



SANT'EGIDIO

The Community of Sant'Egidio - 70 countries, 60.000 members, only one commitment: the Weakest

The Community of Sant'Egidio was born in Rome in 1968 on the initiative of Andrea Riccardi, then a high school student. Today the Community is known throughout the world for its social and religious commitment, its work for peace and dialogue, its campaigns, such as health rights in Africa, and for the abolition of the death penalty.

Sant'Egidio operates in more than 70 countries with over 60 thousand members and a larger circle of supporters and friends who actively collaborate in various initiatives.

In the spirit of the Second Vatican Council - and open to anyone who intends to work for peace and defend the Weakest - the Community is made up of people of all ages and social backgrounds. The bottom line for each member is the selfless commitment to others, starting with the poor: no one is paid, and all the initiatives are carried out with the contribution of volunteers who intend to support them.

Among Sant'Egidio's commitments all over the world:

- "Schools of peace" to promote the schooling of disadvantaged minors and the education for coexistence;
- reception and integration for immigrants and, from 2016, the opening of humanitarian corridors for refugees;
- campaigns in favor of disadvantaged elderly people and alone;
- support for "street children" in Africa and Latin America;
- campaigns for the rights of the disabled on the path of a fully integrated life;
- commitment to the treatment and prevention of AIDS and other diseases in Africa;
- campaigns for civil registration in Africa;
- initiatives to promote peace in different areas of the world after the 1992 signing in Rome of the peace agreement for Mozambique, an event in which Sant'Egidio played a major role.

The Community also promotes interreligious dialogue, contributing to knowledge and mutual respect, but also to peace building. It organizes every year an international meeting in the "spirit of Assisi", taking inspiration from the historic Prayer for Peace desired by John Paul II in 1986 in the city of San Francesco.