

# This is just the beginning...

Economy of Francesco – day 3

Today, for the last of the three days of Economy of Francesco, the story of starts from last sentence showed on the screens of all world, “this is just the beginning...”.

It's the beginning of a series of generative processes that many young economists, entrepreneurs, change-makers, coming from different countries, professing different creeds and religions (or not professing any), would like to start to change an economic system that is endangering the whole mankind and that the current health, economic and social crisis is showing very fragile. Yet, Pope Francis reminded it in his final message to the participants “[...] we never emerge from a crisis unaffected: either we end up better or worse”.

Perhaps, these processes of change have been already ongoing and this last afternoon of works, rich in joy, enthusiasm and dressed with the salt of hope is the proof of it.

The village Vocation and Profit, one of the twelve thematic groups who worked during the preparation of Economy of Francesco, presented their toolbox with an interactive meeting, opened to all participants of the event. Heart, head and hands are the three main tools of creative tension that meets vocation with profit. The metaphor of the tree and its parts represents the value-system (dignity, solidarity, service, sustainability, just to mention some of them) which are essential in this process of co-creation to work with the community and not for the community. A concrete example is the project “The Profit Podquest”, designed within Vocation and Profit village (and which involves also a young member of Catholic Action, Alessandra Fasol from diocese of Verona, Italy) to narrate stories of people that have already become actors of this new economy through their vocation.

Later, the meeting with prof. Kate Raworth and prof. John Perkins, “We are all developing countries” provided some food for thoughts about the conventional classification between developed and developing countries. In an interconnected world like ours, big problems have global effects and these first two decades of 21<sup>st</sup> century can prove it: financial crisis in 2007-2008, climate changes and ongoing health crisis. Therefore, countries we call developing ones were hit in last two centuries by colonialism, structural adjustments, public debt and international trade rules, resources exploitation and they have been already affected by climate change's effect. However, a deep analysis demonstrates that 11% of global population suffering for food deprivation is spread as in developing countries as well in developed ones.

A set of proposals, coming from different villages of Economy of Francesco, was presented with ideas encompassing the promotion of policies for sustaining local markets and mindful consumptions, sharing of knowledge, research and technologies to pursue common good, the shift to a social green deal with requalification of workers' skills who are at risk to lose their job, strengthening of ethical finance, promotion of sport as instrument that meets health well-ness and profit, measurement with key performance indicators that include outcomes of peace, guaranteeing equal access to education for all girls and all boys, recognition and promotion of female talents, the value of gift in human resources management, a fair price for agricultural products that recognizes value added by workers and finds a trade-off between positive and negative externalities, a new definition of corporate success that involves vocation, mission, common good and economical results, the recognition of human dignity as focus of every business model and finally a world without war.

Last session was “Young enough to change the world” with very young change-makers, often still secondary school students, who have already left a mark in the world with their enthusiasm and joy. Starting from Thailand where a youth movement increased so much awareness on public opinion about effect of single-use plastic to inspire a legislative ban on it, moving to a group of students in Milan who promoted a study

on excessive consumption and waste of water and concluding with Famezero's youth who increased awareness on food waste that has a high cost as number of people who go to bed hungry everyday as well as economic value (to understand it, global food waste every year is worth as the EU aid package to face pandemic's effects with NextGenerationEU programme).

Finally pope Francis sent a message to all participants of Economy of Francesco reminding that this event is not "an endpoint, but rather the beginning of a process", based on three pillars: vocation, culture and covenant.

Following the example of Francis' vocation, we need to say "yes" to build a new normality and not to leave this event as an empty and passing outcry we "are called to have a concrete impact on cities and universities, workplaces and unions, businesses and movements, public and private offices, and to work with intelligence, commitment and conviction in order to reach the centres where ideas and paradigms are developed and decided".

A culture of change is urgent to find answers to the problems that affect mankind, because "Given the urgent need to come up with answers, it is indispensable to promote and support leadership groups capable of shaping culture, sparking processes – remember that word: processes – blazing trails, broadening horizons and building common bonds... Every effort to organize, care for and improve our common home, if it is to be meaningful, will also demand a change in "life-style, models of production and consumption, and established structures of power which today govern societies". Great emphasis was on the culture of encounter, which is opposed to the throwaway culture, because "this culture of encounter makes it possible for many voices to be heard around the same table, in order to dialogue, consider, discuss and formulate, in a polyhedral perspective, different aspects and possible responses to global problems involving our peoples and our democracies".

It is urgent to go beyond palliative initiatives of third sector and philanthropic model, but it is necessary to change our priorities and the role of others in our policies and in social orders.

It's to dare new development models, which think with people and not for the people, systems of integral human development where politics and economics "enter in to a frank dialogue in the service of life, especially human life".

Finally the Holy Father invited not to "fear to enter courageously the conflicts and crossroads of history in order to anoint them with the fragrance of the Beatitudes. Do not fear, for no one is saved alone."

And after greetings and thanksgivings, here is that sentence on the screen "this is just the beginning...".

It's time to start processes, now!

***Carlo del Buono (ŽAK Malta)***