

PEACE MESSAGE FROM LIBANON 2020

FOYER DE LA LUMIERE/SOLIDARITY LEBANON SWITZERLAND SLS



In the 15th year of the partnership between the Foyer de la Lumière and Solidarity Lebanon-Switzerland, we are pleased that, despite great difficulties, we were able to continue our task faithfully. SLS is dedicated to providing educational scholarships to young people in need of education and knowledge, and Foyer de la Lumière takes care of education and reintegration programs for the young people who have been perpetrators and victims of delinquency. It is as it were the two wings of the dove which symbolize the commitment to peace. The dove of peace can also be found in the logo of the joint mission of SLS and Foyer de la Lumière in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, a new emergency situation has arisen. Due to the severe economic and financial crisis caused by corruption, more than half of the Lebanese population lives below the poverty line. Many are already suffering from a food shortage, especially families in need, to which our protégés mostly belong. Parents come to us asking for food. That is why we started distributing staple foods. We need trust in providence because the needs are enormous.

Another topic: On the occasion of SLS 'visit to Lebanon last October, Nabih Yammine asked me to write down a personal experience that I had and that I communicated in a psychotherapy seminar with the help of animals to Dr. Andreas Barth.

One day, during the civil war, I was asked for help as a psychotherapist by the Good Shepherd Sisters (Soeurs du Bon Pasteur) who take in orphans. It was about two little girls aged six and four and a half who had seen their parents killed in a mountain village. They were both completely upset and no longer spoke. The older one also refused to eat. The sisters were helpless. Despite my experience as a psychologist, I wasn't doing any better myself. The responsible sister called me a few days later and excitedly reported a miracle. At first I thought she might have found a more capable psychologist than me. However, it turned out that this was nothing more than a small kitten not long born, who was found abandoned, hungry and chilled in a corner of the monastery garden. The six-year-old girl hurried to the kitchen. And to the great surprise of the sister present, she spoke and asked for a plate with some milk. It was for the kitten.

The lesson from this story: By taking care of the kitten's misery, the girl initiated the healing of her own deep wound. The little sister soon did the same.

Dr. Robert Caracache, January 1, 2020