



KEEPING OUR HERITAGE ALIVE

2020-2022 Report



emmaus

INTERNATIONAL

ACTIVISTS FOR CHANGE



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Cover picture

Lucie Coutaz in her office at the Emmaus community in
Neuilly- Plaisance (1950s)
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EDITORIAL

In this second report, we outline the wide variety of actions undertaken as well as the projects funded by the Emmaus International Heritage Fund. We would also like to take this opportunity to encourage all Emmaus groups to get more involved in these activities.

Many challenges lie ahead of us: preserving archives within groups around the world; communicating about Abbé Pierre, key actors in the movement and their struggles to younger generations; digitising the documents submitted to the French National Archives of the World of Work; compiling archives and collecting living memories.

As was reaffirmed at the May 2022 Emmaus World Assembly in Piriápolis (Uruguay), we must ensure that our heritage continues to inspire us both within and outside of the movement.

This means that we must redouble our efforts in communication and awareness-raising, especially with regard to younger generations, and set up spaces for discussion and debate.

Our communication should make it clear who we are, what we believe in, and what our vision is for a more just and solidarity-based society. It should make apparent the social, political and environmental impacts of our work, our alternatives and our struggles.

Patrick ATOHOUN

Chair of Emmaus International



**“WE MUST ENSURE THAT OUR
HERITAGE CONTINUES TO INSPIRE
US BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE
OF THE MOVEMENT.”**

KEEPING OUR HERITAGE ALIVE

Since the 2016 World Assembly in Jesolo, we have been implementing this resolution by presenting Abbé Pierre's struggles as well as the history of Emmaus, with the aim of uniting the movement and improving familiarity with its history and its current and former causes.

SOLE LEGATEE

As the sole legatee of Abbé Pierre, Emmaus International's primary duty is to "share his thoughts and his work, and protect his legacy," thereby preserving and promoting his personal archives and sharing his values and vision of the world.

HISTORY OF THE MOVEMENT

Abbé Pierre was not alone in building and developing our movement. This is why we include those who worked alongside him and followed in his footsteps. We encourage every organisation, country and region to rediscover its own history by keeping archives and identifying key figures in the history of the Emmaus movement. This collective heritage gives us the legitimacy today to advocate our humanistic and real-

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LUCIE COUTAZ
MAY 9 1899 - MAY 16 1982



In 1921, when she was seriously ill, she went to Lourdes and was healed. A photo was taken of her standing up behind the wheelchair she arrived in.



She joined the French Resistance and started working with Abbé Pierre in 1943.



She accompanied Abbé Pierre on several of his trips, such as this one to Lebanon in 1959.

"FOR ANYONE WHO KNEW HER TEMPERAMENT AND HER LEADERSHIP SKILLS, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT IT TOOK REAL HEROISM ON A DAILY BASIS FOR HER TO BE ACTIVE FOR 30 YEARS (...) ONLY IN THE SHADOW OF ANOTHER". ABBÉ PIERRE



In 1948, she was part of Abbé Pierre's campaign team for the parliamentary elections.



After the 1954 appeal, she assisted and supported Abbé Pierre and was a true cofounder of the Emmaus movement.

OUR MAIN TASKS

COLLECTING AND ORGANISING EXISTING AND FUTURE ARCHIVES

Since the end of 2000, when the Emmaus International and Abbé Pierre records were deposited with the French National Archives of the World of Work in Roubaix, classifying these archives has been a significant and ongoing endeavour. 2019 saw the end of the sorting process of Abbé Pierre's photo library, while the posters (802 inventoried to date) were fully classified by the end of 2021. They were intended to be digitised and put on the French National Archives of the World of Work website by the end of 2023.





In 2021, the service provider Éclair digitised 129 different items of audiovisual media. Priority was given to the media, such as VHS tapes, Super 8, 8mm, 16mm and 35mm films, whose titles referenced Abbé Pierre. These included films by Roger Dick, speeches, conversations with notable figures, interviews, etc.

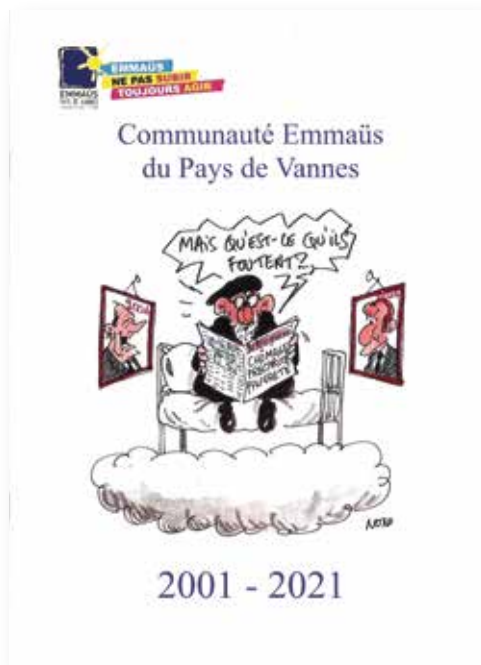
All that remains to be done is to view the digitised files, for which we are launching a call for volunteers (see chapter 4, “How you can help”).

Sometimes we receive spontaneous donations of archives from individuals who have found photos or other documents that they think may interest us.



UNEARTHING HIDDEN GEMS

A man in Canada contacted us about a video recording that his aunt had made in 1955 and that had come into his possession after her death. The video was of a speech given by Abbé Pierre at Saint Joseph’s Oratory in Montreal. We had photos of this event, as well as an audio recording and a transcript of the speech, but we did not have the video recording. “While rummaging through the archives, I saw this video of Abbé Pierre. I knew that he was an important person so I thought I would take it and offer it to your organisation.”



The **Heritage Zone** set up during the World Assembly in Uruguay created opportunities to converse with participants. We also received several greatly appreciated archives shared with us as part of the “One group, one archive” action. These included a photo album of the 1979 World Assembly in Aarhus, Denmark, which was lent to us by its owner so that it could be digitised.



MAKING OUR ARCHIVES AVAILABLE

Every year, there are about 70 requests to access the archives. These requests mainly come from member organisations that want to mark an anniversary by recalling a moment in their history, or who wish to update their website, create informational sheets for their customers, make calendars or posters, decorate their collection vehicles, etc. Other requests tend to come from media organisations seeking to write articles or make a documentary, or from other institutions wishing to hold an event or an exhibition.

We also receive requests from individuals conducting personal or academic research. More than half of the requests focus directly on Abbé Pierre and his work - a clear indicator of the ongoing interest in him. These requests provide an opportunity for Emmaus International to remind the public that the movement continues to fight for what Abbé Pierre believed in and to familiarise the public with the work we are doing today. Each request for access to our archives follows an approval process, granting authorisation to consult the archives and/or make copies of records. Requestors are asked to mention that the documents are from the Abbé Pierre and Emmaus International archives and that they can be found at the French National Archives of the World of Work.

TREASURING OUR ARCHIVES

When we hear the word “archives,” we tend to think of dusty documents abandoned in a cupboard somewhere. Yet, reviewing and organising our archives has in fact enabled us to better appreciate the heritage passed on to us by our founder and other key figures within the movement. These days, we do everything we can to promote these archives and share their wealth with the broadest possible audience through exhibitions, books, articles in the press, our website and social media, and of course by responding to requests for archive access. We strive to present his vision of the movement and show how our founder’s struggles transcend national borders.

Some examples of projects that we contributed to:

DOCUMENTARIES AND TV SHOWS

Whenever one is created, the crews turn to the Emmaus International archives to do research.

In August 2021, the TV channel ARTE made a documentary called ***D'après une histoire vraie : l'abbé Pierre, l'insurrection de la bonté.*** Picking up where Denis Amar's film "Winter of '54" ended, the documentary retraced the story of Abbé Pierre's call to action with support from archival documents.

Around the same time, the French director Dominique Thierry's documentary ***L'abbé Pierre, sa halte d'Esteville*** was shown on the French TV channel France 5.

Other TV appearances:

→ In June 2021, the BBC inserted archival images from the beginnings of Emmaus into their show ***Countryfile***, which was filmed at Emmaus Norfolk & Waveney and focused on Emmaus's work in the United Kingdom.

→ In November 2021, the documentary ***Des héros du zéro déchet*** on Ushuaïa TV explained how young generations are breaking free of the consumerist stranglehold, finding alternative solutions and taking action. It used archival material from Emmaus's early days, with a particular focus on ragpickers.

→ In February 2022, on the French TV channel France 5, the show C Jamy - Le Monde



de Jamy honoured the founder of Emmaus in its episode ***La vie secrète de l'abbé Pierre***, covering milestones in Abbé Pierre's life, as well as his overall activism: his past as a member of the Resistance, the repercus-

sions of the winter of 1954 call to action, and the creation and story of the Emmaus movement in France and worldwide.



Photos from AFAP (Association Française des Accessoiristes de Plateau)



FILM

Following an initial contact in 2018, the most significant archive access request yet received was from the team behind the biopic by the French director Frédéric Tellier, *L'abbé Pierre, une vie de combats*. The film editing has just been completed and it is expected to be released in November 2023.

AUDIO ARCHIVES

Following the audio archive digitisation campaign in 2018, we have continued listening to them, which has enabled us to repurpose some of the audio in the form of podcasts.



In 2020, during the lockdown, Emmaus International offered a series of 8 episodes on its YouTube channel called *Penser demain: à l'écoute de l'abbé Pierre* that contained French-language recordings of speeches that had never been made available before. The first episode included the speech given in Geneva on 21 May 1954 when Abbé Pierre recounted the history, goals and demands of Emmaus, just a few months after the historic appeal of 1 February 1954!

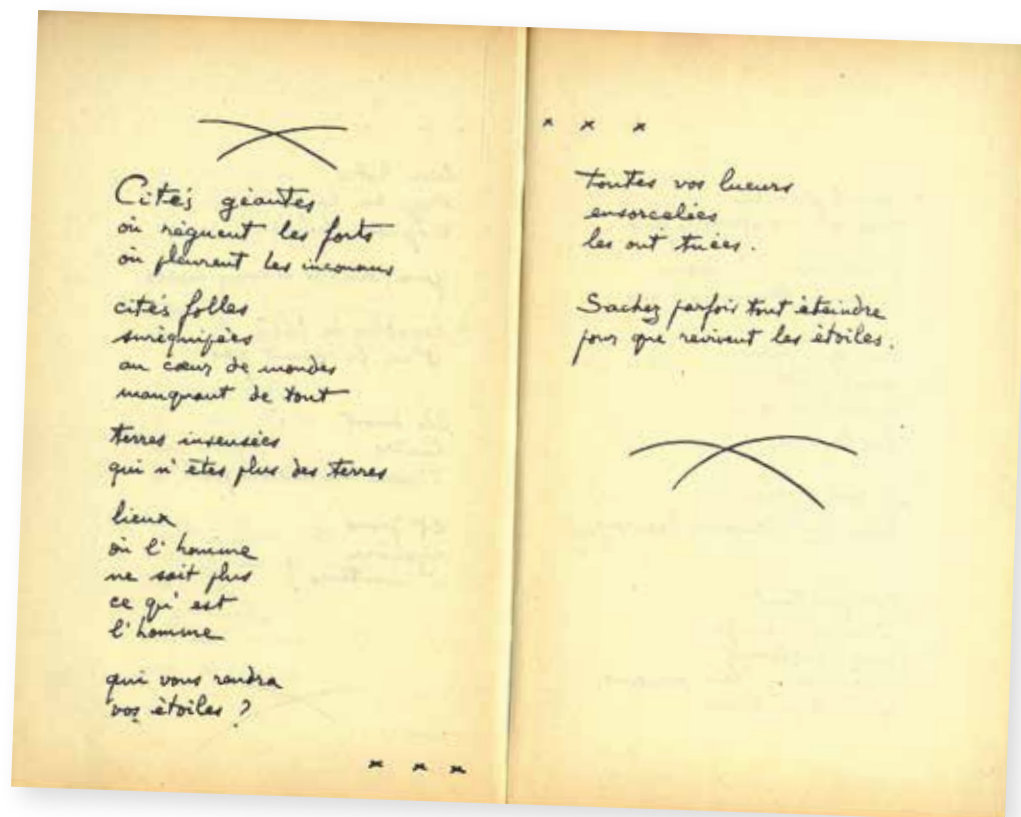


In 2021, for its **podcast series** about Emmaüs, Emmaüs France chose some of Abbé Pierre's speeches on societal issues.



For the 15th anniversary of Abbé Pierre's passing and to commemorate the historic appeal of 1 February 1954, Radio RCF launched the podcast **Les colères de l'abbé Pierre**, which ran every morning for 12 days starting on 1 February 2022.

The podcast showcases the work of journalist Madeleine Vatel, who spent close to a year digging into the archives in Roubaix to spread the message of solidarity championed by Abbé Pierre. The call for an "uprising of kindness" is strikingly appropriate for the modern day.



While listening to the archives, we discovered a 1981 recording made in Charenton of Abbé Pierre reading **Feuilles Eparses**, a collection of poems that he had written. It was shared with the Abbé Pierre – Emmaüs Centre (CAPE) for its poetry competition during the 2022 Book Fair.



Speech by Abbé Pierre
in Montreal (Canada),
May 1955

VIDEOS, EXHIBITIONS

To commemorate the **50th anniversary of the Emmaus International Founding Assembly** on 2-4 July 1971 in Montreal, Canada, Emmaus International produced a video for its virtual World Assembly in November 2021. It recalls how, after the 1969 General Assembly, the provisional committee set up by Abbé Pierre prepared for this assembly and chose Canada as the location. It also covers Abbé Pierre's visits to Canada in 1955 and 1959, about which we have many archival documents.

We also broadened our research on Abbé Pierre's many trips to Latin America for the preparation of the exhibition *"In the footsteps of Abbé Pierre in Latin America,"* which was presented to the participants of the May 2022 World Assembly in Uruguay and then offered to the Emmaus Americas



region to mark the 50-year anniversary that this region celebrated in 2021.

In 2022, Emmaus International was contacted by Association Mémoire Vivante du Plateau d'Avron, which had been tasked by the mayor of Neuilly-Plaisance—ahead of city's 130th anniversary—to present the history of 13 local sites, including the house where the first Emmaus community was established in 1949.

The ensuing discussions were very fruitful. Not only did the association benefit from the Abbé Pierre and Emmaus International archives concerning the house, but it was also able to retrace the house's entire history prior to its acquisition by Abbé Pierre. The final touch on the project was the placement of a historical marker in front of the Emmaus community in Neuilly-Plaisance.

PHOTOS AND DOCUMENTS FOR WRITTEN WORKS

— We shared some photos of Abbé Pierre for *Les maquisards* by Fabrice Grenard; *Leur seconde guerre mondiale* by Bruno Halioua; and *Modernising Post-war France: Architecture and Urbanism during Les Trente Glorieuses* by Professor Nicholas Bullock.

— We searched for documents on the relationship between Abbé Pierre and Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, the founder of the People's Health Centre, Gonoshasthaya Kendra in Savar, Bangladesh, for the publication of a book celebrating the NGO's 50th anniversary.

— We provided archival photos to Emmaus Langeweg, Netherlands, for the book they published in 2021 to mark their 50th anniversary.



TRACKING REQUESTS TO USE THE NAME ABBÉ PIERRE OR EMMAUS FOR PUBLIC SPACES

Each year, we receive requests to use “Abbé Pierre” in the names of streets, public buildings and sometimes schools. In most cases, Emmaus groups are the initiators of these projects, which help raise the profile of our founder’s work and spread the word about his work. We handle these requests by signing agreements. In 2020 and 2021, two sites were inaugurated: Abbé Pierre garden in Metz and Abbé Pierre public square in Nantes.



In 2021, we also received a more unusual request from the Kite Flyers’ Club in Dieppe. They wanted to make kites featuring Abbé Pierre’s image.

Abbé Pierre often made references to the wind in his writings: in his poems (Feuilles éparses) published in 1955, in the notebooks he kept as a young man in 1928, and in this inscription attached to a painting he made (freely translated):

Living means (even if it burns your hands) pulling on the sail rope every day, so that your call will compel the Wind to come. The sail and the Wind cannot take you to your destination



unless they work together. (For Abbé Pierre, the Wind, capitalised, was the presence of the Holy Spirit guiding the boat.)

Following our proposal, they chose portraits created by the artists Alex Tréma and Jean-Baptiste Colin. In 2022, the Club presented the kites to the Abbé Pierre – Emmaus Centre in Esteville at the Children’s Festival in early August, then at the **21st International Kite Festival in Dieppe** in September. A great opportunity to reach a new audience.



IMAGES AND QUOTATIONS ON SOCIAL MEDIA (FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM)

Social networks are a staple of communication on which we regularly post photos, archival documents, and quotations from our founder and from the movement in general.



BREAKDOWN OF 2020-2022 EXPENDITURE AND 2023 OUTLOOK

From 2020 to 2022, Heritage expenditure totalled 60,000 euros. These were the main categories of expenditure:

In 2020, Emmaus International sought counsel from a law firm on issues related to the use of Abbé Pierre's image. Several videos of important figures within the movement were also produced.

In 2021, the bulk of the expenses were for the second round of digitisation of the Abbé Pierre and Emmaus audiovisual archives. There were 129 videos to be digitised (VHS, Super 8, 8mm, 16mm, and 35mm).

In 2022, Emmaus International bought up the publisher's stock of Drawing Strength from the Infinitely Small, the book compiling Abbé Pierre's quotations.

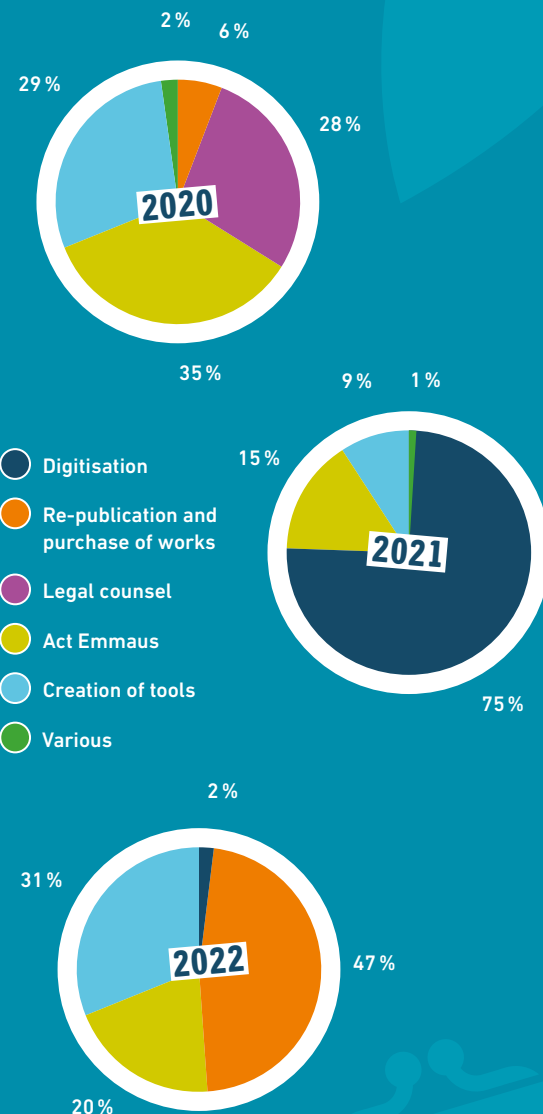
Each year, Emmaus International has engaged the services of the provider that manages and updates the Act Emmaus online platform, which hosts the presentation of Abbé Pierre's struggles and of Emmaus groups' actions.

In addition to these expenses, once the archives were deposited in Roubaix in 2000, Emmaus International chose to employ an archivist. **Emmaus International, Emmaus France and the Abbé Pierre Foundation** all contribute equally to covering the salary of this position. We thank them for their participation in this essential work.

In 2023, the main expenses will relate to:

- The 3rd round of audiovisual archive digitisation
- The creation of communication tools (standalone displays, videos, posters)
- The organisation of events (including the launch of the Heritage Group)
- The installation of a server for the digitised historical archives
- The initial communication tools for the 70th anniversary of the 1 February 1954 appeal

BREAKDOWN OF "HERITAGE" EXPENDITURE





Emmaus International's status as Abbé Pierre's sole legatee entails responsibilities for Emmaus International and all of its member organisations. Here are a few ways you can join us in treasuring our movement's heritage:

Making financial contributions to the Heritage Fund to support:

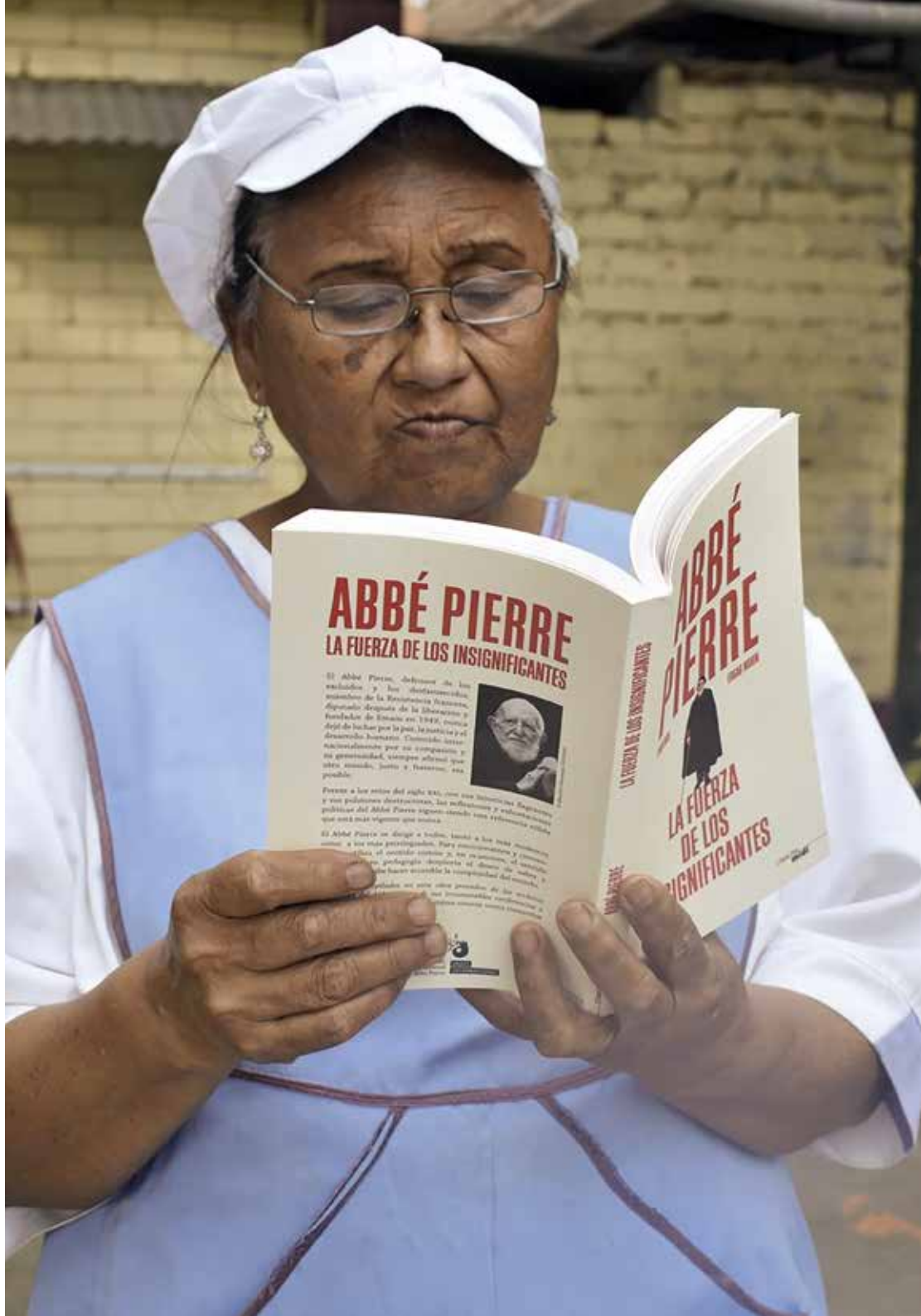
- The digitisation (and thus, preservation) of many archives, especially audiovisual documents
- Project funding (written works, videos, exhibits, events, etc.)

For your information, these are the costs of digitisation:

- €63 for 30 min of VHS tape, €178 for 30 min of 8mm film and €273 for 30 min of 16mm film
- €1,200 to produce a 5-min video
- €5,000 to produce a travelling exhibition (graphic design, printing, etc.)

Or helping by:

- Making an inventory of the archives within your groups. For more information on how to do this essential work, please refer to the guide to best archiving practices attached to this report.
- Identifying the elders in your groups, given how important it is to record their stories.



- Letting us know if you would be willing to give some of your time to the Heritage Group that we are going to create. This group's tasks will include a variety of duties such as transcribing audio recordings of Abbé Pierre, going through back issues of Faims & Soifs, identifying people in archival photos, and interviewing figures within the movement. There is plenty to do and only some of it requires travel, since many documents have already been digitised.
- Sharing the thoughts and works of Abbé Pierre.
 - > Feel free to order the book *Drawing Strength from the Infinitely Small* from the Emmaus International Secretariat.
 - > You can also reserve the exhibition “Abbé Pierre: frère des pauvres, provocateur de paix” and borrow it from the French National Archives of the World of Work free of charge.

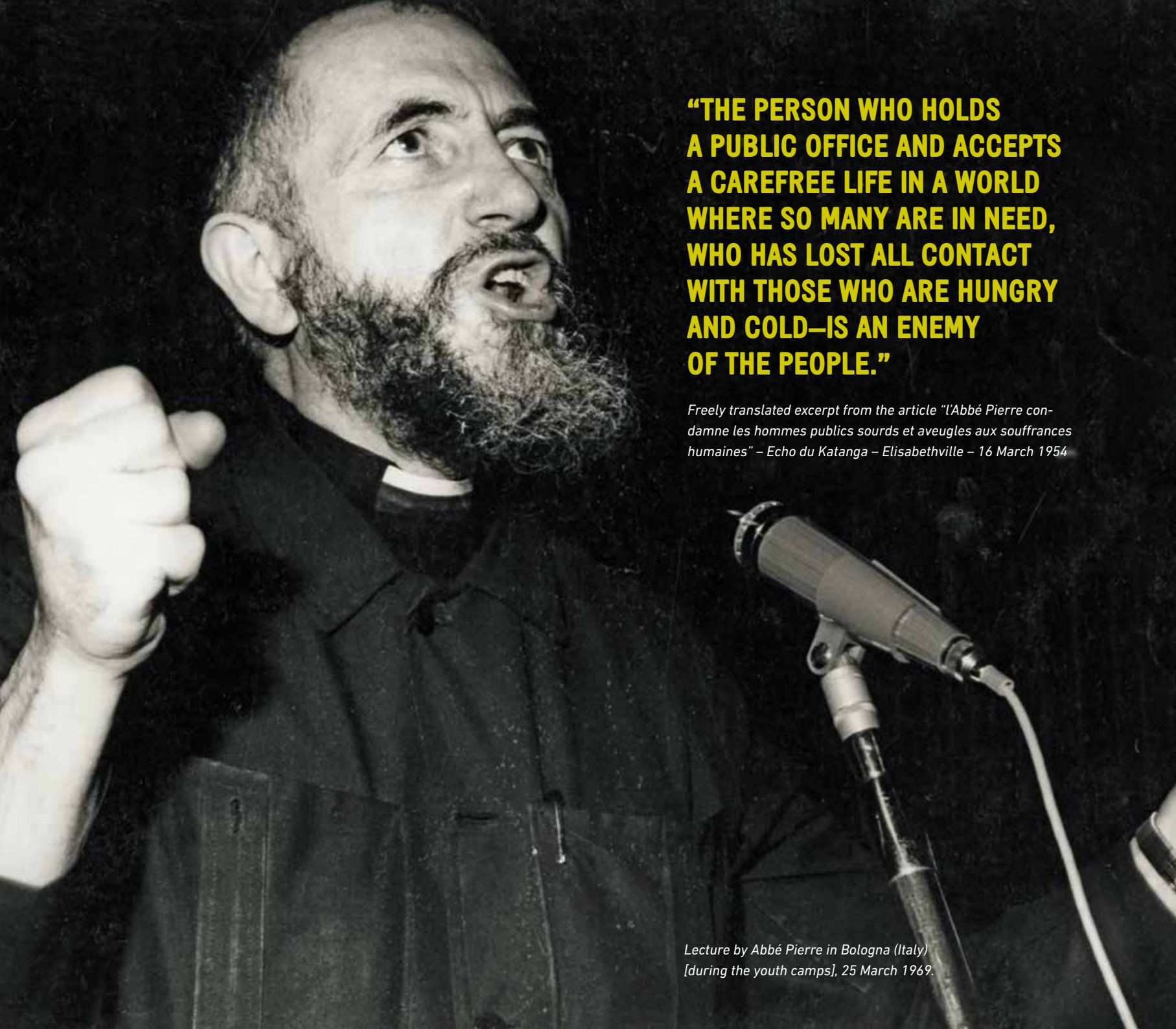


Portraits of Abbé Pierre created by the artist SD ART at Emmaus Hull & East Riding United Kingdom) – 2022

YOUNG PEOPLE EVERYWHERE WANT TO LIVE. THEY KNOW INSTINCTIVELY THAT LIVING MEANS FIGHTING AND CREATING. AND THAT LIVING PEACE MEANS BEING ABLE TO DO THIS, BEING CALLED UPON FOR IT AND TAKING ACTION.

(“The world's youth and the violence of peace”, editorial, Faims & Soifs, 79, May 1968)



A black and white photograph of Abbé Pierre, a French Catholic priest, speaking into a microphone. He has a full beard and is wearing a dark clerical shirt. His right hand is raised in a fist, and he is looking upwards and to the right with a passionate expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

**"THE PERSON WHO HOLDS
A PUBLIC OFFICE AND ACCEPTS
A CAREFREE LIFE IN A WORLD
WHERE SO MANY ARE IN NEED,
WHO HAS LOST ALL CONTACT
WITH THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY
AND COLD—IS AN ENEMY
OF THE PEOPLE."**

Freely translated excerpt from the article "l'Abbé Pierre condamne les hommes publics sourds et aveugles aux souffrances humaines" – Echo du Katanga – Elisabethville – 16 March 1954

*Lecture by Abbé Pierre in Bologna (Italy)
[during the youth camps], 25 March 1969.*

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Photos: French National Archives
of the World of Work



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