Paċi u Ġid

No. 98: Diċembru 2021

"Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem.
May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man."

Pope Francis

Il-messaġġ tal-Madre Provinċjali
Sr Claudia Zammit

Għeżież Qarrejja,

Ninsabu f'dan iż-żmien tal-Avvent, ġranet li jgħinuna biex inħejju l-qalb tagħna għall-miġja tat-tarbija ta' Betlem f'qalbna u fi djarna. Dan iż-żmien hekk sabiħ u qaddis tal-Milied kien isaħħar lill-Venerabbli Fundatriċi tagħna Madre Margerita. Hija kienet tibda tiċċelebrah kmieni fl-Avvent bi tħejjija xierqa, u dan kien jimliha b'entużjażmu qaddis u b'ħeġġa mqanqla mill-fidi. Waħda missorijiet li ħallitilna x-xhieda tagħha fil-"Positio", jiġifieri fil-ġabra ta' fatti miġbura dwar Madre Margerita li tressqu lill-awtoritajiet tal-Knisja fil-mixja lejn il-Beatifikazzjoni u l-Kanonizzazzjoni tagħha qalet hekk: **"Fl-Avvent kienet tkellimna spiss dwar l-umiltà u l-faqar ta' Ġesù Tarbija".**

F'xhieda oħra minn reliġjuża qalet li Madre Margerita, fi żmien l-Avvent, kienet tistieden lis-sorijiet biex jiċċelebraw b'ferħ fratern it-twelid ta' Ġesù. Kienet tgħidilhom, l-aktar lejlet il-Milied: **"Kollox għandu żmienu. Żmien il-Milied, mhuwiex żmien il-Passjoni u allura jeħtieġ li nkunu ferħanin"**. Hawn ninnutaw kemm Madre Margerita kellha f'moħħha u f'qalbha t-tifsira vera taż-żmien liturġiku tal-Avvent, dik ta' stennija ferħana u mimlija mħabba. Nistgħu wkoll nġibu quddiem għajnejna, din l-istennija ferħana li kienet għexet il-Verġni Marija, Omm Ġesù, hekk kif kien qed joqrob il-jum li twelled lil Binha Ġesù.

Ninnutaw li Madre Margerita ma kinitx imqanqla biex titħejja għall-Milied u biex tiċċelebrah minn sempliċi entużjażmu li jintefa' mill-ewwel hekk kif tgħaddi l-Festa. Hija kienet tkun imqanqla mill-fidi tagħha fl-Inkarnazzjoni tal-Iben t'Alla li sar bniedem u għammar fostna l-bnedmin għall-imħabba, bl-imħabba u fl-imħabba. Din l-imġiba tagħha kienet tħeġġiġha biex b'imħabba iktar qawwija **"tħobb l-Imħabba u biex tagħmilha magħrufa u maħbuba minn kulħadd u kullimkien."**

Qrib il-Milied tal-1931 kitbet hekk: **"nilmħu 'l Alla, li jinżel mill-ħdan tal-Missier Etern Divin u jiġi jieħu s-sura fqajra tagħna l-bnedmin u jgħix bħal wieħed mill-ifqar"**.

Quddiem dan kollu, staqsiet: **"Inħarsu lejn Ġesù Tarbija fl-għar... x'jgħidilna? Araw xi mħabba għandi għalikom!"** Hija proprju din l-imħabba li t-Tarbija ta' Betlem tixtieq taqsam magħna għax Hu twieled biex jgħix f'dinja imperfetta fejn jeżistu l-iżbalji u nies bid-difetti, jitwieled fejn hemm il-faqar u l-miżerja. Ġie biex jurina kemm aħna għeżież għalih bid-difetti kollha tagħna.

Il-Milied iġib il-paċi u l-ferħ anki fejn wieħed ma jkunx jistenna li dan iseħħ. Niftakru li l-ferħ mhux xi ħaġa tax-xorti jew tad-destin. Il-ferħ issibu meta tgħix fil-preżenza t'Alla, tirringrazzjaH kull filgħodu għall-miraklu tal-ħajja, għal kemm tqassam u tgħaddi l-paċi ma' kull min tiltaqa', kemm tgħin lil min hu fil-bżonn, kemm lest li taħfer lil min naqsek, u kemm tħobb lil dawk li jweġġgħuk bl-għemil tagħhom. Madre Margerita tgħidilna, huwa l-eżempju ta' **"Kristu li umilja ruħu bil-kbir meta sar tarbija u twieled f'għar kiesaħ u f'tant faqar imsaħħan biss min-nifs ta' żewġ annimali"** li jisfidana biex ħajjitna tkun mibnija fuq l-eżempju tiegħU.

Għalhekk ma naqtgħux qalbna u nkomplu nibnu ħajjitna fuq il-pedament sod ta' l-altruwiżmu billi dejjem infittxu l-ewwel il-bżonnijiet u l-ferħ ta' ħutna li ngħixu magħhom, bil-ftehim ta' bejnietna, bil-mogħdrija u l-maħfra, bit-trobbija ħelwa u soda, billi tnaqqas il-konflitti li jinqalgħu, bit-twemmin sod u b'fiduċja fil-Mulej waqt li tgħix il-ħajja nisranija fit-talb u bis-sehem tiegħek fis-Sagramenti. Dan kollu jrid jissaħħaħ bl-imħabba li ma tafx limiti, li tagħti bla ma tistenna li tirċievi lura u li tkun lest għal kull sagrifiċċju.

Meta twettaq dan, tifhem aħjar li l-Milied huwa l-festa tal-Iben t'Alla li sar bniedem, kiber u miet għalija biex inkun nista' ngħix għal dejjem.

Awguri għal Milied Hieni u Sena Tajba!

Tagħkom fi Kristu,
Sr Claudia Zammit
Superjura Provinċjali

Madre Margerita u l-Milied
Sr Josephine Xuereb

L-ispiritwalità ta' Madre Margerita hija waħda Kristo-Ċentrika. Hija kienet tikkontempla lil Ġesù fit-tliet misteri prinċipali jiġifieri Ġesù f'Betlem, fuq il-Kalvarju u fl-Ewkaristija. Illum ser naraw fil-fond kif Madre Margerita kienet tikkontempla l-inkarnazzjoni ta' Ġesù. Tajjeb ngħidu li kienet tħejji ruħha b'fidi kbira għall-festa tal-Milied.

Matul il-ġranet tal-Avvent hija kienet tgħix kull ġurnata bi tħejjija għall-jum tal-Milied billi tikkonċentra l-ħarsa tagħha dwar aspett partikolari fuq livell spiritwali. Qed nir-referi għall-'corradino'. Dawn huma ġabra ta' ħsibijiet fejn takkumpanja lil Marija li qed tistenna t-twelid ta' binha billi tħejji fost oħrajn il-ħwejjeġ, is-sodda u magħhom tgħaqqad xi ġakulatorja jew azzjoni filwaqt li ttenniha diversi drabi matul il-jum. Hekk Madre Margerita kienet tħalli l-ħsibijiet tagħha ċċentrati fuq it-tħejjija għat-twelid tat-tarbija Ġesù. Din hija drawwa qaddisa li għadha ssir sal-lum issir minna s-sorijiet Franġiskani tal-Qalb ta' Ġesù.

Mill-kitbiet li ħallitilna l-Fundatriċi, naraw b'mod ċar l-umanità tagħha. Matul iż-żmien tal-Avvent, hija timxi m'Ommna Marija tul it-tqala tagħha, bit-tħejjijiet li mara li qed tistenna tarbija tagħmel. Dan jidher b'mod ċar f'waħda mill-ittri tagħha fejn kitbet: **"Issa li aħna fi żmien l-Avvent, inħabirku ħalli nagħmlu libsa sabiħa lill-Imqaddes Bambin; inħejju n-nar għall-għażiża Ommu Marija ħalli jkollha biex issaħħan il-Bambin li ser jitwieled."** Dawn l-affarijiet kienet tħejjijhom permezz tal-'Corradino'.

Aktar ma kienet tikkontempla l-Misteru tal-Inkarnazzjoni, Madre Margerita kienet tiffoka fuq l-Imħabba kbira t'Alla, li minn Alla, iċċekken u sar tarbija. F'ittra tagħha nsibu: **"Jalla l-Imqaddes Ġesù Bambin jagħmel li nkunu nixbħuh, hekk ċkejknin. Għax meta nkunu ċkejknin inkunu qed nogħġbuh... Ejjew nifirħu mal-Maħbub tagħna divin, li ried li jsir ċkejken għall-imħabba tagħna! Inħobbuh, iva inħobbuh, għax l-imħabba m'għandiex prezz."** Il-missjoni personali ta'

Madre Margerita kienet dejjem li tressaq lill-bnedmin lejn Alla u li tagħmel lil Alla magħruf u maħbub minn kulħadd. Dan l-aspett ma kienx jonqos f'dan iż-żmien fejn kienet tagħmel emfasi fuq l-Imħabba t'Alla għall-bniedem u kemm il-bniedem għandu jkun rikonoxxenti lejn Alla u biex jagħmel ħiltu li jwieġeb għal din l-imħabba bl-imħabba. Tistieden ukoll biex il-bniedem fuq l-eżempju t'Alla ma jitkabbarx bih innifsu iżda jagħraf ix-xejn tiegħu u l-kobor ta' Alla.

Fl-awguri li Madre Margerita kienet tibgħat fi żmien il-Milied permezz tal-ittri tagħha, naraw li kienet tippreżenta lis-sorijiet il-virtujiet tat-Tarbija ta' Betlem biex ifasslu l-ħajja tagħhom fuq dan il-mudell hekk kbir! Hija tikteb hekk: **"Infittxu li nitgħallmu l-virtujiet sbieħ tal-Imqaddes Ġesù Bambin, l-aktar l-Imqaddes faqar, is-sempliċità, l-abbandun f'idejn il-Providenza Divina."** Bħala persuna Franġiskana, Madre Margerita ma setax jonqos li l-ħarsa tagħha tkun fuq il-faqar, is-sempliċità u l-abbandun, liema virtujiet kull Franġiskana hija mistiedna li tagħmel tagħha.

Ġesù Tarbija mhux biss ftaqar li minn Alla sar tarbija, iżda nafu tajjeb li t-twelid tiegħu ma sarx ġo xi palazz lussuż mimli bin-neċessitajiet iżda kien f'daqsxejn ta' għar imwarrab minn kulħadd u li fih lanqas l-aktar affarijiet bżonnjużi ma kien hemm! Fl-istess faqar nistgħu naraw is-sempliċità, fejn ma twelidx lil xi mara nobbli ta' dak iż-żmien iżda lil daqsxejn ta' tfajla sempliċi u umli! U xi ngħidu għall-abbandun? Minkejja li kien Alla, intelaq f'idejn Alla l-Missier ħalli ssir FiH ir-rieda Tiegħu!

F'dan iż-żmien qaddis tal-Milied, il-kontemplazzjoni ta' Madre Margerita tistedinna biex: **"Fi żmien hekk prezzjuż nisktu f'ħemda qaddisa u nħallu biss li**

titkellem l-Imħabba. L-imħabba t'Alla li ssir bniedem, li ssir Tarbija! U aktar, issir Ostja Ċkejkna. Irid ikollok wisq fidi ċkejkna biex ma tmutx bl-imħabba." Il-ħarsa ta' Madre Margerita hija dejjem fuq l-imħabba t'Alla lejna l-bnedmin u kif dan Alla mhux biss ċċekken u sar tarbija, iżda baqa' jiċċekken saħansitra f'ostja ċkejkna. F'silta oħra mill-kitbiet tagħha nsibu: **"L-imqaddes Missier ta' dejjem, hekk ħabbna li wasal biex tana Rigal hekk prezzjuż, kif hu tabilħaqq l-Iben il-Waħdieni. Għandna tassew għax immutu bir-rikonoxxenza lejn Imħabba hekk Kbira! Inħobbuh billi nissagrifikaw il-ġibdiet tagħna, dak kollu li jmiss lilna, il-kumditajiet kollha."** Mill-kontemplazzjoni, Madre Margerita kienet tasal għall-azzjoni. Hija ma tiqafx biss fuq x'għamel Alla għalina iżda timxi pass 'l quddiem billi tindika kif nistgħu nwieġbu għal din l-imħabba billi nibdlu l-imġiba tagħna.

Nagħlaq dawn il-ftit ħsibijiet bil-kelmiet ta' Madre Margerita għal dan iż-żmien lil soru li kienet qed tieħu ħsieb it-tfal orfni. **"L-awguri sinċieri li nagħmillek tal-Milied li dalwaqt magħna huma dawn: li inti titkebbes b'dak in-nar kollu qaddis ta' mħabba safja lejn l-imqaddes Ġesù Bambin u b'dan l-istess nar jirnexxielek li tkebbes il-qlub kollha ta' dawk it-tfal. U hekk it-twajjeb Ġesù jkollu kuruna ta' innoċenti li jsabbruh f'tant niket li jirċievi mingħand ħafna u ħafna midinbin ingrati."**

Jalla aħna wkoll għeżież qarrejja, ngħixu dan iż-żmien bl-istess spirtu li għexitu l-għażiża Fundatriċi tagħna Madre Margerita biex il-ħarsa tagħna tibqa' ffokata fuq Ġesù Bambin u ma niqfux biss fuq il-konsumiżmu li xi kultant ikaxkarna.

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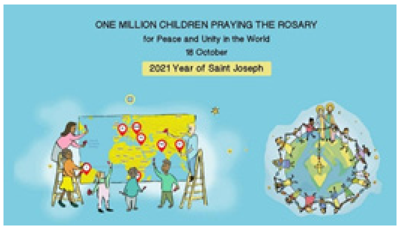
News from the sister island

St Francis School, Gozo

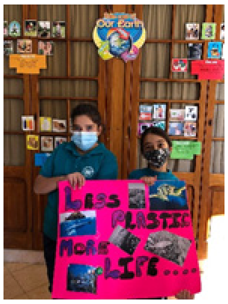
The scholastic year started very smoothly, thank God, in contrast to last year's and all the children were ever so happy and enthusiastic to return to their stable scholastic life providing stability and safety.



On the 18th October 2021 we joined children from around the world as we prayed the Rosary for peace and unity. Each

class prayed in front of the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes in the schoolyard, while the other classes joined us online.

Starting on the 19 October our school participated in the 10-day Litterless campaign with schools from around the world. This campaign encourages students not only to reduce the harmful effect on the environment by reducing waste themselves but also to raise awareness of this within their communities. There were 7 actions to be completed both at home and at school, among them a Zero-waste day at school/home where we were very careful to use only re-usable items, clean-ups around the countryside and on beaches, raising awareness among the public on plastic pollution, also explaining the harm detergents are doing and preparing alternatives with simple everyday things. The year 3 students also gave out cloth bags to passers-by, especially sewn by staff members. The school and families put up posts of the actions they were carrying out, so that the message would reach far and wide. One of our entries was also one of the three entries chosen from among all the schools in Malta and Gozo, to be sent abroad to compete with other entries from around the world. You can view this short video clip on **https://www.facebook.com/emma.grech/videos/2198074370345536**

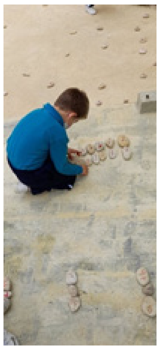
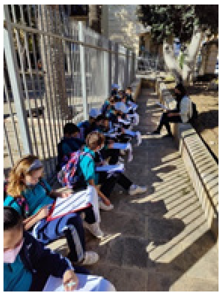


A survey carried out by Year 4 students found that we buy so many things just for the sake of buying and not because we need them. And so they collected items – particu-

larly stationery – bought at the beginning of the scholastic year, but which had not been used, and donated it to Fr Anton in Guatemala.

The school also celebrated the European Week of Sports Activity by dedicating the 29 October to different Sports Activities in the school gym for each class. The students were taught the importance of moving about, instead of living a sedentary life, and how important it is for our health to participate in Sports activities regularly.

We are making the most out of the permission we have been granted by Health authorities this year to take the children out on educational outings. The junior classes have been out on fieldwork, Maths trails and the like, while the early years, including Kindergarten have turned the public garden, the beaches etc into outdoor classrooms and have been having numeracy and literacy lessons in the open air.

On October 26 we held the customary Pink October day at school, where students and staff alike wear something pink and make a donation toward Breast Cancer research. However this year we added another tint – orange – and also celebrated ADHD awareness day. So some children opted for orange clothes instead. The money collected was sent to ADHD Malta and to the Hospice Movement.

On November 17 we also linked another 2 important events – World Children's Day (which this year fell on a Saturday), and Anti-Bullying Day. The children wore orange tops and odd socks. We started the day off with an "Anti-Bullying" Assembly. Each class from Kinder 1 to Year 6 held different activities throughout the day, preparing posters and online messages against bullying, focusing on this year's theme "One Kind Word". Each child made a donation which was distributed among various entities including bBrave organization, the Church Schools Children's Fund and to needy families in Gozo In this way it was not only the students of our school who benefitted from this day, but also many others outside the school, including those who access the school's facebook page.

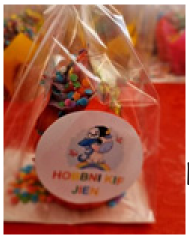
You can watch even our very little ones passing on their one-word messages for one and all on: **https://www.facebook.com/849121665145763/videos/407652780992588** and the very strong messages our Year 6 students want to spread on: **https://www.facebook.com/849121665145763/videos/1361231901002123**

Il-Kunsill tal-Istudenti
Skola St Francis B'Kara

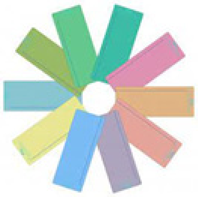
Il-kunsill tal-istudenti fl-iskola ta' St Francis f'Birkirkara ilu mwaqqaf għal dawn l-aħħar tliet snin. Il-kunsill hu magħmul minn studenti mit-tielet sena sas-sitt sena primarja. Dawn l-istudenti wrew ħeġġa liema bħalha biex ikunu parti minn dan il-kunsill u ghalhekk saru preżentazzjonijiet fil-klassi biex l-istudenti jaqsmu l-ideat tagħhom mal-oħrajn u jiksbu l-vot tagħhom. Flimkien ma' dawn l-istudenti hemm erba' edukaturi li darba fix-xahar jiltaqgħu biex isiru pjanijiet ta' kif nistgħu nxerrdu iktar ferħ u entużjażmu fil-ħajja tal-iskola. L-attivitajiet kollha jkopru għan wieħed, dak li jwasslu messaġġi pożittivi.

Attività kbira li saret is-sena l-oħra, minkejja l-pandemija kienet, St. Francis Got Talent. Studenti mill-kinder sas-sitt sena ppartecipaw billi rrekordjaw video tat-talent tagħhom. Dawn inġabru mill-kunsill u b'reqqa kbira l-għalliema involuti ħejjew Klipps biex ikunu jistgħu jintwerew mal-klassijiet kollha.

Din is-sena diġà saru diversi attivitajiet. Fost dawn l-attivitajiet kien hemm l- attività, "Qawsalla kuluri – Ħobbni kif Jien." It-tfal ħasbu biex mill-flus li nġabru mix-xiri tal-muffins, magħmulin minn omm studenta tagħna, jinxtraw riżorsi għall-istudenti li għandhom bżonn għajnuniet speċjali fil-klassi.


Muffins bit-tema – Ħobbni kif Jien

Riżorsi għall-istudenti



Attività oħra kienet "Wear Blue Day" hawnhekk it-tfal ġabru ewro mill-karus tagħhom u dawn marru għaċ- "Church Schools Children's Funds." Tieħu gost tara lil dawn iċ-

ċkejnin tagħna jaħsbu f'ħaddieħor u jagħrfu l-bżonnijiet ta' sħabhom.

Il-Kunsill tal-Istudenti qed iħejji għall-attività, "Wear Blue Day" fejn kellhom jippreparaw Fitness Session.

L-inizzjattivi ma jonqsux u dan ir-riżultat huwa kollu grazzi għar-relazzjoni tajba li teżisti bejn l-istudenti u l-edukaturi fl-iskola kif ukoll il-kooperazzjoni enormi li nsibu mingħand il-ġenituri. Din il-ħolqa twassalna biex xi drabi jsiru mirakli kbar fi skola tant ċkejkna.

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Dinja Waħda

by Ms Lorraine Vella

(Assistant Head at St Francis B'Kara)

We are proud that for a number of consecutive years our school has received the Dinja Wahda gold award. We give a lot of importance to the environmental programme 'Dinja Wahda' where each class from Kinder 1 to Year 6 take part in various activities several times a term which focus on the environment. The emphasis is that they themselves are responsible for the environment and need to take care of it. In fact we have students sowing seeds and watering plants themselves. Through these Dinja Wahda activities students learn in a fun way about habitats and nature that we sometimes overlook. Students particularly enjoy visiting nature reserves and being able to observe and explore nature at its best. Instilling in our students a love for nature could not be possible without the continuous cooperation and dedication of all the staff at St Francis School Birkirkara.

Ikel Frisk Mill-Iskola ta' San Franġisk!

Sa. Kathleen Caruana Salafia
(Assistenta Kap fl-iskola St Francis B'Kara)

Kif konna ħabbarna ftit tax-xhur ilu fuq il-mezzi soċjali, l-iskola ta' St Francis B'Kara nehdiet ktieb ta' riċetti bl-għan li dan jinxtara mill-pubbliku bħala għajnuna lill-Community Chest Fund. L-idea ta' dan il-ktieb nibtet mill-istudenti tal-EkoSkola. Dawn huma numerużi u jiltaqgħu darba f'xahar onlajn, volontarjament wara l-ħin tal-iskola biex jiġu osservati r-restrizzjonijiet marbuta mal-COVID 19. Dawn l-istudenti ġejjin minn kull klassi tal-Primarja. Huma xerrdu din l-idea mal-kumplament tal-istudenti, l-edukaturi u l-ġenituri tal-iskola. B'hekk nistgħu ngħidu li dan il-ktieb huwa frott il-kollaborazzjoni sħiħa fi ħdan il-komunità tal-iskola tagħna.

Issa l-iskola qed taħdem bis-sħiħ biex dan il-ktieb jinxtered mal-pubbliku bl-iskop li l-fondi miġbura jiġu mgħoddija lill-Community Chest Fund fl-Istrina ta' din is-sena. Għalhekk bħalissa l-iskola hija involuta f'ħafna attivitajiet ta' reklamar tal-ktieb fosthom intervisti fuq diversi mezzi soċjali, car boot sales, bejgħ fi ħwienet, bejgħ fil-Kitchen Garden u bejgħ fl-iskejjel jew għaqdiet.

Minn qalbna nixtiequ nirringrazzjaw lil dawk kollha li b'xi mod jew ieħor taw is-sehem tagħhom sabiex dan il-proġett ikun suċċess kemm għall-iskola tagħna kif ukoll għal tant nies li se jibbenefikaw mill-fondi tal-Community Chest Fund.

Il-Prezz ta' dan il-ktieb huwa €5. Min jixtieq jakkwista kopja jista' jċemplilna fuq 21442205 (St Francis School B'Kara) jew jibgħat email fuq **secretary@stfranbk.edu.mt** Il-kollaborazzjoni bejn l-iskejjel ta' St. Francis hija apprezzata immens.

Nirringrazzjawkom bil-quddiem tal-ġenerożità tagħkom!

Smart Kids Of Digital World
by Ms Maria Ellul & Ms Maria Caruana
(Educators at St Francis Cospicua)

The Erasmus project 'Smart Kids of Digital World' is a three-year project launched in 2019 in an effort to explore innovative ways how to encourage children to spend their free time away from technological devices, while promoting ways and means to use technological devices wisely when needed. Children in today's world can get easily hooked on playing online games and meet friends virtually, without realizing that they are spending hours on the phone, tablet, computer or PlayStation. Hence, this project aims to strengthen social skills and promote a healthy, balanced child development with various activities that encourage strong relationships through one's origins, culture and history. Moreover, it also aims to develop positive attitudes towards responsible use of digital tools at home as well as encourages self-control in the use of ICT.

Four schools from different countries are taking part in this Erasmus+ Project – Turkey; who are the coordinators, Poland; Spain and Malta. After holding online meetings between partners, our students have experienced the benefits of digital communication when they virtually met foreign students live during lessons at school. National traditions were shared and children learned about other cultures. Meetings and seminars with parents were held and activities were also disseminated and uploaded on the eTwinning portal, the school's Facebook Page and the Facebook Project Page.

The first mobility for this project was held in Turkey in December 2019, where our school's IT representatives attended training and specific seminars together with the Turkish partners. Following that, various classes took part in works and activities re-

lated to the project theme whilst Year 3 and Year 5 students from our school took part in activities that highlighted the benefits of using technological devices wisely in everyday life. Year 3 students used 'Quiver' to create drawings that virtually came to life after being scanned with the tablet's camera. Year 5 students used mapping skills and directions to code a simple programme using 'Scratch Jr' on their Learnpad. These activities were then presented during the second mobility in Poland, held in October 2021.

The next mobility will be held in February in Malta. Our students and staff are preparing to welcome our partners through various activities that will be held both in the school premises and outside, encouraging cultural knowledge and responsible use of digital tools. The final mobility will be held in Spain during the month of May.

The project will come to an end next year. Through this project we as teachers have learned to use new digital tools that help make teaching more interesting. Moreover, students have been exposed to different cultures. On the other hand, students have participated in traditional games that move away from the digital world but still they were engaged in other activities that encourage effective learning through technology. It is indeed a wonder how the good use of digital tools enables new learning experiences and makes new friendships from different parts of the world possible!

"Tafdax fik innifsek, imma nissel kunfidenza bla tarf f'Alla!"

Venerabbli Qaddejja T'Alla
Madre Margerita

Sorijiet Franġiskani
tal-Qalb ta' Ġesù
Provinċja ta' Malta