

Young people. The path of Taizé restarts from Turin, with the exhibition of the Shroud (video)

Marco Bonatti, Turin - Thursday 4 November 2021

The European gathering of children, 6,000 are expected, is scheduled from 28 December to 1 January. It is the first major event of this kind to be held after the Covid emergency



Courage and hope. This is the spirit with which Turin faces the European gathering of young people from Taizé, scheduled from December 28th to January 1st. It is the first major event of this kind to be held after the Covid emergency; and it is also an occasion to underline the desire for peace and fraternity that everyone, but young people in particular, feel within themselves. 6 thousand are expected for the "Pilgrimage of trust on earth" now in its 44th edition.

Yesterday the initiative was presented not in an ecclesial setting but in the Palazzo Civico to underline how the gathering involves the whole city and the Piedmont area. The mayor Stefano Lo Russo, who took office a few days ago, wished to personally convey his greetings; Deputy Mayor Michela Favaro recalled that the city offers its services (transport, logistics), as does the Piedmont Region.

Young people from all over Europe will find welcome in Turin and in the centers of the metropolitan area, especially in families who, through the network of parishes, make this great gesture of hospitality. Others will be welcomed in community oratories and

facilities. Frère John of the Taizé Community, who directly follows the preparation in Turin, recalled the unfolding of the days: at noon prayer for groups in the churches of the historic center; in the evening the gathering of everyone at the Oval del Lingotto for the most important and solemn moment.

During the day the meetings: with the Turin communities; with migrants; acquaintance with the witnesses of the faith; the discovery of the religious, artistic and cultural heritage of the city.

The Taizé meeting in Turin was already born as an ecumenical experience. Pastor Sophie Langenech, of the Waldensian Church, recalled that the preparatory work, in these two years, has been carried out by the Christian Churches in an atmosphere of great fraternity and respect for "differences" as well as "neighborhoods".

"We thought and prepared it - said Sophie - in an ecumenical form and I can say that we are honored to meet in Turin the Taizé Community whose vocation to an ecumenical and international spirituality has such deep origins, since the 1940s. His commitment to Christian reconciliation above all as a vocation for the younger generations represents a challenge and a hope for Christianity today". The same spirit animates the work of the Interconfessional Coordination which on 1 January will hold its meeting on the World Day of Peace.

And then there will be the Shroud. Archbishop Cesare Nosiglia, pontifical custodian of the Cloth, stressed that "Turin wants to offer young people the best it has": the fraternity of its communities, and the spirit of welcome. But also the silent testimony of the icon kept in the Cathedral. Contemplation of the Shroud is one of the activities that are proposed: young people who want it will be able to parade in the Cathedral, as has already happened on other "extraordinary" occasions".



(See the Italian language version for the embedded video)

It happened in 2018 when young people from the dioceses of Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta went to see the Shroud before going down to Rome to meet with Pope Francis, in preparation for the Synod. Don Roberto Gottardo, president of the diocesan commission, illustrated the modalities of this contemplation reserved for members of the pilgrimage to Taizé, which will be held in the afternoon of 29 and 30 December.

There are two websites available to young people for registration and information: that of Taizé www.taize.fr, for all those who need accommodation and the site <http://www.taizetorino.it> for participants from the metropolitan city of Turin and of all Piedmont, if they do not need hospitality for the night, managed by the youth ministry of Turin.

The youth ministry of the archdiocese of Turin, led by Fr Luca Ramello, is the "engine", not only organizational, of the days of Taizé. An App in several languages is being prepared that will allow you to collect all the necessary information and offer "guidelines" for getting around the city. A section will also be dedicated to the knowledge of the Shroud, in view of the contemplation reserved for young people who will choose this "workshop".