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“FEEDING THE PLANET?”

Series of seminars promoted for the Expo 2015 by:

Arcidiocesi di Milano – Caritas Ambrosiana – Caritas Internationalis – Caritas Italiana – Expo Milano 2015 s.p.a. – Fondazione Culturale S. Fedele (*Aggiornamenti Sociali e Popoli*) – Fondazione Lanza – Intervita

The issue of the Universal Exposition of Milan 2015- Feeding the planet, Energy for life – raises a challenge: is it possible to ensure sufficient, healthy and sustainable nourishment to the entire world population? Awaiting for Expo, which will take place from May 1st to October 31st 2015, we promote a series of three seminars as an opportunity to consider and discuss the essential contribution that this topic could offer in building a sustainable society. The following issues will represent the focus of the seminars: I) **Food, environment and life styles**; II) **The Right to food, food and rights**; III) **Food, cultures and religions**.

A call for papers addressing the abovementioned themes is launched. Contributions from individuals in the field, operating in the academic world, in the international cooperation, or in profit and non-profit organizations, are solicited. Papers, well-argued, rigorous, and targeted to a general public, will be accepted both in Italian or in English.

A panel of experts, designated by the promoting partners, will select the most significant contributions. Authors of accepted papers are expected to present their work at the appropriate seminar. The proceedings of the seminars will be collectively published and presented in a specific event organized during Expo 2015, in the Exposition venue.

Opening speech: **ANDREA SEGRÈ**, Professor of international and compared agricultural policy; President of “Last Minute Market’s”.

Chair: **MASSIMO GALBIATI**, plant scientist, Università degli Studi di Milano.

Human nutrition is a primary value for the safeguard of individual’s well-being, yet food production has a significant environmental impact on the whole planet. What are the main challenges that the modern world is facing in terms of nutrition? On one hand, there are areas of the earth suffering from poverty and malnutrition, on the other, there are regions dealing with problems of over-nutrition and obesity. The appearance of emerging countries on the international economic and political scenario further increases the global demand for food, with considerable consequences on the environmental balance. An additional constrain is represented by the impact, often negative, that the ongoing climate changes have on the global production of food.

Food wastage, amounting annually to one third of the world food production, according to FAO, represents another sensitive, yet often neglected, issue. The enormous amount of food discarded along the supply chain raises important ethical issues and, at the same time, highlights the inefficiency of the global market in the management of food products.

Moving from the assumption that the natural resources of the planet are limited, this seminar aims at discussing the sustainability of the current patterns of food production and consumption, outlining possible future scenarios in terms of nutrition and sustainability. Applicants are requested to address three key issues in their papers: I) What are the most sustainable models of food production? II) To what extent scientific innovation and technology (e.g. biotechnology) can provide novel solutions in terms of sustainability? III) To what extent individual choices and life styles can help to reduce the economic and environmental burden of our dietary habits?

Key words: *environmental impact and food production, climate changes, technological innovations, food wastage, life style, valorization of local food productions.*

Opening speech: **VINCENZO BUONOMO**, Professor of international law and expert of the Representation of the Holy See at FAO.

Chair: **MATTEO MASCIA**, coordinator of the “Etica e politiche ambientali” project, Fondazione Lanza.

Access to food is a fundamental right stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights issued in 1948 (art. 25), and the right to live free from hunger is also specified in the Millennium Declaration, signed in year 2000 by 189 world leaders. Yet, the actual world situation indicates that about 842 million people are undernourished (data from FAO), with over 2 million children dying each year because of the lack of food. In this perspective, increasing worrying signals are also reported in industrialized countries (including Italy), as a consequence of the economic and financial crisis.

This seminar aims at deepening the dimensions of the problem, unraveling its causes and indicating possible solutions to the effective and widespread recognition of the right to food, both in terms of quantity and quality. Is there a direct relationship between the right to food and other human rights, which are also often neglected? To what extent the right to food is hindered by social and political instabilities (e.g. conflicts, new poverties, crisis of the welfare, gender inequality), economic issues (e.g. prices volatility, landgrabbing), and environmental and energy policies (e.g. industrial agriculture, biofuel crops)? What are the possible consequences of the progressing climate changes on the right to live free from hunger? What are the relationships between the right to food and the implementation of novel patterns of sustainable human development? What practices, either at the local or global level, have proven effective in improving and extending the access to food?

Submitted papers should address the relationship between the right to food, its tangible application and other human rights, including those not covered by the international law, especially by the United Nations.

Key words: *right to food and fundamental rights (health, enterprise, equal opportunities, etc.), right to food and local governance, right to food and common goods.*

FOOD, CULTURES AND RELIGIONS

Milan, 20th November 2014

Opening speech: **LUCIANO MANICARDI**, monk, vice-prior of the Bose Community.

Chair: don **WALTER MAGNONI**, moral theologian and representative of the social and work pastoral care.

Food, beyond representing an important element of communication between generations and different societies, assumes multiple roles in the cultural and religious context. Not only it fulfills the primary vital need, but it also encompasses more existential dimensions, including the recognition of the relationship, acknowledging the fact that even when food is the result of hard work, it is always donated (in the main monotheistic religions the first donor of food is the Creator Himself). Such a recognition evokes a gratitude that opens to gratuity and co-responsibility.

The relational dimension clearly arises in the gestures of preparing and eating the food together with others, according to rituals deeply embedded in the culture of a given society, as well as in the strong attitude to the dimension of hospitality. There is a wisdom of eating and of eating together, highlighted by the etymological link between knowledge (from the latin *sapere*) and taste (from the latin *sapor*): the pleasure of eating together brings about a flavor of good life that should be valued.

The taste of food opens to memories and even when far from his motherland the migrant remains anchored to his culture. What happens in a multi-ethnic context? How to retain the cultural richness without falling into flattening homologations? How to preserve the symbolic meaning of eating that religions offer us? How to value the perspective of conviviality as generative matrix of meanings for co-existence in a multi-ethnic society?

Key words: *tradition and cultural differences, religions, gratuity and gratitude, conviviality.*

Deadline and contacts

Abstracts of the papers (maximum 4000 characters), and a brief CV of the author (maximum 2000 characters) should be send by email to expo2015@sanfedele.net before and not later than **January 31st, 2014**. Acceptance of the paper will be notified by **March 30th, 2014**. Accepted papers, whose length should not exceed 30 thousand characters (spaces, notes, bibliography, and any tables/graphs included) must be submitted no later than **July 31st, 2014**.

For info: www.aggiornamentisociali.it; www.popoli.info

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