



The eye, the silence, the word

Senigallia (Ancona - Italy)
May 5th - 9th, 2008

6th May 2008

Kind guests and young people friends,
good morning and welcome to Italy, to our
region Marche and to Senigallia.

First of all, thank you for accepting our invitation to participate in this third meeting.

The first edition of this event was the result of a very evident consideration: the world is getting smaller and smaller. The demographic density and the world population are increasing rapidly and we feel “closer” to each other every day. Cultural and economic exchanges are quicker and more frequent, distances are getting shorter. Economies run after one another, with mutual contamination and direct influence on our life habits. The scientific progress reinforces our awareness of being immersed in the dark mystery of an infinite, silent space, where time escapes all forms of measurement.

These considerations should, perhaps, arouse a feeling of humility and induce us to pursue a form of cohabitation based on the assumption that – beyond our differences (our history, language, traditions, etc.) - we are all called as human beings to share a common destiny. Most of all, as Seneca warned centuries ago, we are indebted to the future generations for all the gifts we borrow during our short life: honours, wealth, power, etc.

The many contradictions that, for the short-sighted egoism of adult generations, tear and sadden the world, have made us feel the obligation to offer the youth an opportunity to discover and share a possible idea of “*world citizenship*”, away from their countries and histories, in a suspended dimension of time and space. It is a “*world citizenship*” that includes and respects multiple identities, a “*world citizenship*” we want to use to build a future inspired from principles of solidarity, peaceful coexistence and fair cooperation.

We believe that “*looks, silence and words*” – universal expressions of the human soul - may be the “main streets” for this journey, to favour the encounter of dreams and aspirations shared by young people at all latitudes: this is the real and only wealth of the world that should be protected by us, as adults.

During this Conference we will listen to a series of prestigious speakers and, most of all, we will collect your ideas to deliver them to the young people who will participate in the future editions of this event. Once you get back home, I am confident that along this main street you will recall the purpose and profound meaning of this meeting experience. We believe we can succeed in making this dream come true: we want to donate the future guests of our small, disorientated world the hope for a better future.

Somebody has said that each human being is an experiment in God’s laboratory: we beg God to insist with His experiments, hoping you will be the embodiment of His best results.

Thank you.
Enjoy your stay in Senigallia !

Michele De Gregorio