within the project of sustain of families with children with the Down syndrome. In total, during their stay, Milena and Silvio carried out over a hundred treatments.

We mentioned that the project is growing. It has happened thanks to the fact that Rosario and Aida, also a married couple from Astana, who for the first time accepted our invitation to start, hopefully, a long-term project, dedicated to orthodontics. During their short stay they put braces for 12 children of the orphanage, with a view to continue the work during the next stay. A particularly important moment was that Rosario and Aida taught Nastya, an employee of Caritas, a nurse, how to correct and adjust braces while we're looking forward to the next visit of our friends.



How to help us

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*Thank you
 for your support*



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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