



A message from Emmaus International - Orleans, 25th September 1999

Against the "Globalization of Poverty"

To mark its 50th anniversary the Emmaus Movement, during its World Assembly in the presence of Abbé Pierre, appeals to the citizens the world over to take responsibility to take action in favor of the excluded and to fight against the root causes of economic, cultural and social poverty.

- **Join the struggle to unite men and women throughout the world**

The globalization of the world's economy excludes a growing number of people not only in Africa, Asia or Latin America, but also in the "rich" countries of Europe, North America and Japan. Since 1960, the gap between the richest fifth of the population and the poorest fifth has doubled.

In the face of such injustice, Emmaus has one firm conviction: world fellowship can be an antidote to the globalization of poverty. Today as our world is increasingly becoming a global village, **we are ALL called upon to share in new ways**, whatever our country, our beliefs or our means.

- **Join the struggle for an economy that offers a place to the excluded and marginalized**

It is time to recognize the ills engendered by neocapitalist practices that lead to many forms of injustice and inequality, such as economic exploitation, spoiling of the environment and the exclusion of increasing sections of society,.

All over the world Emmaus is innovating with new forms of solidarity and work-sharing. It is working to **promote alternative "power bases"** which, from within civil society, ensure that globalization, far from being a tool reserved for the rich, allows each man and woman, however poor, recognition and the freedom to use his or her talents, creativity and know-how to the best effect.

- **Join the struggle for democracy in the world and against religious, ethnic or cultural intolerance**

Poverty is not simply a matter of economics. The absence of democracy and religious, ethnic or cultural intolerance, just like material hardship, are **so many diseases which sap man's dignity**. Emmaus, as a lay movement founded on solidarity, calls upon each and every citizen energetically and tenaciously to stand up for the promotion of freedom of expression, and the eradication of corruption and intolerance.

- **Become an instrument for change: overturn deep-rooted prejudices**

Restoring human dignity, fighting against intolerance, inventing new forms of fellowship, solidarity and work-sharing, all these demand patient effort going far beyond the scope of humanitarian emergency action. They require a wholesale overturn of prejudice in all its forms. The citizens of the world, if they have the will, can become the instruments of this change. Through charities and consumer movements, business organizations, unions and political parties, wherever they live, they have the capability **to exercise pressure on the authorities** and force them to give the poorest their rightful place.

Emmaus has a dream today: it firmly believes that it is possible to "change the world", so long as we all work together, each according to his ability.



Emmaüs International

183 bis, rue Paul Vaillant Couturier – BP 91 – F 94143 ALFORTVILLE CEDEX (FRANCE)

Tél. +33 1 48 93 29 50 – Fax +33 1 43 53 19 26

emausint@globenet.org – www.emmaus-international.org