



IMAC Express 11

June 2018

Sparks of life of children in movement

CHILDREN CARE FOR LIFE IN THEIR HANDS

At its annual meeting, the International Bureau of IMAC noticed how much children care about the future of their planet and their concern to participate in everything that is for them an issue for the human race: family life, the access for all to education, democratic life and access to all their rights. This desire of children to be actors will be the theme of the international meeting that will be held in Rome in 2019. We are counting on you to make this whole life happen.

General Secretary

NEWS OF ALL HORIZONS !

BRAZIL: Celebrating half a century of life, struggles and friendship

The MAC was born in July 1968 with the desire to give more life to the children of the island of Maruim, a periphery of Olinda / PE, largely forgotten by the government. The authorities paid no attention to the difficult lives of children and their families. However, a group of young people, motivated by Dom Helder Camara and Dom Lamartine, bishops of the archdiocese of Olinda and Recife, and with the strength of the Holy Spirit, went to the island to live with girls and boys and to express to them, by friendship, how much they had value.

Maria Guillien, a young French woman, volunteered to bring her experience as a companion to ACE (Catholic Action for Children). Maria came to live on the island in July 1968: her dream was to see her wooden cabin become a meeting point for the children of the island. We learned to listen to the children's words about what interested them, their life experiences, open to the questions of the facilitators and the debate among all. It was a new way of thinking about educating educators by listening to children. It was a way to allow the protagonist to emerge and promote the empowerment of these children, by guaranteeing them a space, as the first agents in the education of the coaches themselves. According to the originality of their age, as creative and responsible subjects, they became more and more conscious and committed to building a different world, where everyone lives fully.

On the occasion of the 30 years of the MAC (1998), a deep evaluation began that lasted about three years, culminating with the project that set the tone of the debate of the National Meeting of Adolescents and Children: THE MAC THAT WE WANT AND BRAZIL WE DREAM. Three main programs have been selected: Education, Culture and Citizenship. Like those who have been in the experience of the island of Maruim, Reginaldo Veloso has developed this MAC pedagogy in public schools around Recife as well as in other municipalities in the region.

The MAC was born on the island of Maruim in 1968



Figura 1 - Obra de Carlos Alberto Ciciliani para o Livro *Memórias em Movimento: Educação Popular e Evangelização Libertadora com Crianças e Adolescentes*.

Brazil - continued



Today, the network of friends of the MAC is a group of people who knew the movement or who identify with the MAC but do not want to be accompanying: they wish to follow groups by becoming collaborators by financial contributions, services of advice, teaching materials and other necessities of everyday life. This network also allows sharing with academics and trainers in popular education. The MAC has also helped to create the movement in East Timor (Pacific ocean). (see: Zé Vicente - MAC East Timor - <http://mac.org.br/?p=1289>)

Throughout these 50 years, we can observe at MAC a variety of actions in the struggle for rights: water, land, recreation areas, quality school, health, against the killing of children, against the reduction of criminal law in general. The participation of the MAC in the elaboration of the Statute of the Child and the Adolescent is distinguished by these struggles for the implantation and the consolidation of the Rights of the Child and the Adolescent at the level of the cities and the States. Today we are present in seven Brazilian states : Alagoas, Bahia, Ceará, Goiás, Paraíba, Pernambuco and Rio Grande do Norte and the Federal District - Brasília.

This anniversary period (officially July 13th) is a celebration but also a reflection on what we should do and how to continue to consider all the challenges that the Social Movements face in the current national and international context. We invite everyone to join this Ciranda and to celebrate together with the God of Life all this history of friendships, struggles, protagonism, citizenship and change of life in this half-century of existence. And the IMAC was present from the first moment with the sending of Maria Guillien. We are grateful to be part of this great global family.

To know more about the MAC (Movimento de Adolescentes e Crianças), go to: <http://mac.org.br/>

EUROPE: Let's build together a heart-loving Europe

From 11 to 15 July 2018, children from all the IMAC Europe member countries will gather in Rome for a meeting on the theme of European citizenship and fraternity.

These young people from Portugal, Italy, Spain, Switzerland and France will share their actions and their reflections of actors in society and in the Church.

They will also discover their various cultures.

This gathering is part of Pope Francis' desire to "draw a path of hope for Europe" (Speech of 24 March 2017 to the leaders of 27 states of the European Union).



FRANCE: Friends with the planet, our common home



ACE children say, "be friends with the planet, our common home." They were able to exchange with the children of Byblos-Jbeil, Lebanon. The children of IMAC-Lebanon told the story of their year and the festivals in which they participated.

"On May 7 we participated in the IMAC-Lebanon national celebration in Baabda and adopted our new slogan" What stops the pulse of the earth? It's a theme for the next two years, dedicated to the environment and respect for creation.

Our commitment throughout the year is a way of living the Gospel: a way of living the word of God through our actions that sow joy in the hearts and reflect the image of God for the other. "

THE MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

The IMAC international office met in Paris from April 2 to April 6, 2018. The purpose of this meeting was to make the summary of one year of work of the IB, to see the state of the various member movements and to prepare the 2019 International Meeting to be held in Rome.

The exchanges, through Midade Express, are very important and we would like to develop them further ...

We were able to correspond with several coordinators or national leaders through skype to further improve links with each movement. For example, we understood how much the hope for peace between the two Koreas was very present among Korean children; in Egypt, training on the rights and duties of children is of great importance for working children in disadvantaged neighborhoods; The ACE de France also explained to us how much the theme of "friendship" gives a lot of energy to children ...

Members of Bureau: Chantal, Louise, Véronique, Claire et le P. Jean-Claude



Much of our work has been devoted to the preparation of the next international meeting to be held near Rome in 2019. We have been able to measure how much the life of the children in the IMAC is related to the text of Pope Francis in "Amoris laetitia". We will have the opportunity to talk to you in the coming months. That's why we chose the theme: "Children carry life in their hands".

GUINEA CONAKRY: *never alone, always together*



Initiated on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Cv-Av Movement in Guinea, the Children's Round Table was held on March 4th in Sonfonia, bringing together children and adolescents from all religious denominations from different neighborhoods of the capital, facilitators and media men.

Planned for 50 participants, the Round Table had an effective participation of 277 people! The participants were

interested in this event that wants to extend to other regions of the country. The children showed interest in each theme: education, school, rights and duties, command of the means of communication. They expressed their open-mindedness in the expressions and questions they asked each other and the facilitators.

The chair of the round table, Marie-Aminata (age 16) and her organizing team were happy to have been able to organize this event "children help children".



ELSEWHERE ... IN AFRICA

CHAD the Kemkogis participate in the Great Children's Festival which is held in Baba Moustapha and invite all their friends to participate:

- Training workshop for ambassadors to combat early marriage and excision;
- The children sensitize the parents (as in the photo: in Guelmbagti);
- Cultural evenings at St. Josephine Bakhita parish.



GABON In the Sacré-Cœur parish of Port-Gentil, the CV-AV made pretty bins to develop the cleanliness and healthiness of the neighborhood (the Mwana n° 2)

IVORY COAST The future will be magnificent because we are the CV-AV of Ivory Coast. Family photo of the Accompaniers of the Province of Abidjan at the week-end of spiritual renewal that took place Saturday, March 17, 2018 at Saint Paul-Plateau Cathedral.



CENTRAL AFRICA: "I am a child, the future of my country"

Central Africa is a country that knows war and all forms of violence for 6 or 7 years. The children of the Midade - the Aïta kué, which means all brothers and sisters - do not want this hatred. They say, "I am a child, no soldier, no wizard. I am a child, the future of my country. Here's how they build a reconciled country:

Abigaëlle, 12, and **Diane**, 9, live in a district of Mbaiki. Their mother has epilepsy and has not enrolled her daughters in school. Romaine talked about their case at the meeting of Aïta kué. Alfred and Naomi went to see the parents. The children organized a collection for registration and school supplies. Abigaëlle and Diane started school despite their age.

Naomi, 13, lives in the "camp of the displaced" in Bangui. She comes from Kaga Bandoro where her parents were burnt in their house by rebels. She was able to hide in a shower and get on the truck of an NGO, without parents, without clothes, without food. The movement decides to help children who are victims of the war. The Aïta kué invite Naomi to the meeting and she tells her story. **Mordan** offers to help him financially, **Messie** offers to bring him the clothes of the Messengers of Peace and the others propose to bring him clothes. With the escorts, the children organize the collection and provide clothes, a mat and a cloth to **Naomi** who can also enroll in the school in her town of Kaga Bandoro.



Louisa is a Bangui Aïta who has many Muslim friends. Upon his request, **Messi** is enrolled in the school created for Muslim children in the parish of the Holy Trinity.

Augustine, 11, lives in Bouar. She has no birth certificate and was never enrolled in school. His parents are dead. In his neighborhood, cast iron pots are made. She lives with her cousin who has never made the effort to obtain a birth certificate. The Aita Kue went to meet the prosecutor of Bouar who did not have difficulty in establishing a supplementary judgment: every child has the right to belong to a family, to a nation. He has the right to education: these are values we have highlighted, as we have done for 25 years on the occasion of the Day of the African Child, on June 16 of each year, in memory of the march of the children Soweto (South Africa)

June 16, 1976: The police fired on children who demanded equality at school; she killed several dozens.

The Aïta kué walk the steps of Jesus who wanted to welcome everyone: "Let the little children come to me ..." Mt 10,42. And the Second Vatican Council recalls: "Children also have an apostolic activity that is theirs. To the extent of their possibilities, they are the living witnesses of Christ in the midst of their comrades "(Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity).

They are true apostles when they develop the spirit of mutual aid, when they will dialogue with those who hold Muslim children to obtain ransoms, when they protect the Fulani children ... But they must also fight their difficulties: the spirit revenge, drug use, prostitution,

hatred against Muslims, the use of knives ... For all this, the exchange of ideas at meetings and prayer help them a lot.



PERU: rights and duties for all humanity

Manthoc held his meeting at the beginning of the year. Many girls and boys talked about their lives: in addition to school, they spend a lot of time working to help parents for all the needs of the family. At 13, many have been working for 6 or 7 years. This is why Manthoc acts for "a dignified life with rights and duties for all humanity".

Manthoc also participates in international days: for example, women's day to develop equality and promote girls; or the day of water to save and preserve this property so precious for everyone's life.

Go to the website: www.manthoc.org.pe

Father Jean-Claude, International Chaplain, had the pleasure of visiting Manthoc.



NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE



HAITI: IMAC-Jacmel has celebrated children's day :
« Koute m pou m patisipé »

CANADA

IMAC children meet regularly for the celebrations at the Melkite Cathedral Saint-Sauveur of Montreal.



EGYPT: rights and duties for inner-city children where children often work to help families.



LEBANON: IMAC children celebrate the beauty of the planet.



SPAIN:

The children of Cantabria make drawings during Easter.



*We are waiting for your news at: sgmidade@gmail.com
send us your messages about important events experienced by children in your countries*