

EUSCHOLAS

by Alessandro Iacovitti - 1C

Paul-Henri Spaak and Alcide De Gasperi (two of the "EU founders") in 1957, during the signing of Rome Treaties, talked about "European message". A message of culture opening, tolerance and peace, as a result of all the EU countries cultures in a very difficult historical period during which the European countries had to avoid two important warnings: economical submission both to the Soviet Union and to USA but, above all, the risk of repeating the same errors made in the recent past, the war and the spread of totalitarian regimes. Only these values, inspired by a group of politicians that really believed in their purpose, dedicating their entire lives to achieve it, saved Europe from a definitive ruin.

Well, they were politicians, we could think all they wanted was extremely easy to reach, that they were only learned and privileged people with a dream, but in the reality we should think to the difficult situation they started from to actively build their future and consider them as the best examples of the fact that people, in the heaviest adversities, by uniting their forces and believing in their want to react, can concretely solve problems.

Another example of that fact could surely be found many years later, in 2001, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, country afflicted, at that time, by a terrible economic crisis, where the citizens were actually forced to live on the streets while everywhere there was poverty and dereliction.

Meanwhile some students from public and private schools, no matter their religion, in a moment when everyone had lost all their hopes, united their ideas under the name of "Sister Schools" to save their homeland, strongly believing in an active social redemption: first of all, they presented to the National Congress efforts to improve and to make up with the questions of the time all of the Constitution-based laws, reminding to all the Argentinians of the importance - especially in such a difficult time - of the commitment for the common wealth. That venture, made up by common people, young students, with strong believes, played a basic role in Argentina's upswing in the following years, giving all people a community-belonging sense and really helped Buenos Aires's citizens obtain a normal everyday life again.

Today those values, those hopes, those dreams of some Argentinian students has become "Scholas Occurrentes" an international organization of public good profit based on an idea of the then Archbishop of Buenos aires Jorge Bergoglio, nowadays Pope Francis (who also was the original upholder of those students) that works with schools and educational communities in order to implement the culture of the meeting for peace, tolerance, dialogue, culture opening, participation and solidarity through education with many projects: some students from "Liceo Manara" participated in one of them, "scholas.citizenship", a really exciting and inspiring experience who perfectly gives the sense of active action, hardly to find out only by sitting in a school desk.

The end of the workshop, lasted one week, was the drafting of a document with all the issues emerged from discussions among different people (students of different schools, specialists and people with meaningful personal experiences), consigned to some Italian institutions, like the Ministry of Education.

At the end it seems to me actually appropriate to mark the similarities between the EU and Scholas, that is to say their starting extreme situations and the strong search of common values: these points should make us think that ventures born from people's dreams can actually change our world and can make us be active and protagonists, not passive individuals, unable to take decisions with our own head, our own ideas, our own hopes for a better future and no longer made up of only words.