STRADE APERTE

MONTHLY REVIEW – SPECIAL EDITION

Adults world scouts: an identity and a path to follow

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SPECIAL EDITION

Introduction

MICHELE PANDOLFELLI

Why an issue on the international dimension of scouting and adults in scouting in particular? Firstly, because the World Conference of the International Scout and Guide Fellowship (ISGF) is scheduled for February 2022. We have therefore an opportunity to reflect on the prospects of this world organization and on Masci commitment in it.
Secondly, because Masci has started an internal path of reflection on its identity, which will have a significant moment in the next Synod of the Magisters. In this latter regard, it should be emphasized that the international dimension is an integral part of Masci identity. Adults in scouting are part of the World Scout Movement, sharing Scouting principles and values and therefore it is an integral part of the international Scout brotherhood. In B.P.'s project it becomes (spontaneously) the seed of a worldwide friendship and brotherhood among all men and the only true way to build peace between nations. In this context, we warmly support the nomination of Scout and Guides organizations for the Nobel Peace Prize.
But at this point, some questions arise.
Youth scouting is at the same time a youth movement, a world organization and a pedagogy and all this has made it unique in the world panorama, with a totally spontaneous success (today there are about 40 million young people in scouting all over the world). That is so because this method, as B.-P. said, responded to the "*natural desires of young people*" from all over the world. It just appeals to what makes them be the same all over the world beyond national, social and cultural differences.
Cannot the very same be said about adults in scouting, as their organization was born only in the 50s of the last century and today it has only a few tens of thousands of members in the world? Has it a clear awareness of its educational function, with a scout pedagogy adapted to the adult world? Does this pedagogy intercept the "natural desires" of adults all over the world? Can adults in scouting also become an equally global force for the construction of peace and for the common good in a world where the commitment to sustainability and the 2030 Agenda has today a significant weight? Could international dimension for adults in scouting be a bit more intentional?
This issue tries to offer elements to answer these questions, indicating first of all how both ISGF and Masci are on the way.
ISGF was once a reality formed only by former scouts, mainly dedicated to external support to the youth associations of scouts and guides. It is today on the frontier that opens to a movement of adults with an educational function, in a context of community service in line with the great questions challenging humanity today: sustainability, Agenda 2030, migration, world peace. Since ISGF birth (and numerically Masci represents a very significant component in ISGF) Masci has pushed in this direction and continues to push, as shown by the motion that the Masci will submit in the World Conference. And coming back to the questions raised above, it is no coincidence that at the same time Masci is reflecting on pedagogy and method of education for adults. within the framework on identity discourse. We try to seek a more adequate definition of them to answer the deep (and as such universal) needs of adults all over the world.
The issue opens with the section "*ISGF and adults in Scouting at the world level* " including, first of all, an interview by Mario Bertagnolio with the ISGF World President, Ms Zalilah Mohd Taib, whom we warmly thank for her availability and attention to Masci, on the previously highlighted topics and then an article by Mario Bertagnolio himself introducing us to the current situation of World and European ISGF.
The next section "*Adults in Scouting and Europe*" opens with an interview with the International Secretary of Spanish Adults in Scouting, Margarita Garcia (thank you Margarita) by Vincenzo Saccà, outlining the situation of a small but in promising growth association, committed to community service. An article by Franco Vecchiocattivi lets us understand the current situation and prospects of adults in scouting at the European level.
In the third section "*Masci and ISGF*" Angelo Vavassori, Masci international secretary in charge, dwells on the roots of the international dimension of adult scouting and its prospects, for a greater commitment to world issues and a greater intentionality in the international dimension of the Movement. We publish the proposed resolution Masci will present at World Conference and a summary of another interesting motion submitted by the Norwegian adults in scouting on environment. Below is a fact sheet that summarizes some historical events of the action that Masci carried out in the ISGF.
In the last section "*Adults in Scouting: the international dimension*" you can read the experiences of the Italians who have had worldwide appointments in ISGF (Ernesto Parodi, Mario Sica, Virginia Bonasegale). In their articles, we can see the essential link between scouting and the international dimension in the World Movement, the different experiences bringing mutual enrichment, the problems coming from the relationships within the associations and the further and great potential of these organizations for human development. This section continues with an article written by me and by the Auxiliary Bishop of Genoa, Don Nicolò Anselmi, a former scout (thank you don Nicolò for your availability) on human brotherhood mentioned by Pope Francis in the recent encyclical "*Fratelli tutti* " and on Scout Brotherhood.
The issue ends with a fact sheet containing some texts on the spontaneous growth of scouting in the world, driven by its pedagogical strength, and on the possibility for adults in scouting of becoming, just as spontaneously, a great force for peace.

SPECIAL EDITION

ISGF AND ADULTS IN SCOUTING AT THE WORLD LEVEL

ISGF gets to work in hard times

...by leveraging on solidarity and innovation, working for sustainability and the promotion of lifelong education and building strong relationships

INTERVIEW WITH ISGF PRESIDENT, ZALILAH MOHD TAIB, BY MARIO BERTAGNOLIO

In the face of the current pandemic situation affecting global ISGF, Scouting and Guiding movements, how do we deal with it from the perspective of growth and action?

SOLIDARITY and INNOVATION are the two keywords for global ISGF, Scouting and Guiding movements to deal with the current pandemic situation to keep growing and moving forward.

SOLIDARITY. None of us are exempted from the negative impacts of this unwelcome worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and we are not sure when it will go away. It's important for all our members to stand together, unite and show support to each other during this difficult time.

INNOVATION. Face-to-face activities and traveling are still banned in most parts of the world, but our movements should not stop thriving and adapting to the new norm. We must do what we can to reach out to our members. We moved our meetings and conferences online, made important decisions without seeing each other in person. We shared resources with each other to get through this challenging time.

Your evaluation on what ISGF can do to promote and execution of the objectives of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda were adopted by 193 world leaders in September 2015 at the 70th United Nations General Assembly, New York City. Local governments, private sectors

and civil society have a role in making progress on SDGs through their own actions; in fact, every one of us has the responsibility to work toward achieving SDGs by 2030 and make sure no one is left behind.

All of us need to work together as no one could achieve 17 SDGs with 169 targets in isolation. In my opinion, mobilizing people is one of the ways to achieve the Agenda 2030 for SDGs. Not everyone can dedicate all their time to social impact work. ISGF should work together with NSGFs, educate and raise awareness on the Agenda 2030 for SDGs, mobilizing our members to join together and make steps towards the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030,. We can create a real change

Promote volunteering, capacity building and resources sharing are the few more important ones among the many ways to make an impact on the SDGs is by volunteering (which is what we do in ISGF). Volunteering with CSOs or agencies increases our impact and is a good way to build skills. If NSGFs could share their experiences and resources in this area with each other, it will increase the impact quickly. Create meaningful connections with change makers – We often forgot we (as an association or individual) have a wide network that could make an impact in our communities and take steps towards in making the Agenda 2030 for SDGs a reality. Making connections is another best ways to create change. Alone cannot bring change to the world, but together we can create more opportunities and have a real change to achieve the goals.

By working in collaboration with each other, we build skills, grow stronger as a movement, and help to bring the wold we live in a few steps closer to achieve the Agenda 2030 for SDGs.

What can ISGF do to promote 'Adult Lifelong Learning'?

First, we need to understand what '*Adult Lifelong Learning*' is. '*Adult Lifelong Learning*' has been described as a process that includes people learning in different context, it is an ongoing, voluntary, and self-motivated pursuit of knowledge and it can be personal or professional.

'Adult Lifelong Learning' is more important than ever during this difficult time. The whole world has changed due to the pandemic, all of us need to adapt to the new norm to live and survive. To promote and provide the opportunities or platforms will help our members and community to grow.

We could work with local/international education providers; collaborate with them to create learning platforms for members and community. NSGFs may also organize online classes for each other to learn new things from different countries. Once again, collaboration is one of the best ways to promote 'Adult Lifelong Learning' in the association.

How to improve the visibility of ISGF in the media & society?

The current official channels that we disseminate information of ISGF are the official website and the ISGF Facebook page. Technology has helped us in many ways to improve our visibility, including growth of membership and donors. However, building strong relationships with other organizations is equally important. ISGF has been having good relationships with *World Association of Girl Guides & Girl Scouts* (WAGGGS) and *World Organization of the Scouts Movement* (WOSM) through attending their events. Hence, ISGF got the chance to promote our vision, mission and current activities.

I encourage all NSGFs to do the same in their own countries; not only with their local Scouts and Guides associations but also local NGOs and government agencies too.

NSGFs could offer services to help the local communities or team-up with other NGOs to organize events, e.g: International Volunteer's Day, to raise awareness and also to promote ISGF movement to more people.

ISGF AND ADULTS IN SCOUTING AT THE WORLD LEVEL

Different but united in scouting and in optimism

ISGF World Conference and the situation of the different national associations of adults in scouting in the world

MARIO BERTAGNOLIO, MEMBER OF ISGF WORLD COMMITEE

I would now like to report some considerations and experiences drawn from the realities of the various national associations I met both as a member of the World Committee (there are six of us) and as link member for Central and South America. Starting from this last task, I can say that I have seen different situations, often with quality people, having a great desire to work and to be useful locally, nationally and often internationally.

They all have a great interest in the knowledge and experience of the history of the Scout movement and especially in Baden-Powell himself, who is continually mentioned and remembered.

They are very committed to the scout style, in particular to uniforms and scarfs, always used with a few exceptions during the virtual meetings on Zoom, which frequently take place at national (eg Venezuela), sub regional (eg South America) or regional level (the Americas). Before the pandemic, there were also meetings in presence, with a great number of participants. I attended the meeting of the South American countries held in Montevideo, Uruguay in 2018 and the all the Americas meeting in New York in 2019. The latter, with over one hundred adults in scouting, was very well organized in particular by the Casegha group (a group of Haitians who became US citizens in the 1950s), who amused and

- a chi può agire

Non possiamo rimanere indifferenti all'ennesimo disprezzo della vita umana che si sta perpetrando ai confini della *Nostra Europa*. Tutti abbiamo negli occhi il dramma dei profughi al confine della Polonia, e nessuno dimentica i drammi dei barconi nel Mediterraneo, di chi fugge dalle guerre, dalle malattie e dalla fame.
Ci dobbiamo interrogare su come rendere più giusto e accogliente il nostro continente e il mondo intero. Tutto è connesso e "siamo tutti sulla stessa barca".

E allora?
Voi che ricoprite ruoli istituzionali, voi che potete agire anche a nome dei vostri popoli, non voltatevi dall'altra parte, agite subito! Ci vuole un sussulto di umanità!

Lo scautismo ci ha insegnato a farci carico del più debole, con piccoli gesti quotidiani, ma ci ha anche insegnato a essere attenti al mondo intero, alla giustizia e alla pace, e oggi siamo interpellati da questa emergenza che rimarrà centrale anche nei prossimi anni.

Non possiamo accettare che si risponda con l'alzata di muri, questa logica non ci appartiene!
Solo la cultura dell'accoglienza che ci troverà sempre presenti e attivi, potrà operare per un mondo diverso.
Operiamo insieme, coraggio!

fascinated us for their passion for dance, always and everywhere, regardless of age. For them a little music is enough and you can see people in their 90s starting to move at its pace, both in the restaurant, on the boat, during the conference. In short, a fun! Apart from this aspect, the contents of the discussion, the perfect scout style, the immediate friendship with everyone among all, were very appreciated and interesting.

The programs of these meetings were very similar to each other and ended with the approval of the budgets, the renewal of the leaders of the association and the majority decision of the next conference to be held in 2022 in Cordoba, Argentina. Themes such as social and aid projects carried out or to be carried out in the various countries are also dealt with, as well as the associative lives in the various countries. For me it was of great interest to participate in the international meeting promoted in virtual form by the (very numerous) Venezuelan association at the end of November, with over 50 adults in scouting from many countries. It will be soon replicated, given the great interest! By the way, the Venezuelan association publishes a monthly 30-page newsletter where it discusses the activities of the association in these times for them doubly difficult (for the pandemic and the near-civil war), but they are positive and optimistic and they go on with the greatest enthusiasm!

Then there are realities such as that of Guatemala, a small country in Central America, which almost suddenly stepped forward declaring that it wanted to start ISGF affiliation procedure with 253 members. In addition, a proposal was made by various Central American countries to create a new sub region, that of Central America, currently part of the South America sub region.

These processes must be followed with attention and caution, but they give the idea of a situation on the move at least in the Americas.

In other regions of the world the situations are varied, but the attention to the scout style, to the knowledge of the scout history and to Baden Powell, to community service, to environment, to projects for handicapped and disadvantaged people are always included, albeit with varying intensity.

What seems to be missing is a cultural relationship towards media and society, in presence and with proposals. This is seen as "political" and as such not appropriate and to be avoided.

Then there is the very delicate relationship with youth scout and guide associations. ISGF movement at national and local level has mutual support and help relationships with them.. However, reciprocity is not entirely such, because in many cases youth associations demand and believe that the support of the adult association is due and this idea is fully shared by the adult association, perhaps renouncing its own full autonomy.

On the other hand, it can also be understood that in national associations having only a few hundred members, and this is frequently the case, autonomy is less sought after and desired.

In some (limited) cases, however, there have been conflicts related to personal issues or to different visions of the role of the respective associations in society. At central level, ISGF has done its best to analyze the specific situations and find the most appropriate solution on a case-by-case basis.

Another interesting aspect to note is that, especially in some African, Arab and South Asian realities, youth scout movement and adults in scouting are to some extent integrated into the institutional reality of the country, with a supporting role in civil protection, and in others social and cultural activities (eg Indonesia). In these cases, of course, the integration of adult / youth associations can be much closer, but it can be perceived as helping the whole of society.

An interesting example is Burundi. There youth scout association (25,000 scouts and guides out of a population of 9 million to date) played a crucial role during the repeated and bloody civil wars between Hutu and Tutsi. It was recognized by all as a third party and therefore being able to travel freely in the country, with a role similar to the Red Cross. ISGF national associations may have similar recognition to some extent and in some other countries, although I have no direct experience of it.

SPECIAL EDITION

ADULTS IN SCOUTING IN EUROPE

Day by day, our history of community service

Spanish adults in scouting are growing and are engaged in service

INTERVIEW WITH MARGARITA GARCIA - SECRETARIA INTERNACIONAL AISG ESPAÑA- BY VINCENZO SACCÀ

Margarita Garcia. International secretary AISG Spain – first of all thank you for your availability and for the attention to Masci. Let's get to know. In the mail I sent to you before this interview, I ended with scout greetings, to include scout and guides. You answered with guide/scout greetings. This is a case where form is substance. Les's start then from this point. What does it mean, today in Spain and in the International Movement, being an adult in scouting and in guiding.

Being an adult in guiding or in scouting means being a woman or a man willing to transfer her/his service attitude in the community, with a behavior code based on the Law and the Promise of the World Scout and Guide Movement

In Italy, Masci members are over 6000, gathered in over 400 local communities, What about Spain? Are members in a stable number? Are there turnover and a growing in membership?

According to our last Annual Report AISG Spain is composed by 440 members, belonging to 15 different associations, spread over the whole national territory. In the last four years, membership is increased by 28% and, moreover, 6 new associations are developing.

The proposal of being an adult in guiding/scouting is addressed also to the outside, that is also to whom was never a guide or a scout? Is there a team working on this goal?

Yes, of course, The participation to our Associations is also open to whom who wishes and who, up to now, has not had the possibility to be a guide or a scout. There is no specific team promoting this specific membership. But we have a permanent commission for development, directed by the Committee, to support those who are in and guide those who want to adhere, trying to give the necessary resources and providing initiatives. Moreover, our activities are always a key, they make us visible in the daily lives of our cities.

According to you, is there a reflection/deepening to do on the identity of adults in guiding/scouting? What are you doing in Spain?

It's always advisable to reflect so we don't lose sight of social reality and we don't go far from our values. It will be an ongoing evaluation process.

It is topical to ask - and give answers - to questions such as: In which direction are adults in guiding and

Let's talk about the method for adults in guiding/scouting. Are "road, community and service" still a right proposal / response to the needs of age groups between 35/40 and 80? Baden-Powell wrote "Scouting for boys". And… for Adults?

Based on the Scout and Guide pedagogy, we also write, as Adults, our history on a day by day community service.

Telling "the story of one's life, emotions, burdens, hopes, dreams, failures, successes…", "to get to know each other through telling the story of ourselves ", do you think it could be central to the journey and formation of the an Adult?

Each person is the result of the experiences accumulated in her/his life, they are her/his training school.

Is this a major theme in Spanish Guiding / Scouting?

Yes of course

In Italy, Agesci is the Catholic scout and guide association. What is the Spanish association? What are its relationship with adults in guiding and scouting? Do they propose to a Guide or to a Scout ending her/his youth experience in the association, who gets on her/his "canoe" and "rows alone towards life", to continue as adult in guiding/scouting? Or will it be a fortunate encounter in the future?

There is not just a single youth association in Spain. There are: The Spanish Guide Federation, Scouts of Spain, The Catholic Scout Movement. The relationships of these Associations with Adults in guiding/scouting are fluid. They all know doors are open to actively participate with us to guiding / scouting when the time comes and if that's their desire.

Two other topics, before asking you some previews of the World Conference to be held next August. The relationships of adults in Guiding / Scouting with the Church and with politics in Spain. Does the life of the associations take place in the churches, in religious institutes? What is the relationship with the ecclesial hierarchy? is there a free encounter / confrontation with politics? where does it happen in the communities?

In AISG Spain we are independent and non-denominational, tolerant and respectful of others. Relationships that can be established both with the ecclesial hierarchy and with politics, are always framed with due respect.

scouting going, who are they addressing to? In what new fields of action, the political and social spaces we should engaged, also in this terrible pandemic that has particularly affected the elderly? What is the meaning of talking about a renewed active participation in politics, in society? …And as lay people in the Church? Are our groups a real and concrete proposal for aggregation, meeting / confrontation, sharing? Is lifelong adult education a way of life to commit for ourselves and towards the others?

Being a guide or scout for an adult is a commitment to oneself and to society. It is promoting respect for life and human rights, contributing to the elimination of the risks of social exclusion, cooperating in the fight against hunger, contributing to interracial understanding, etc. It's a commitment to the environment: participating in campaigns for responsible consumption, recycling, collaborating in activities for restoration of nature etc. It's a commitment to children and young people, offering our willingness to collaborate when requested and promoting the development of scout and guides associations for children and young people. Those of us who have learned one day the values of Guiding and Scouting neither want nor can forget them. Everything that is learned can be applied to all stages of our life.

SPECIAL EDITION

ADULTS IN SCOUTING IN EUROPE

A reality in movement

Adults in scouting in Europe, from supporting youth scout associations to becoming aware of their educational function in a wider social commitment

FRANCO VECCHIOCATTIVI, FORMER PRESIDENT OF SOUTHERN EUROPE SUB REGION

Before talking about adults in scouting in Europe, I think it's necessary to make a brief introduction on the history of adults in scouting, since it was a phenomenon initially born in Europe.

It seems obvious that adults in scouting have a very close link with youth scouting associations. However, still today someone thinks that Scouting is *"limited"* exclusively to the young people, in practice they believe that adults in Scouting can exist only as Scout leaders, with the mission of educating young people. There are countries in the world where youth scouting is a very important reality, but where even talking about *"adults in scouting"* is considered a heresy (for example, in a large part of the USA, or in Japan and many other countries). Yet this was not scout founder Baden-Powell's idea. He wrote extensively on adults in scouting's role in the community, although he did not went deeper on their organization. In his late-life writings, his thought is evident and explicit:*"the many millions of those who were scouts or guides as young people, who later became adults, can form a leaven of men and women who ignore past differences and quarrels, preparing a future of happiness and prosperity for all, through a feeling of friendship and mutual brotherhood, typical of scouting.* "(Baden Powell, July 1937)

To follow up on these ideas, as many adults, former scouts or former guides in many countries of the world wanted to do something for a future of happiness and prosperity, in 1953 IFOFSAG (International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides) was founded by representatives of adult in scouting from Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Great Britain, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, Holland, Pakistan, Portugal, Sweden, and Switzerland. In the following years, IFOFSAG changed its name to the current name of ISGF (International Scout and Guide Fellowship).

As you can see from the list of the 18 founding nations, at the beginning adults in scouting mainly gathered as international organization in Western Europe countries, with the only exception of Costa Rica and Pakistan. Today, after almost 70 years, more than 100 nations are represented in ISGF, organized into 5 "regions": Europe, Asia Pacific, the Arab region, Africa and the Western Hemisphere. In turn, each region is divided into sub-regions. But let's see how the Europe region is organized. This is divided into 4 sub-regions

Adults in scouting in associations adhering to ISGF European Region

Northern Baltic Europe: Danemark, Finland, Iceland, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden.

West Europe: Belgium, Great Britain, Ireland, Luxembourg and The Netherlands

Central Europe: Austria, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Poland, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Switzerland (North) and Hungary.

Southern Europe: Cyprus, France, Greek, Israel, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland (South) and Turkey.

Although Slovenia participates in the activities of the Europe region, it still does not join any sub-region. Some nations, on the other hand, such as the Netherlands or Israel, do not have a sufficient membership to be considered as an "*effective member of ISGF*". They are represented in a central branch of associated nations, but may participate in the activities of their sub region. Furthermore, in the division into sub regions, Switzerland appears twice, once as southern and once as northern Europe. North is made up of the German-speaking cantons, while South is made up of the remaining cantons. This division was requested by Switzerland itself and responds to needs of cultural affinity, especially linguistic.

After the foundation of ISGF in 1953, with the first 16 European nations, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, The Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom, Sweden and Switzerland, other nations gradually joined over the years; Ireland in 1957, Germany in 1971, Spain in 1979, Cyprus in 1987, Hungary in 1991, the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993, Romania and Latvia in 1996, Poland in 1997, Slovenia in 2001, Lithuania in 2002 and Turkey in 2017.

Almost everywhere in the world, the organizations of adults in scouting are largely formed by former scouts and former guides. Almost all organizations were initially born with the aim of supporting youth organizations and this activity still remains the main activity in most countries to this day. However, especially in Europe, overcoming this view is a trend. Slowly the idea of an educational function for adults in scouting has been established. This implies adults participation in their community, giving their contribution through the principles and values of scouting. Masci has much contributed to this evolution. By the way, someone says that this idea of being adults in scouting was mainly born in Italy. Traveling around Europe, even if only virtually, that is, by visiting the websites of adults in scouting organizations in the different European countries, you can easily see the various levels of advancement this " work in progress " has reached in the various European countries. When you consider activities of adults in scouting in Europe, you see that in some countries they are only supporting young scouts and guides with the logistic in camps, celebrations and activities, while in other countries an intense social commitment has also developed. I believe that an advanced and very significant moment of this evolution happened two years ago, when a petition on receiving immigrants was officially presented to the European Parliament, an initiative started by Masci but supported with enthusiasm by many other European countries.

Looking at the national census records of the various organizations of adults in scouting in the European region, a rather interesting aspect can be observed. Some nations join ISGF with a single national organization, while others join through a federation of various national organizations. For example, Italy joins with more than 6,000 registered members, all registered in Masci, a single national organization of adults in scouting. In fact, in our country there are other associations of adults in scouting, but at least so far, they do not want to join ISGF. On the other hand, there are nations having a lower number of members than we (Italy has the largest number of ISGF associates in the world) but united in a federation. As an example, we can consider Spain, with about 440 registered members, distributed in 14 organizations of adults in scouting and guiding. And this is not an isolated case, but it's very common in the nations adhering to ISGF even outside Europe. I believe that the presence of many organizations of adults in scouting in the same country, united however by the membership of ISGF, is precisely a consequence of the conception of being adults in scouting. It seems that where adults' activities in scouting are limited to supporting young scouts, adults mostly feel like members of a fourth branch of youth scouting and this leads to maintaining and reproducing the breakdown of youth organizations, usually divided by religion, ethnic groups or educational methods. Developing community and social engagement programs seems to help keep adults in scouting better united in a common work program.

SPECIAL EDITION

Appeal ISGF to the European Parliament

«It is provided here the text from the Appeal to European Parliament on European migration policy presented in Bruxelles on the 8th October 2019 from Masci-Focsiv, together with scout associations from Belgium, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Portugal, Spain and ISGF.

The Appeal was delivered to Vice President Maired Mc Guinness and the President David Sassoli expressed his own support with a dedicated message.

In these days MASCI joined the international community to express condolences and sorrow for the loss of David Sassoli, who has been a great EU Parliament President, he was a scout and always supported Italian scouting movement».

Migration is a hot issue in European politics and societies. They are often the source of harsh comparisons and social tension, but in an increasingly old and closed Europe, they can represent significant human contribution to the development of the continent.
The theme of migration is also linked to the actions that European countries play towards countries involved in war conflicts or towards the poorest countries, in particular on the African continent. For this reason we want to remember the great work of hundreds of thousands of volunteers who are involved in development cooperation actions aimed at supporting the right to remain and to live with dignity in their own land, and to offer opportunities for emancipation for all, actions to support and en-

The National of Adult Scout and Guide Fellowships of all Europe members of the International Scout and Guide Fellowship (ISGF) and FOCSIV, subscribers of this appeal, are available in their respective countries to cooperate with the institutions and with the different territorial realities to make this difficult historical moment a useful time for the civil and human growth of every community. In particular

courage because they are linked to migratory flows. We realize that for a regulated and safe migration that has the common good as its final objective, decisive choices are able to look far and not only to the contingent, so we address the following European Parliament

APPEAL

1. Get the reform of the Dublin Regulation as soon as possible and create a shared and supportive European asylum system among all member countries;
2. Reconsidering the migration compact or "Pact on Migration" to share solidarity with migrants, avoiding creating buffer zones to contain these people, real forms of new apartheid;
3. Ro support civil society programs and integration initiatives more vigorously across Europe;
4. Act with better transnational operations to stop human traffickers;
5. Provide better regular channels for the different forms of migration, from those for work reasons to those for family reunification;
6. Multiply attention to the rights of unaccompanied minors by enhancing the role of the family, not only in Europe, but also in transit countries and countries of origin;
7. Investing in young Europeans to promote intercultural, social and economic inclusion;
8. Protecting the rights of migrant minorities against forms of xenophobia and racism.

We commit to:

- Support the reception and integration of minors (in particular unaccompanied minors) and of adult refugees
- Develop actions in favor of intercultural, education for global citizenship and non-violence

- Accompany the integration of young migrant students in the world of education and work
- Support cooperation with the migrants' communities of origin, to facilitate training and work paths, as well as the care of the environment and local communities.

International dimension and adults in scouting: the origin and the future

ANGELO VAVASSORI – MASCI INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY

The roots. Why world community and education to world community

We would like here to introduce the theme of the international dimension in the pedagogical process of scouting, recalling the roots of this educational method.

When Scouting method is presented, education to world community or international dimension is never mentioned among the constituent elements, but it is a very peculiar one compared to other educational method. We believe it is a serious forgetfulness and inattention to the specifics of the scout proposal, proposed to young people, but aimed at the adults.

Since its origin, scouting introduced international dimension as a characterizing element for personal growth and development beyond frontiers. The universal brotherhood mentioned in the law," *a scout/a guide is a friend to all and a brother/ a sister to every other scout /guide*" goes far beyond the borders of a city or a nation. The direct and concrete experience of the encounter of young people from different countries, started as a game through the world meetings of the Jamboree, a jam of different peoples and nations, has consolidated over time the idea of the importance of world unity and fraternity among nations. An experience much appreciated by young people but full of meaning in adulthood. In fact, in these meetings B.-P. often liked to repeat "*In a very few years you will be the adults of your country. It will be you who will guide industries, trade and political life… do not allow your patriotism to be so narrow as to prevent you from looking beyond your country* ". It was clear that the meetings aimed at peaceful relations and respect for the needs of other countries, safeguarding and loving each own traditions and nationalities.

The inspiration and awareness of this particular experience can only derive from B.-P.'s international military experience. There he consolidated his mistrust in uselessness wars to resolve relational and interests between nations. With a long look at the future, B.-P. understood that educate active and sensitive citizens only for one country would be useless without an active world citizenship for peace, respecting mutual interests or political choices. Those who lived the Jamboree experience cannot deny the charm and beauty of friendship and exchanges.. These are full of concrete meetings with young people from other countries, especially in times where travels were limited, with no low cost air travels Furthermore, from an historical point of view, we cannot ignore the last letters and messages by B.-P. after Vogelensang Jamboree in 1937 and up to the war period, charged with strong antiwar thoughts. A support for the suppressed movement in various nations where it was replaced with forms of youthful activities quite far from the spirit and principles of scouting.

We don't know the positive and deep impact scouting has produced in young people, and in future adults, in terms of peace and non-conflictual operations in economic and political aspects during crisis. But certainly the spread of the culture of peace and dialogue, respecting national objectives, has been enormous in many countries. We are surprised that there has not been so far a public recognition of scouting with an important international prize such as, for example, the Nobel Peace Prize. A few days ago a Norwegian parliamentarian proposed the youth organizations of scouting and guiding for 2021 Nobel Peace Prize. We obviously support this initiative even if it could have been launched perhaps more unanimously, with an explicit reference to B.-P.'s lesson, involving also adults in scouting.

The scout method uses four essential elements as tools for training men and women to be active and responsible citizens in social life, through the process of self-education (coming from the inside rather than from the outside - B.- P.). First, building of character, through the system of patrols and communities, the science of the woods, the game and the scout law. Second, health care and respect for the body. Third, manual skill and practical activity in doing and expression. Fourth, the service to others, to build and leave the world a better place than you found it. We

can, therefore, fully add a fifth educational element, openness to the world. A recognition and a practice of respecting the different visions and needs of other countries. However, being opened to the world has often been interpreted as an enhancement of customs, traditions and nature, rather than a tool for cultivating and increasing attention to the needs and the social and economic perspectives of countries.

ISGF and Masci

ISGF / AISM has always emphasized the international dimension and collaboration in scouting, especially aimed at maintaining contacts and institutional relationships among the organisational structures of the member countries. The main commitment has always been aimed at supporting scouting as a movement to spread the educational method to young people in the various countries of the world. The movement of adults in scouting all over the world provide external support to the national youth movements and sometimes to projects of educational and school activities for young people.

Few movements of adults in scouting, such as Masci, have their own life and activities, aimed at proposing scouting to adults and carrying out scouting activities for adults. The meetings of the World Committee and the World Conferences themselves have always represented moments of organisation and research of the identity of the movement for adults in scouting since 1953, year of the first World Conference in Lucerne up the most recent ones.

On our part, as Masci, in recent years we have qualified in proposing a change in commitment and vision to international organisations at various levels, both European and worldwide. In particular, since the 28th ISGF World Conference, remembered for the "*Bali Declaration*". It is a very strong change, concerning adults in scouting all over the world. A call to engage in community service that can deeply affect the life of adults in scouting in each country. Then with the petition on migrants rights and freedoms presented to the European Parliament in 2019 with the signature and participation of several European countries, followed by the proposals at the European meeting in Bremen.Today, Masci is committed to continuing on the path to renew the meaning and international mission of adults in scouting, as well as the operating methods of the organizational structures. The retrospective look proposed at the beginning of this reflection is useful to recall the original meaning of education to world community. The long look at the future proposed by B.-P. is still relevant for both young people and adults, but above all for the latter. Our education to be citizens of the world makes us ask: what is the international culture of the mission as adults in scouting today? We want to go beyond the usual ways in world meetings, just of courtesy and traditions, albeit with gestures of generous welcome and celebration, to increase spaces and moments of confrontation and international planning on emerging issues today.

Among them we would like to recall some rather worrying and discriminatory issues, linked to rights and social justice. The rebirth of nationalism and the closure of borders to people, although they are always open to goods. We intend to reaffirm our culture of peace and multilateralism. A culture of openness to the plurality of interests and relationships, especially in the context of a political program or economic agreements between countries. Respect for and protection of the right of freedom for opinion and religion. The right to education and work for young people. The current events, worldwide, denying people's rights and freedoms, especially for the most vulnerable and with less economic means, must not remain on the sidelines of the commitment of adults in scouting.

We, young people of yesterday, took B.-P.'s invitation to anticipate the conditions leading to repressive or discriminatory policies. We cannot just help young people in scouting, They know very well how to find their way and means of diffusion. Especially in Europe and in countries with a good degree of well-being. In some countries, still today, youth scouting needs further help from adults or even from foreign scout organizations. We will never fail to support; but we must recognize that in many countries this service is outdated, and almost corny.

Therefore, we are aware that i adults scouting at international level must turn their attention to significant trends and themes of life and to the environment of adult society. B:P.'s pedagogical utopia can become true today in a society and a humanity reconciled with the environment, with different cultures, religions and political choices. With no discrimination against minorities and the economically weak structures of society and the world, encouraging the training of skills and a work useful for the economic and cultural development of each country. Masci proposed a resolution to the next World Conference representing, albeit in summary, the orientation of adults in scouting towards Agenda 2030 objectives. We shared this concern with the most attentive and sensitive nations to the changes taking place, with courageous projects for the future. In short, an adventure that must find us ready and cohesive. So we can continue to be active and participate in the world with the concreteness and confidence that scouting has given us and its history has so far witnessed. One of the favorite aphorisms of B.-P. was "*You cannot teach an old dog a new game*" (1939), indicating in the new generations the protagonists of changes in society and politics. Attention to international events obliges us to understand and play the new games of politics, economics, sustainability. We won't leave the new generations alone, but we'll stay by their side and where necessary, we'll participate in the game, although mature and not snappy dogs, but wise and with an eye on the present and long on the sustainable future (*sustain ability* = ability to last over time).

SPECIAL EDITION

Proposed resolution presented by Masci to the World Conference 2020 (now 2022)
(Resolution will be processed according to methods of carrying out the Conference)

MASCI (ITALIAN CATHOLIC ADULT SCOUT MOVEMENT) - National Council - Rome, Jan. 17, 2020

A. PROPOSER: 1. MASCI - ITALY / SECONDED 2: AISG, SPAIN

B. FOREWORD / PREAMBLE Acknowledging the basic principles of Scouting Values, such as world friendship, support for the right of freedom of individuals and peoples, freedom of the religious profession, protection and conservation of nature and the environment, Considering the principles of dialogue and "goodwill" (a concept dear to Baden-Powell) as a positive and non conflicting way to face international problems, a way that into account the different points of view, Taking note of the "Bali Declaration" approved at the last world conference, Stressing the importance of the UN document "Agenda 2030 for sustainable development" as a stategy for the development of peoples and the environment.

C. TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION / PROPOSAL MASCI (Italian Catholic Adult Scout Movement) and AISG request ISGF:

A. to sign and share the UN document "Agenda 2030 for sustainable development";
B. to carry out initiatives and projects, both directly and through its member organizations, to implement the actions foreseen in the "Agenda 2030" for an environmental, economic and social sustainable development;
C. to encourage international political awareness-raising initiatives aimed at protecti the rights of mobility of individuals and peoples and welcome migrants, including the creation of "humanitarian corridors";
D. to promote environmentally sustainable activities and practices both within member organisation actions, and through education and training initiatives for young and adults on environmental sustainability;
E. to present an annual and / or multi-year program of actions on the topics listed above

D. THE ARGOMENTATION OF THE PROPOSAL / EXPLANATION In today's world socio-political situation, the numerous theaters of war have severe the consequences on civilians and innocent victims.This reality requires collective and individual actions and commitments. Welcoming and integrating the thousands of people who flee from such upheavals can no longer be postponed. ISGF adult scouts can face the challenge posed by these socio-political difficulties in a positive way, betting on and trusting their possibilities of sharing and participating in actions they can implement. The actions may be specific projects on the local level and educational and training actions for the member organisations and local communities. We believe that by joining and participating in Agenda 2030, ISGF further qualifies its nature as an education and support movement for international peace and development and can therefore increase its active role in favor of environmental protection and sustainability on international level.

Swedish adults in scouting too love environment

PROMOTION OF PROJECTS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

1. **PROJECT PROPOSAL**

We propose that ISGF appeals to NGFS to initiate and support projects that aim at protecting the environment. Projects should, where possible, be run in co-operation with the national scout and guide associations. Where possible, much of the active work should be performed by scouts and guides, while the role of Fellowship members should be to facilitate the work e.g. by instruction, help with logistics, or similar support. Where suitable, Fellowship members should also participate actively in the practical work, thereby demonstrating our active interest and solidarity with the purpose.

The projects should preferably have a concrete, well defined purpose such as cleaning local beaches of garbage brought in by the ocean, cleaning the banks of a local river, or another purpose that has a clearly defined and easily observed advantage to the local environment.

Each project should have a defined time limit (e.g. half a year), and should result in a brief summary report, ideally illustrated by photographs or other items that highlight the project results. Successful projects may, however, be continued beyond the time limit, if the participants want to continue the work.

2. **PROJECT AIMS**

- Contribute to improving the local natural environment
- Increase interaction between Fellowships and Scouts and Guides' associations
- Increase the visibility of Fellowship and Scouts and Guides in the community
- Highlight the importance of environmental work through publishing descriptions of project efforts and results on NSGF and ISGF websites and other social media

3. **ARGUMENTS FOR THE PROPOSAL**

Our planet's environment is currently being seriously harmed by a number of factors. Some of these are clearly caused by human activities, such as large amounts of garbage being dumped in the rivers, the ocean and other parts of nature. Others have partly natural causes, and are partly influenced by human activity, such as soil erosion, increasing nitrogen run-off from cultivated land, or the reduction in wildlife caused by changing pristine nature into cultivated land and the spread of urban land usage. There has been controversy over in what degree the most serious factor, global warming, is a result of human activity.

While people have previously largely overlooked the effects of the negative changes in the environment, we now observe a significant increase in people's concern about these issues, especially among young people. During the last years, young people have increasingly expressed their frustration that the older generation does not pay sufficient attention to the problem, nor does it make sufficient efforts to reduce it.

The concept of promoting projects to protect the environment aims at utilising young people's (i.e. scouts and guides) concern to participate in projects that attempt to reduce the negative forces – and support and stimulate this by more actively and visibly involving the older generations (i.e. Fellowship members).

Each such project may have a limited effect on the local environment, However, if sufficient projects can be initiated, both the practical and the symbolic effects can provide significant improvements. Also, the positive results of projects may increase other people's awareness of the problem, and awareness that active efforts can make a difference.

Also, such projects, would constitute concrete examples of fulfilling the intentions behind the statement that BP left behind as his appeal to all scouts: "Try to leave this world a little better than you found it and when your turn comes to die, you can be happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best."

Hopefully, we shall all have quite a few years left of our lives, but the earlier we start to try to improve the world, the more we can accomplish – and the better we can leave it.

Ivy Waldenhaug Kinsund NP Norway

Supported by

Birdlife Denmark IS Denmark

[illegible] IS Finland

Kristjana Þórdís Ásgeirsd. IS Iceland

Marianne Ceder IS Sweden

Factsheet n. 1

Masci as an active member of ISGF

Some steps in the relationship between Masci and the international organisation of adults in scouting:

- in 1953 IFOFSAG (International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides – adults who were former scouts and guides) was founded. Its aims: helping other adults in scouting and guiding to keep the spirit and the scout values in the world, active supporting scouting and guiding in their communities. In 1961 Carlo Ceschi was elected vice-President to IFOFSAG International Council. In 1963 Masci organized 5th General Assembly in Gastelgandolfo (Young people and free time), with the greeting of Pope Paul VI.

- in 1967, at the IFOFSAG General Assembly in Durham, Masci proposed the registration of IFOFSAG with UNESCO, a proposal that would only be approved in 1974. In 1969 Giorgio Bongioanni was elected to the International Council. In 1973 in Vienna, Masci presented the experience of the Development Seminars. In the same year, Francesca Savini was elected to the International Council. In 1977 the new IFOFSAG statute was approved with an important contribution from Masci (establishing, among other things, that the approval of the youth scout association is no longer required for affiliation);

- since 1980 the meetings between adults in scouting of the Mediterranean countries have been organized as MED (Sea of Peace and Dialogue). In 1982 MED was organized in Italy (in Pacognano - Salerno). In 1987 Michele Giaculli was elected to the International Council. In 1991, Masci proposed to eliminate the reference to former scouts but the proposal did not pass;

- in 1993 IFOFSAG bodies changed their name, changing the term "international" to "world" (hence the World Conference and World Committee). Ernesto Parodi became a member of the World Committee;

- in 1996 IFOFSAG World conference was held in Montegrotto Terme (Padua) - Italy, with the organization of the Masci. In 1996 IFOFSAG became ISGF: no longer an association of former scouts only (as Masci proposed). An international training project for adults in scouting, presented by Ernesto Parodi, was approved. In 1998 the European Committee for Information Exchange and Coordination was voted in Portugal. In 1999 Riccardo Della Rocca was elected to the World Committee;

- in 2002, a wording on the main activity of ISGF (support to youth scouting) was accepted in Vancouver. Masci didn't like. On the record, a statement by Masci: ISGF, as an ambassador of scouting in the world, must also commit itself to making the world better suited to new generations' needs In 2005 Mario Sica was elected to the ISGF World Committee. In 2006 MED was held in Italy (Acireale), with the themes of peace, hospitality, the encounter between cultures;

- MED and the EU South Sub-Region Conference were held in 2009 in Portugal with a qualified and numerous participation by Masci. In 2011 the World Conference was held in Italy in Como on the theme of Common Goods (Water, Land and Air). Virginia Bonasegale chairs the Organizing Committee and is elected to the ISGF World Committee.

- in 2015, at Sydney Conference, clear appreciation was expressed for the experience of *Eccomi* and in general for Masci way of working by projects. In 2015 at MED in Marrakech Franco Vecchiocattivi was elected President of the Southern Europe sub-region. At the 2017 World Conference in Bali and in 2018 MED in Athens Masci proposed its proposals on immigration. In Bali, Mario Bertagnolio is elected to the World Committee.

SPECIAL EDITION

World scouting: when Italians are at the top level

Experiences, impressions, acquired convictions and proposals of those who were elected to the top positions of world scouting organizations, showing, with ups and downs, the importance for scouting of being a world movement.

VIRTUAL ROUND TABLE WITH ERNESTO PARODI, MARIO SICA, VIRGINA BONASEGALE ON THEIR EXPERIENCES AT THE WORLD LEVEL AS ADULTS IN SCOUTING.

Ernesto Parodi: member of the ISGF World Committee from 1995 (World Conference in Jakarta) to 2000 (World Conference in New Delhi). Mario Sica: member of the ISGF World Committee from 2005 to 2011; elected at the World Conference of Lillehammer, Norway, 2005, remained in office for the six years of his mandate, through the World Conference in Vienna, 2008, until the World Conference of Como in 2011. Virginia Bonasegale: member of ISGF World Committee from 2011 (Como World Conference) to 2017 (Bali World Conference).

In your opinion, what is the importance the international dimension has for adults in scouting?

Ernesto Parodi: A distinction must immediately be made between the Masci approach and a large part of adults in scouting in the world. For our movement, supporting youth association is important, but we give space and attention above all to the continuous growth of the adults in scouting in the spirit of the gospel and the scout law. It is an extensive interpretation of scouting and therefore an added value. An objection emerged several times: this approach makes it more difficult to integrate adults of religions and beliefs different from ours. This observation, as I was able to see while visiting communities in other countries, is also valid to some extent, for example, for the communities of the Taoist, Hindu, Muslim religion, even if the spiritual component is not so relevant.

In many countries, especially in Europe and North America, the primary objective of adult movements is supporting youth associations with fundraising or developing themes aimed to train boy scouts and guides/girl scouts. I remember a project developed by a team of adults former in WAGGS aimed at educating girls scouts on the theme of peace, which started from inner peace and extended to peace in the world.

With the collaboration of the movements of adults in scouting of France and Austria, we introduced a broader vision in ISGF, through a project that aimed to exchange the different ideas and interpretations about identity of adults in scouting between different countries. Some of the main themes were: community life, twinning, relationship with the youth association, nature protection.

Adults in scouting cannot ignore the international dimension if they want to have an impact, to some extent, on the processes concerning peace, nature protection, sustainable growth, fighting against poverty, t reduction of inequalities. We, remember what BP said: "Helping to leave a world a little better than you found it.

Mario Sica: Facing nowadays challenges, scout method still remains a valid reference point for adults who want to live the adventure of their life, giving a meaning and adding comprehensiveness. In some respects, globalization and the facilitation in communication make it easier the international dimension of world brotherhood and the construction of a better world that we found.

The love for adventure - a typical scout feature - must prompt us to try harder, with resources and energy. So changes taking place in the entire human society could be directed towards respect for life, human rights protection and the contribution to justice and peace,according to ISGF principles, to create a better world. In this respect, the international dimension in ISGF, inserted in an adult organization, assumes a central importance. This dimension must be carried out not only on institutional occasions, such as World Conferences and other formal meetings, but also, and above all, in twinning, typical occasions to get to know different realities and to help developing organizations of adults.

Virginia Bonasegale: The scout law addresses to the human being during all the entire life, indeed for adults it has a much more original and universal meaning.

Our international movement wants to gather adults in scouting and guiding all over the world in groups that, in the name of friendship, can spread the values of the scout law. It's exactly friendship, "fellowship", the "F" in ISGF, that lets us spread all over the world friendship and service, beyond the political classes, religions, and skin colours. This is a great dream, to be pursued with tenacity, even if it is exhausting.

SPECIAL EDITION

What could the ISGF do more and better, especially on the issues of adult education and sustainable development?

Ernesto Parodi. ISGF must grow in qualitative and quantitative terms to be in some way a protagonist. It must be present in some international organizations and send a scout message where decisions on processes affecting the future of our planet are taken.

To promote the issue of adult education, I believe that the ISGF must provide guidelines and encourage more frequent exchanges between the communities of different countries, for example, through twinning.

Today, communication technology facilitates this activity. Masci, for its specific and I believe still unique experience, can play a significant role in giving emphasis to the theme of lifelong adult education.

As far as sustainable development is concerned, I think that ISGF should provide guidelines to the movements of the various countries so that they are stimulated to activate initiatives, aiming to sensitize their governments, on an issue so relevant and fundamental for the future of our planet.

Mario Sica: To be more effective and count more, ISGF should, first of all, increase its membership and reach more countries. I know that this objective is easier to set out than to achieve, and yet something more could be done. The launch of a "development operation" by the ISGF World Committee seems to me no longer to be postponed.

Such an operation also requires clarification in the ISGF's relations with the two youth organizations, OMMS - WOSM and AMGE-WAGGS. They are currently - I believe - at a rather low level. In particular, the recruitment of leaders for adults in scouting must take place in forms that do not constitute, even remotely or indirectly, a form of competition with the management of adult resources by scouting / guiding for young people.

As for adult education, at least from an Italian point of view, there is not much to discover. Principles and objectives are known (personal and community), as is the method. in broad terms (self-education, learning by doing, and finally the trinomial: life in the open air or "Road" - community - service). The commitment of ISGF in the field of sustainable development will be all the more important in the post-COVID period: in the anxiety of recovering the lost ground, a general trend might get ahead in Italy and in Europe in general. to overshadow both the economic and environmental sustainability of development strategies. Hence the need to form the awareness to adopt concrete development measures respecting these dimensions (and not just that of social sustainability).

Apart from this issue, I would personally like an ISGF engagement in the problems of violence against women, a disgraceful trait of modern society, which presupposes an educational effort for both young people and adults; and also in wider initiatives for the reception of migrants, already a field of commitment for many adult communities.

Virginia Bonasegale: ISGF can really do much more on adult education. In my opinion, the basic issue is that many member countries consider adults in scouting as an "extension" of being young in scouting, exhausting their task by serving scouts and guides, as parents and grandparents might do. In this way, with simple labor, the fundamental motivations necessary to keep a group of adults together are not found. When we say that "education never ends" it means that we are not satisfied with building a portal or making sauce for the cubs but that we feel the need to grow further into adulthood, to interpret the scout law as adults, to do our best in today's adult society. This argument, fundamental for Masci, is very difficult to explain to those who make the simpler and certainly less demanding choice of just putting on a handkerchief. However, we must insist, otherwise the member countries are destined to shrink. First of all in the tired, old and not very motivated Europe. However, Masci remains an example on the way; we must not get tired of insisting on this subject (we are always the most numerous and we fund a large part of ISGF budget).

As for the issue of sustainable development, I do not know if ISGF has considered the issue in the last period. Probably, being a very topical and much debated topic, it could attract adults if it was translated into concrete projects and / or proposals. Well, sustainable development could be the topic that goes well with the scout vision of the environment and creation, it could represent the novelty to be proposed especially to young adults who approach our Movement.

ADULTS IN SCOUTING: THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION

"Fratelli tutti" (all brothers) and brothers in scouting

MONS. NICOLÒ ANSELMI – AUXILIARY BISHOP IN GENOA - AND MICHELE PANDOLFELLI

On 3 October 2020, the eve of St. Francis of Assisi's Feast, Pope Francis gave the world the encyclical Fratelli Tutti, on the tomb of the saint whose name he chose for his ministry as the successor of Peter. The document Fratelli tutti on Fraternity and Social Friendship is an encyclical letter, with a high magisterial weight, an important document. The heart of the letter seems to me the announcement of a universal fraternity that involves everyone, believers and non-believers, men and women of the present, past and future.

The universal fraternity of Pope Francis

While reading the encyclical, the affirmation emerges that universal fraternity derives from the fact that we all descend from one Creator, that we are all present in Adam. The Pope wishes to highlight this common origin, this substantial equality of human being. In fact, Fratelli Tutti ends in a very significant way with two prayers.
The first prayer is addressed to the Creator; immediately, in the first line, the Holy Father calls the Creator Lord and Father.
The second prayer is ecumenical, addressed to all those who believe in Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God; Jesus showed the face of the Father to the world, prayed the Our Father and therefore, in a new way, spoke of sonship, of being sons and therefore brothers.
The presence of these two texts almost seems to affirm that there are two levels of fraternity, one human, universal, and one Christian; we know that it cannot be so; certainly Christian believers have an even stronger awareness of being brothers and sisters, children of one Father.
The reading of Fratelli Tutti and the reflections that arose from it helped me to understand, in a new way, the famous text of the Gospel of Matthew in chapter 25, on the Last Judgment. Jesus will judge men on love, availability, generosity, service: "… I was hungry and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink."
One of the things that has always struck me about this text is that neither the first ones, generous, blessed and rewarded, nor the second ones, selfish, cursed and condemned, recognized Jesus in the poor; they both replied in the same way: Lord, when have we ever seen you hungry, naked or sick or in prison…?

It almost seems that God is not interested in a religious recognition of Jesus present in the poor and needy, but in a fraternity that goes beyond religions; on universal, creatural fraternity, we will all be judged, Christians and Muslims, Buddhists and Animists, Jews and Hindus, believers and non-believers. In other words, even if in the poor we cannot see Jesus, we cannot fail to see the brother.
Undoubtedly Christians have a great responsibility because they have received a clear revelation: God is our Father and we are all brothers.

"Fratelli Tutti" (all brothers) and the Scout Movement

The sense of universal fraternity, of Christian love and of service to others, whoever they are, so well outlined by the encyclical, are also fundamental aspects of the Scout Movement as proposed by Baden-Powell.
B.-P. speaks of Scout brotherhood as an embryo and seed of a world friendship (and therefore as an instrument to build it through education), of a spirit of solidarity among all peoples (a "world patriotism") which is the only real remedy for war and the only way to build world peace. The Scout fraternity is therefore not a new sect, a new "closed group" but it is a force at the service of global friendship (and gradually building it). The Scout law in fact states that the Scout is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout and B.P. remembers that Kim was called by the Indians "the little friend of the whole world".

As in the encyclical the emphasis is not only on the word "brothers" but also on "all", as an invitation to love, service and fraternity without exclusions, so in scouting there is a strong emphasis on brotherhood and friendship also without exclusions. Indeed it overcomes class, nationality, race and even religion barriers within the Movement and therefore in the world and among men. B.-P. also insists on the importance of fighting the sectarian mentality, the willingness to create cliques and small groups excluding other, first of all within the Scout Movement, but then in building a true global friendship. What B.-P says is important in this regard with reference to religions, often a factor of division and enmities: he believes and points out to believers of all religions the path of an encounter on a life of love for God and concrete service to others, whoever they are (for B.-P. all believers of different religions are all soldiers of the same army – Good - perhaps with different uniforms but at the service of the same King; for B.-P. religion is first of all life, a life spent in serving)

The sense of Christian love symbolized in the encyclical by the figure of the Samaritan is found in the sense of service in scouting. The service to others is one of the four points of Scout method and one of the main purposes of Scout education, as B-P. says, is replacing selfishness with helping others (B.-P- prefers not to speak generically to boys about love of neighbour but proposes to help your neighbour). Selfishness for B.-P. is the most widespread defect in the world.
But the service to others for B.-P does not even end in good deeds, in many concrete actions. It must become a state of mind based on kindness and courtesy, on an attitude of constant attention towards others, especially towards the poorest and weakest. Just think of the image of the knights and the chivalrous spirit that B.-P. illustrates on Scouting for boys, in the article of the Law on courtesy, in the image of the gentleman who is neither rich nor an aristocrat but simply a kind man, pervaded by the spirit of kindness. Here too there are many references to the encyclical where we focus precisely on the characteristics of social friendship, kindness, attention to others. Always with the same basic feature: service and kindness to anyone, no one excluded.
Universal fraternity and service have often been presented together by B.-P. when he briefly describes scouting as a universal fraternity of service.

Conclusions

In Fratelli Tutti, the Pope repeatedly states that the encyclical was inspired by the Document on Human Fraternity he wrote and signed, together with the Grand Imam Al-Azhar, Ahmad al Tayyeb, in Abu Dhabi, on 4 February 2019.I would say that the whole title, A document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and living together, indicates the same intent aimed by General Baden-Powell.
In Fratelli Tutti, the Pope several times repeats an engaging and demanding concept: as long as there are very marked economic, cultural and social inequalities, it will not be possible to achieve a stable peace (FT 235). Peace needs a great project, a great architecture of peace desired by the various institutions of society and small gestures of a "craftsmanship" of peace, involving everyone (FT 231).
All of us, artisans of peace, are entrusted with an important task: serving the poor and bridging serious inequalities and social gaps.
Good path of fraternity to all.

SPECIAL EDITION

Fact Sheet n. 2

It rises spontaneously and leads to peace… and adults in scouting help with intent

B.-P. and the spontaneous growth of the scout movement in the world due to the strength of its pedagogical proposal, the idea of a fraternity at the service of peace, the possible role of adults, an education for the purpose of peace.

Scouting as a world movement was not born for an top-down planned operation but spontaneously thanks to the strength of its pedagogical proposal. Shortly after the founding of the Movement in England, B.-P. realizes this expansive force and immediately thinks that just as spontaneously it can become a great force for peace.

" The different foreing countries – some twelve there are – which have adopted Scouting for their boys are now forming a friendly alliance with us for mutual internchange of views, correspondance, and visits, and thereby to promote a closer feeling of sympathy between the rising generations. International peace can only be built on one foundation, and that is an international desire for peace on the part of the peoples themselves in such strenght as to guide their Governments. If the price of one Dreadnought were made available to us for developing this international friendliness and comradeship between the rising generations, I believe we in the Scouts would do more towards preventing war than all the Dreadnoughts put together". (B.P.'s Outlook: selections from Lord Baden-Powell's contributions to "The Scouter" / edited by E.E. Reynolds; with a preface by Lord Somers)

"My recent tour round the world showed me how strong is already that feeling of brotherhood throughout our Movement. Whether it was in Africa or Australia, Canada, or New Zealand, America or Malta, Scouts felt that they were with us in the parent Movement at home, and I was impressed with the idea that, if this sentiment were only promoted, it would mean an immense deal for the strengthening of the bonds of our Empire, and even beyond that, for the assurance of peace in the world through a better understanding and fellowship between the nations." (B.P.'s Outlook: selections from Lord Baden-Powell's contributions to "The Scouter" / edited by E.E. Reynolds; with a preface by Lord Somers)

This belief strengthened after the First world war to the point of asking a solemn commitment to the scouts and guides gathered for the Jamboree of Olympia (1920) after the war:

"Brother Scouts, I ask you to make a solemn choice. Differences exist between people of the world in thought and temperament as well as in language and physique. The war has taught us that when one nation endeavours to impose its particular will on others cruel reaction follows. The Jamboree has taught us that with mutual give and take under a common ideal sympathy and harmony are established.

If it be your will, let us therefore endeavour to develop among our boys such comradeship through the world-wide Scout spirit of brotherhoood that peace and goodwill may henceforth reign among men. Are You willing to join in this high enterprise?"

The response was a heartfelt shout *" We will, by God's help we will"*

(in "Scouting and youth movements" Sir Robert Baden-Powell, Ernest Benn Limited, London 1929)

In the following years, B.-P. returns to both themes: the spontaneous growth of scouting because of its pedagogical strength and its spontaneous function as a force for peace (as a "universal fraternity of service")

" The whole aim of the Boy Scout and Girl Guide Movement is to help education and the churches in their promotion of char-

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acter for higher and better citizenship.

An arresting fact, which holds within it infinite promise, is that this movement is a spontaneous growth and not a planned organization. It has sprung from the natural desires of the young people, and has not been imposed upon the mas a syllabous of instrusction. The results have been immediate both as regards numbers and effects, in spite of the absence of trained directors and notwithstanding all the difficulties incident to the war.

Nor has this growth confined itself to the country of its origin: in the short twelve years since its birth, it has spread to every civilized country in the world: It already numbers well over a million memebers and is growing every day. It has become the nucleus of an International Brotherhood, and this opens a vista of still further-reaching promise and possibilities " (Jamboree April 1921)

"The scout movement is an attempt to assist education in this direction by catching the boys in out-of school- hours and developing in them character, health, and techical skill, so that each shall become efficiency, however, is not so much for his own promotion as for the ability better to serve the community.

The training is applied through games and activities which appeal to the boy, and has proved successfully in its results, the more perhaps because experience has now shown that the boy all the world over is much the same kind of animal, however much he may be changed by environment and tradition later on in life….The whole movement therefore may be summarized as a universal brotherhood of service" (Jamboree october 1922*)*

"… the development of the Boy scout and Girl Guide Movements has notbeen limited to our own country or Empire. Every civilised country in the world has adopted the training, and adopted it spontaneously, without propaganda or urging from the parent country" ("Scouting and Youth Movements" B.-P. Ernest Benn Limited London 1929).

At the end of twenties B.-P., on the basis of the development of Scout Movement in many countries and of the positive experience of Jamborees is able to free its imagination and to look far away: the brotherhood of Scout Movement will become a great force for the peace of the world preventing war. In later years B.-P. will strenghten this belief reflecting about adults in scouting (a force serving the universal fraternity and peace and also good politics and common good) and, at the beginning of the Second world war (facing the nationalist and racist ideologies of the 30s - 40s, the suppression of the Movement in many countries including Italy) understanding that the world scout movement will be able to assume intentionally the objective of internationally education to peace and to manage conflicts

"In twenty one short years the Scout and Guide training has spread to forty -two different countries about the world, and has proved its potentiality as a factor in world peace. It cannot be considered a well ordered world where peace has to be enforced by police. The League of Nations is a police force for suppressing war, and as such is a valuable step;but surely a better aim is the prevention of war through the mutual goodwill and understanding of the peoples themselves.."

Arrowe Park Birkenhead 1929 " *…when scouts of forty-two different nations, to the number of more than fifty thousand, will come together for a fortnight of Scouting activities. The sight of boys of forty- two nationalities, different in languages, creed and colour, but wearing the same uniform, and obeyng the same Scout Promise and the same Law which binds every scout to be a brother ti every other scout, cannot but open to the most imaginative a vision of what may be the ultimate outcome. From this meeting we shall go forward with fresh inspiration and renewed strength of brotherhood to spread our Movement wider and to make it a still grater force for the peace of the world and the service of God"* ("Scouting and Youth Movements " B.-P. Ernest Benn Limited London 1929).

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