By Jean Rousseau, Chair of Emmaus International

S
ince Emmaus International was founded in 1970, it has had World Assembly opportunities to reflect and look to the future. The first world assembly in 1973 named the 25th anniversary of Emmaus, and its theme was “Emmaus, its past, future”. The choice of theme for 2015, made by the Board, the representatives of our vital forces, is understood by the anniversary of the World Assembly of 1973: looking for work and development as a project for change. The theme for 2016, “All structures must come to life. Safeguarding must come from within,” has always been a source of conflict. By pooling their resources, they can carry out great projects which improve the lives of thousands of people. Solidarity has helped us put health-insurance schemes and the non-existence of isolation into place. Emmaus groups continue to prove that solidarity is possible, whatever his origins, religion, circumstance. The Emmaus groups continue to prove that solidarity is possible, whatever his origins, religion, circumstance.

Values – tomorrow’s actions”, aims to affirm that if Emmaus ceased to be, all it would need is a broken pane so that we can feel the cold. “Abbé Pierre said that in each community we must always leave at least one window with a broken pane. It is only when we accept that people are suffering that we can act.”

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In order to construct a world of fairness, we must not lose sight of the fact that, faced with selfishness, it means demonstrating proof of generosity, to take account of the renewing of generations, to understand and respect people. Solidarity creates problems and conflict in our countries. Emmaus shows that it is possible to cross borders and bring to our countries the values that are adopted wholeheartedly, and which are those that are adopted wholeheartedly, and which are...