Final document

11th European European Grassroot Communities Meeting

Towards an open spirituality

What spiritual approach in a world in search of meaning?

Villa Borromeo - Pesaro - 20, 21 and 22 September 2024

For many of us the way to Pesaro started a long time ago. Inspired by the spirit that prevailed at Vatican II, a breath of fresh air enticed us to come together in grassroot communities. We knew that something had changed for the better then. Today we know that this was a good re-start, a good re-creation and a good re-membering - bringing us together from our passive and isolated positions in the church into flourishing communities of sisters and brothers.

50 years down the line we know that our re-start, our re-creation and our re-membering all need a new impetus. This has become more evident since our resources are decreasing while we are at the same time facing stronger and more complex challenges today.

This is why we have come together in Pesaro. We are in search of a spirituality that does not only re-connect us to our past, but also one that makes it possible for others to join us when facing the many challenges of today. Towards an open spirituality, many of us continue to be inspired by the Bible and its undogmatic insights revealing how individuals and whole communities have communicated with God and with each other. Rooted in this source, many of us continue to find fertile and interfacing ground, as well as sense of direction for their communities.

Many of us continue to re-attach with Jesus, not the one of the dogmas of yesteryear, but the one with a life-friendly relation to his God and to his sisters and brothers as the source of strength and freedom in our daily commitments. Others among us are keen on looking for new approaches. And this is why we have invited José Arregi for his insights in Pesaro.

With him we all feel that it is time to create a new space for all those who are willing to open their eyes and look deeply, to see the Invisible, to listen to the Silence, to recognize the Infinity, to perceive its Presence, to feel its wounds, to answer its call in everything. *(Aizarna, February 28th, 2024 www.josearregi.comTranslated by Mertxe de Renobales Scheifler*). In spite of all doubts, José Arregi still recommends to speak of „God“ when connecting with the deepest and best unspeakable Mystery of the universe as an inspiring source of justice and peace in a world that needs them so much.

But he also motivates us to be as creative as possible when we encounter the natural *sacred* or the “natural *God*“. Evidently, “the sacred” is not opposed to “the profane”, nor does “natural” mean anything subordinated to “supernatural”. “Natural” designates all nature, the universe of

all that exists, and "sacred" is all of nature as long as it generates *awe, reverence, respect, responsibility*.

The Hebrew word „Hineni" - Here I am, sounds appropriate in defining our new approach for a down to earth spirituality. It is the word that every overwhelmed Jewish father uses in front of his newborn son or daughter. *Hineni* also stands for: „I bear responsibility.I stand to be counted". Standing alone is honourable but the world today needs more. As grassroot communities, we stand together.

With particular focus on the places where we live, we commit to stand for life when and wherever it comes under threat. We stand for care of our common home in nursing the multiple wounds of mother earth each time we are able to do so. We stand with our displaced brothers and sisters in search of refuge and a better future. We stand for those who suffer under isolation, loneliness, poverty and hunger. We commit to do this through our compassion beyond all borders, through our support of solidarity initiatives and especially through a living practice of open hearts, open arms and open homes wherever we live.

We stand side by side with others, not in a patronizing way, but in full respect of the dignity and sacredness of all life. We open up for those who wish to join us on the way. We stand together on equal footing with others who do not shy away from where their presence is needed most.

We are grateful for the lively exchanges in 7 workshops. The topics for the 100 particpants ranged from ways to happiness, eco-spiritualiy, spiritual experiences to new rituals as well as to the community dimension of spirituality and what encourages us to move and gives meaning to our lives.

We wish to leave this outcome document open for every community to add its own specific and concrete contribution. All those who feel inspired to continue their way in the direction kickstarted in Pesaro are welcome to share with us their creative input and their strong „Hineni".

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