

EMBARGO until the speech is made. Compare with the pronounced text

Assisi, 19 novembre 2020

Greetings

Hello everyone!

Finally this moment has arrived.

I can't believe that this is really happening.

We dreamed of this meeting.

At the Serafico Institute we have been waiting for you with tremendous joy, gratitude and deep emotion.

The Serafico Institute takes care of children and young people with multiple and severe disabilities. It was founded by a Franciscan friar, Saint Ludovick from Casoria in 1871, almost 150 years ago, and it was dedicated to Saint Francis who was blind in the last years of his life.

The first followers of Saint Francis called him our Seraphic Father. "Seraphic" which means passion and powerful love, so our Institute was called Seraphic just like the passion of Francis: an intense love, stimulating and creative, that moves us towards suffering people.

In March we were waiting for you at the Serafico Institute where we were planning on welcoming the village on the topic of inequalities. Coronavirus changed our plans and now, at the present time, we are fighting the coronavirus here at the Serafico Institute. It is a strange virus, as is the current economic system - the coronavirus attacks the most fragile members of society.

At Serafico Institute we live with the wounds of inequalities, all kinds of inequalities, but believe me, health inequalities are really inhumane.

Who can change the current economic system?

Who, if not You?

You can dream of a better world. You can listen to your heart.

Today the children of the Serafico Institute are near you along with the poor, the elderly, the forgotten, the excluded.

We are knocking on the door of your heart. Please, let us in. If you let us into your heart, you will begin to dream of a better world and you will have the strength to change the economic system.

Build an inclusive economic system - one that no longer produces even a single victim, a single person cast aside.

There will be no development or progress without caring of the most fragile members of society.

You can change the current economic system.

Begin your work like St. Francis did eight centuries ago when he embraced the leper. We are here today to receive that embrace.

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Now I'm going to show you a video made at the Serafico Institute. It's a message for you from the young people of the Serafico.

I wish you all good meetings and reflections - buon lavoro!

Francesca Di Maolo