

Interview to Rose Busingye, Director of MPI

Rose, what is the Meeting Point International?

Rose

“MPI has entered into the adventure of education to say to everybody, rich and poor alike, sick and healthy, even to those who are dying, that they are not defined by their situation. We want to say to them that **they have a value greater than what they can even imagine**. We want to discover together with them the meaning of suffering and also the meaning of things we possess.

MPI invest on education in every manner and at all levels, because education is the mean for discovering the own self.

Normally, the human being seems nothing in front of sickness, in front of poverty, in front of suffering and death. Instead, **the whole world has a value because there is this single human being. MPI wants to offer a method for educating ourselves and the others to discover our value and dignity.**

Within everything we were facing every day we realized that there was an educational crisis, a crisis of the educational factors; there is an ignorance even in the educators without they realize it, so that they become collaborators of this crisis in the place they work.

This can be due to an absence of true belief. I do not want to criticise but I want to say that we live something which goes beyond the school itself.

We want to help each other to discover the correspondence between reality and ourselves, therefore we want to live an experience of truth and discover the hypothesis who explain the all reality.

For this reason, MPI has supported the creation of group of people – full of value and meaning where each person can develop and become himself – where adults walk besides the students introducing them into the meaning of things around them. This bring them to a certainty about their existence and about the meaning of their life.

For example, **Ketty**, a 23 years ex-rebel, she could not stay with the others because she was dangerous...she said: **“For the others, I was a bunch of problems to be sorted out, instead here I am a person!”**

Another example is a 17 years old boy who said: “I am father Giussani, I am the Movement, I am the Luigi Giussani High School...”

We set up small and simple groups of students where everybody feel at ease in being involved; these are simple groups but full of wonderful “outburst” of discoveries which is that splendid sequence of steps towards education to the Being.

It is a path where education and direction for the life of every individual happens. **We use everything to support this education such as music and dances from every country and race, even the “Alpini” songs (traditional popular songs sung by Italian Alpini soldiers). We have walks together to see valleys and mountains, we stay together in front of sunsets, etc...to discover together the beauty which educates us to that gaze of affection that sustains our certainty in life;** and this can affect the whole life of a person. Through the beauty we want that kids and adults can encounter this spectacle of human emotion where the communicated truth urge to encounter the Beauty with the capital B.

When I was a child I was used to see my Italian friends in Uganda who were staring at the sunset and pointing it out to me they were saying: “Look how beautiful it is!” I did not understand anything and I thought that they were mad and were wasting their time. One night it happened that I found myself alone in front of a sunset: it was beautiful! I was not trying to imitate my Italian friends, the sunset was beautiful for me, it was ME who was staring at the sunset! Now I can help the others to look at the sunsets.

Being fascinated is like the evidence that someone has reached a maturity in its own life, evidence which will sustain the person in all his life, even if we can always deny to have been fascinated.

It is an educative relationship which develops walking together with someone, a relationship without end, in which we help each other to know the ultimate meaning of life.

MPI (as the Luigi Giussani High School project) is an instrument and a path to make people aware, to reawaken people to discover who they are. We want to provoke people's consciousness in such a way that they can regain the true meaning of dependence, meaning which was lost.

We offer an environment, a place in which everything make remind me who I am. Even the toilet paper, the food, etc. We propose an experience which young people can live and compare with their inner self.

Luigi Giussani High School was wanted by the women of MPI because they understood that the value they discovered should have been discovered also by their children who were treating themselves as objects and many of them were losing a gusto and interest for their life. Their "I", their personality was undergoing a crisis.

For example, Francis told me: "I was fine with my mum, I was somebody for her, but now that she is dead I am nobody. I find myself without consistence, when I go to school I am "a nothing", I lose my dignity."

If we do not look at our self and at the others as persons, then we use people only for our own interest or pleasure in his more banal meaning. If we do not have the sensibility to perceive that human being is a need, we are indifferent to him.

Who is this student I have to teach to? Who am I?

My patients say: "Doctors look at us as desperate cases, a lot of symptoms. But who am I?". Most of the their children were used to go to school every other day and the patients did not trust to take the medicines!"

Human person become "somebody" when is conscious of its own "I". It is for this reason that MPI's educational method underline one thing: centrality, importance, value of the person.

The whole world does not worth the smallest human person and the world has a value because of that person. It would be better if we destroyed the entire universe than touching a hair to a person. With this in mind you educate people even to look at the stars. You have a value greater than what you can even imagine.

Anyway, this centrality of the human person founds human rights. Everybody speaks about human rights. The human being is a source of right, which means it is a value to which all other values have to refer to.

This centrality of the human person establish the dignity of men and women, establish the strength of right that a person has and therefore not even a government that were the lord of the world could decide for myself.

Within a relationship you realise to be someone, you become aware of yourself, the consciousness of yourself reawakens within a relationship.

Our educative path consider this self-consciousness, the consciousness of our self as a person that is the supreme value of the universe.

It is the consciousness that everything is reducible but the "I"! It is not reducible biologically, not psychologically, there is nothing to do!

Where all of this comes from?

I personally felt free as a person, I felt great, protagonist of reality only because someone, Luigi Giussani, revealed me who I am.

I will never forget my first encounter with him. He did not know me, what could he see in me? It was evident I was nothing, instead I felt embraced and desired. **It was as if his gaze was telling me: "I want to stay with you, you have an infinite value".** Everything has born from that gaze. In that gaze I discovered that I am not defined by my limits but by my personal relationship with God who makes me and makes me as an infinite desire of Him.

In that gaze, the belonging to Christ and to His Church has become experience, experience of a bond who defines me for ever and that manifest Himself in everything I am and do.

Therefore, that gaze has established the content and the method of my work: communicate the "*Commozione*" (being moved) for the infinite greatness of everybody existence and offer the same companionship towards the Destiny who embrace my life. In this way I have seen happening in others what happened to me. For example, Lucy said: "You are not the horrible thing that happened to you. You are the infinite value which comes from God and makes you being and loves you." Many who lost the meaning of themselves, now know that their existence and the existence of the others have an infinite value and are bound for ever to a companionship who help them to live at the level of this dignity."