

“Love never fails”

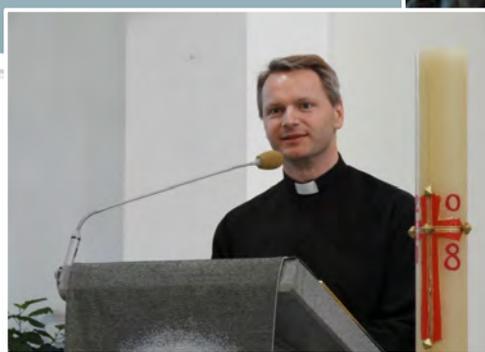
“Every activity — work and rest, family and social life, exercising political, cultural and economic responsibilities — every activity, whether small or great, if lived in union with Jesus and with the attitude of love and of service, is an occasion to live Baptism and Gospel holiness to the fullest.”

(Pope Francis, *Regina Cæli*, Rome, 29 April 2018)



National meeting

At the beginning of April Almaty welcomed all priests and religious figures who work in Kazakhstan for an annual meeting. The central topic of the three days of work was “young people”, with all the aspects that can regard the life of young people nowadays, particularly in our reality in Kazakhstan. Every session was dedicated to one of the aspects. Caritas Almaty was given the task to briefly present the topic “young people and volunteers”. The volunteer movement does not yet have a solid structure and a legal accreditation, although it has, without a doubt, developed a lot in the past few years thanks to the enthusiasm and motivation that comes from young people themselves. Each year, particularly in the city, more and more groups of officially registered volunteers appear, as well as, thanks to the technical support of social media, those who are formed in a spontaneous and informal way. The movement represents an enormous human force for the country. The experience of many countries shows us that



April
2018

National meeting

National Caritas moves
to Almaty

Old and new returnees

Visit to Taraz

Ecological project



the force, the ideas, the enthusiasm that young people carry with them is an irreplaceable potential that can be used to respond to many problems of any society. And, at the same time, the volunteer work for a young person represents a unique factor of humanitarian and social growth. For these reasons, young people and voluntary work are a challenge that is impossible to ignore. For Caritas this topic involves very important issues such as humanitarian and voluntary formation, projects, that have to be planned and structured to make them possible not only for those who work in Caritas full time, but also for volunteers, who try to make voluntary work coexist with their studies or an actual job. Obviously, such meeting about voluntaries is one of those that rise more questions that there were before the meeting. But we hope that in our case it has been an opportunity to reflect and make plans for the future.

National Caritas moves to Almaty

At the end of the national meeting, the first Episcopal Conference of Kazakhstan was held. During the session many aspects of the national Caritas were discussed, among them the relocation of the headquarters of the national

organization from Karaganda to Almaty. It was agreed that temporarily diocesan Caritas will play host to the national Caritas, until the conditions and the level of the development of the organization lets or requires the relocation in another place. The main task of National Caritas is the coordination of formation and activities of 4 diocesan Caritas organizations in all of Kazakhstan.



Old and new returnees



The project of returnees from European countries is always being updated. While the operational phase for one case is closing and the results are being verified, another one is in full motion and requires a lot of attention to find the perfect solutions for the social reintegration of people. There are cases in which the difference between the returnee's idea of what he or she would find in the motherland and the reality of life is so big that it makes the process of adaptation and reconstruction of one's life a difficult task. And finally we are prepared for the arrival of new returnees. Each case means there is a human story, that requires "not only our competence and professionalism, but a heartfelt concern", - as Pope Benedict teaches us (*Deus Caritas Est*, 31). Every case, every family, every person, urges us to start from the beginning, without taking for granted things that we "already know".

Visit to Taraz

The first visit to the western region of our diocese was completed with our trip to Taraz. During the meeting with the local community, we found an opportunity to reflect again on the essential points that inspire and guide charity and social work of a group that identifies itself as part of Caritas. As it often happens, we do not take for granted the ability to think about charity besides all the stereotypes that we limit ourselves to. What is more, there is not always a clear and detailed understanding of the needs that people around us have. So, our meeting revolved around these matters, when we tried to think about how to build the work, trying to fill the need of people who we meet every day inside of the parish. Another reason for the visit was the reconstruction works of the first floor of the parish that are coming to an end thanks to the help of the organization "Renovabis" that will create an opportunity to start working on several projects, partially regarding Caritas. During our trip it was also possible to stay for several hours at the Shymkent community, to continue the discussion that had already been started on several projects that might be carried out shortly.

Ecological project

Although with little steps, the ecological project for recycling waste continues to develop. In our country and in our region the sensibility for problems regarding taking care of the environment is growing. And surely one of the problems that influence the environment of our cities and villages the



most is dumping waste. The proposal of our project is, firstly, to bring the attention to the problems of our environment. According to recent statistics, an even smaller percentage of paper that is thrown out undergoes the process of recycling to be reused. In our regions it either ends up with all other organic or non-organic waste, or it is burned, resulting in air pollution. This is the main reason why many people, who never thought about the consequences of a simple act such as, throwing out a piece of paper in the bin, now remember it, and make their own choice. It is interesting how, in many cases children are those who are the most convinced and faithful defenders of these simple principles of the common life. And the added value to the project is that the money that we receive from selling the paper goes to buying medicine and food for old people whom Caritas helps. We are also happy to announce that this past month the locations where we gather paper and other materials, multiply, thanks to minding the principles that are the foundation of the project.

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*



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

www.caritasalmaty.org Facebook: Caritas Almaty vKontakte: <https://vk.com/caritasalm>