

# Pači u Ćid

No. 99: April 2022

“Peace is a language we must speak.”

Pope Francis



## IL-MESSAĠĠ TAL-MADRE PROVINĠJALI SR CLAUDIA ZAMMIT



“Dak li qed isofri fuq is-Salib, huwa l-istess wiehed li qed jirrifletti l-glorja tal-Missier, u jieħu miegħu fil-Qawmien tiegħu mill-imwiet, lil dawk li ħabbewh, billi waslu li jaqsmu miegħu t-tbatijiet tagħhom.” (San Papa Ġwanni Pawlu II)

Għeżież qarreja,

Iż-żmien Liturġiku tar-Randan li jwassal għall-Qawmien mill-Mewt ta' Sidna Ġesù Kristu, fis-Solennità tal-Għid, hu l-itwal u l-isbaħ fost iż-żminijiet liturġiċi speċjali kollha tal-Knisja. Dan mhux biss minħabba t-tifsira spiritwali li joffriena tal-misteru tal-Mewt u l-Qawmien ta' Ġesù, imma wkoll għax permezz tal-erbghin jum li fih juruna t-tul tal-ħajja tal-bniedem, li bil-mewt tinbidel fil-Qawmien għall-hena dejiema fil-Ġenna.

Il-misteru tal-Għid joffrilna okkażjoni biex nirriflettu dwar l-importanza tat-tbatija meta aħna f'din il-ħajja nilqgħuha bil-ferħ. Dwar dan Madre Margerita kitbet: “...kompli dejjem 'l quddiem bil-ferħ fil-Mulej” (B103). Meta nagħmlu dan it-tbatija tkun bħala mezz biex naslu għall-qawmien spiritwali bla waqfien. It-tbatijiet li ngħaddu minnhom għad jintemmu, iżda l-qawmien li naslu għalih, għad jibqa' għal dejjem, għax hu rahan tal-kisba tal-Ġenna.

Kif l-erbghin jum tar-Randan, li xi drabi jidhru xi ftit twal, isibu l-milja tagħhom fl-Għid, hekk ukoll il-ħajja tagħna, f'din id-dinja, tasal għall-milja tagħha fil-hena dejiemi tas-sema pajjiżna, lejn fejn aħna lkoll mexjin. Meta nipprofittaw ruħna mill-okkażjonijiet kollha tal-ħajja tagħna, u ninqadew bihom biex nitqaddsu, inkunu qed nuru li fhimna tajjeb x'inhu l-għan tal-ħajja nisanija tagħna, li mir-Randan t'hawn fid-dinja, naslu għall-Għid dejiemi tas-sema pajjiżna.

Għalhekk, wara li mxejna l-erbghin jum tar-Randan, it-tifkira tal-Għid li se nfakkru bil-ferħ għandha timpenjana bis-serjetà, biex nixxennqu għal dak li hu tas-sema, u nistinkaw bla heda ħalli meta l-Mulej isejħilna, inkunu nistgħu naslu hemm bla xkiel ta' xejn. Kif itennillna l-Fundatriċi tagħna Madre Margerita: “Nifhmuha sewwa: mingħajr il-mewt ma nistgħux





inqumu. Għalhekk, immutu mat-Twajjed Ġesù tagħna, biex miegħu nkunu nistgħu nqumu għall-ħajja ġdida” (B90).

Il-qawwa biex inkunu nistgħu napprofittaw ruħna minn kull mument ta’ ħajjitna, ingibuha mill-Ewkaristija. Bħad-dixxpli ta’ Għemmaws, wara li nagħrfuh “fil-qsim tal-ħobż”, nimtlew bil-kuraġġ biex f’din il-ħajja nkomplu l-mixja tagħna li twassalna għall-premju ta’ dejjem, biex miegħu nesperimentaw l-ferħ ta’ ħajja qaddisa, u l-ferħ dejjiemi tal-Ġenna.



Minn qalbi nawguralkom l-GĦID IT-TAJJEB.

Tagħkom fi Kristu,  
Sr Claudia Zammit  
*Superjura Provinciċjali*

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**F’għeluq is-70 Sena mill-mewt ta’ Madre Margerita**  
Sr Anne Marie Mifsud

Hekk kif kisret sena ġdida, Bdejt int tgħodd l-aħħar ftit jiem Le kont taf li ż-żmien kien wasal Biex fil-ġenna tmur fis-sliem.	Kelma waħda dejjem f’fommok Ejja nħobbu lill-maħbub, Għax id-dinja le ma tafu U mill-qlub dejjem maħrub.
Għaddew b’kollox sebgħin sena Mindu mort hdejn il-Missier, Tant ħabbejtu f’ħajtek kollha Qatt ma ridtu jkun frustier.	Fittxu morru dejjem għandU Ha jwettaqkom f’kull tigrib, Hu jkun is-soluzzjoni Le ma jkun hemm bżonn tħassib.
X’hin ħallewk il-forzi kollha, U hdejh iktar le stajt tmur, Minn kamartek kont tħabbatlu U jiftaħlek kien fiż-żgur.	Fl-aħħar ngħidu grazzi ‘l Alla Għax għalija int kont omm, Le ma ħrabtx mis-salib aħrax ‘Mma bqajt dejjem m’Alla żzomm.

Grazzi lilek tal-qlubija,  
Tal-eżempji kbar u sbieħ,  
Qatt ma ridt li qalb l-Imgħallem  
Tkun tonqosha ftit mill-ġieħ.



## St Nicholas and spreading the Christmas spirit throughout December

St Francis Gozo

This year we have decided to celebrate Christmas with a difference at our school. We can note that for some, Christmas has become synonymous with presents, presents and more presents. We would like to educate our children to realise that Christmas is about giving and sharing, not only material goods but also joy, friendship and peace. We also want them to realise that Father Christmas was created on the person of St Nicholas who was a Christian bishop who helped the needy. By time he became Santa Claus, Father Christmas, but mostly for financial gain, in the process encouraging us to purchase more things, to want more presents, to “need” more.



So our Christmas celebrations started on the feast of St Nicholas, that was the 6th December. On that day St Nicholas visited our school to collect toys from our students to be given to other children who are in need, or else to be sold to those parents who realise that there is no need to purchase new expensive toys for their children – second-hand, almost new toys will suffice. Individual photos were taken of each child with St Nicholas. For that day also, Kinder 1 educators and children prepared a small gift to be distributed by St Nicholas in gratitude to each child. Parents have been asked to send a donation, which together with money we usually spend on gifts, were sent to help the homeless who attend the Franciscan Soup Kitchen in Valletta, run by Fr Marcellino.



Pupils from different classes brought different ingredients so that Staff members can



prepare Christmas logs for sale. These were cooked by the LSEs, led by Mr Christian “our expert chef” on Parents’ day. Orders were taken from parents, and the rest were sold at the school door. We received many orders from parents, booking a log or two. On the day of the sale, students stood at the school entrance and sang Christmas carols. Money collected were also given to needy families.

Hopefully, in this way, we instilled in our students a desire to help others, as they experienced the joy of giving, of thinking about those who are less fortunate than they are.

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## St Francis Bormla

### Mawra sal-Belt Valletta

miktuba minn Leah Naudi

F'din il-mawra żorna ħafna postijiet interessanti u stajna napprezzaw l-istorja u l-kultura Maltija. Rajna ħafna bini antik, knejjes qodma, monumenti u postijiet importanti bħall-Parlament.

Rajna wkoll is-swar tal-Belt li ddisinja Francesco Laparelli. Dawn is-swar huma b'saħħithom ħafna għax huma mħaffrin fil-blat. Kien interessanti li sirna nafu li fil-Parlament jittieħdu d-deċiżjonijiet importanti għal Malta. Ftit passi 'l bogħod mill-Parlament insibu l-Pjazza ta-Teatru Rjal li llum il-ġurnata qed jintuża bħala teatru miftuħ. Vicin il-Pjazza De Vallette rajna żewġ knejjes żgħar. Waħda minn dawn il-knejjes, il-Knisja tal-Vitorja, kienet l-ewwel bini li sar fil-Belt Valletta. Meta wasalna hdejn il-Berġa ta' Kastilja rajna monumenti ta' persuni li għamlu ħafna ġid għal pajjiżna fosthom dak ta' Manwel Dimech li ħadem biex Malta ma tibqax maħkuma mill-barranin. Il-Kavallieri bnew ħafna bini importanti ġewwa l-Belt, fosthom il-Berġa ta' Aragona.

Din il-mawra ser nibqa' niftakarha għax flimkien ma' sħabi tgħallimt ħafna fatti interessanti fuq il-Belt Valletta.





**A Special Visit To Our School**

by Matthias Spiteri

Last February, a number of teachers taking part in the Erasmus project ‘Mindfulness and Wellbeing in European Schools’ visited St Francis Primary School in Cospicua. The participating countries included Italy, Portugal, Croatia, Estonia, Ireland and Malta. They were welcomed by the staff and the students.

The Year 5 and Year 6 classes prepared a show for each of the countries in the yard. Our class, for example, sang a traditional Irish song, while everyone of us held the Irish flag. They really enjoyed this show and they even joined in our singing and dancing. Greetings in the different languages were also prepared, and as soon as we finished all we had prepared to make them feel welcome, the representatives started cheering and clapping. We learnt so much about these European countries, and from the expression on their face we could see that it was a memorable day and experience for all of them and for us too.



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**St Francis Sliema**

**Celebrating the feast of St Francis**

By Claire-Elise Borg

Today, Monday 4th October, our school celebrated the feast of St Francis. The feast of St Francis is one of the most important feasts for our school as St Francis is our patron Saint.

Our day started with a very interesting assembly during which students from the EkoSkola team spoke about St Francis and sustainability, while transmitting a Power





Point presentation to the whole school. This was the first of many activities we put up during the day. After assembly, a speaker from the University of Malta, Prof Paul Pace, came to talk to us about why this feast is so important. Prof Pace gave an interesting presentation during which he spoke about St Francis and all the challenges this saint had to face throughout his life, and why we should follow his example and care for the environment.



After Prof Pace's presentation the form 3s, 4s and 5s had a debate related to sustainability, where we discussed whether the quality of life that previous generations have left us is satisfactory. Half the class agreed with the statement and half was against. It was really fun to hear all the different opinions, and at times the argument became loud and heated as the students were very involved. Meanwhile the form 1s and 2s played a game related to sustainability, took part in a quiz related to the environment and made beautiful crafts.



After this it was time for break and everyone was given a vanilla ice cream to enjoy. Once we all finished our lunches, during break, which was longer than usual, it was time to end the school day. We celebrated mass, transmitting it to all classes, ending our school day on a good note.



This 4th of October was a different day at St Francis School Sliema, but it was something we needed to do and which we enjoyed.





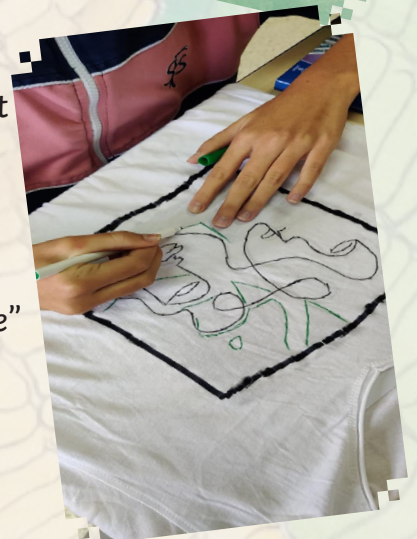
## A Different Way of Celebrating St Francis Day.

by Alessia Galea Pulo

Believe it or not, nowadays celebrating the feast of St Francis has a more powerful and relative meaning for all of us here at St Francis School. Since St Francis is the patron saint of animals and ecology, we must be advocates of the environment.

St Francis Secondary School Sliema used this opportunity to raise awareness about important environmental issues amongst its students. Various activities were organised on Monday 4th October 2021. During assembly, some students delivered a PowerPoint presentation about the importance of our environment. The main message was that “We are part of the solution, not part of the problem”. As Saint Francis lived his life emphasising the importance of the environment, we must also follow in his footsteps. In fact, for several years, our school has been rewarded with the Green Flag to celebrate the ecological achievements of our students. Pope Francis’s message was shared in this presentation. He strongly believes that: “Environmental education...needs educators...for ecology”. Pope Francis also believes that: “Everyone’s talents and involvement are needed to redress the damage.”

Afterwards, Prof. Paul Pace, who works at the Faculty of Education at the University of Malta, spoke to the students about environmental sustainability. Prof. Pace referred to ‘Laudato Si’, a document written by Pope Francis in which he expressed his thoughts about caring for our planet. To do so we must keep St Francis in mind since he was the “example par excellence” of an environmental activist. His life was a living proof of an integral ecology that integrated: love of nature, justice to the poor, engagement in society and inner peace. It was emphasized that most of our problems happen because we, as humans, do not care about one another. When Francis was young, he lived a carefree and rich life since he came from an aristocratic family. Yet, his heart always





held a place for the poor and the environment. The phrase said by Jesus; “Go rebuild my house”, radically changed and characterised Francis’s life. In fact, he renounced all his riches and popularity and was socially excluded. He found peace and tranquillity in God and nature. Francis brought an absolute change in the Church’s mentality by his poor lifestyle. A poor man like Francis managed to hold the Church together.

Prof Pace continued to explain that Saint Francis’ legacy passed from one generation to another. For example, Wangari Maathai (1940-2011), who was a Kenyan political activist, won the Nobel Peace Prize for battling deforestation in Kenya. She led some women to plant trees, fight soil erosion and water pollution. Severn Cullis-Suzuki (1979- ) started the Environmental Children’s Organization and argues that it is our responsibility to act for our environment from a young age. Lately, Greta Thunberg (2003- ) “the girl who silenced the world for five minutes” is also deeply concerned about the environmental situation of our Earth.

Another interesting activity organized by our school was a debate for the Form 5 students. Several students were divided into two groups, and the rest of the students were the audience. One team agreed that our ancestors left a sustainable environment for future generations whilst the other team disagreed. Several ideas were presented such as the increase of building in the Maltese islands, the cutting down of trees and the issue of Global Warming. Students took this debate very seriously and it was a very interesting debate.

We students will certainly remember the celebration of the feast of St Francis. The activities the school put up added to the meaning of this celebration. Through these activities, students can surely relate to St Francis because even though hundreds of years have passed since his death, his message is still very relevant to us!





## **Milied li Jimla l-Qlub 2021 at St Francis Sliema, an occasion for compassion, empathy and togetherness**

By Amy Falzon

Every year, students at Saint Francis Secondary School Sliema come together to support organisations which help people in need in our society. They do this by putting up an annual activity, 'Milied li Jimla l-Qlub', throughout the month of December. During this period, the students, teachers and the SMT of the school try to help different organisations fulfil their charitable mission.



For Christmas 2021 the organisation which we chose to help was 'The Soup Kitchen OFM', in Valletta. This organisation, run by Franciscan friars, cares for homeless people in society, and regularly distributes food to those in need. As part of the project organised by the members of the EkoSkola committee and co-ordinated by Ms. Vanessa Cachia, a collection box for groceries was set-up in each classroom, and students from Years 9 to 11 also donated money to buy other important supplies such as sanitisers, masks, medicine, socks, umbrellas, and toiletries. The supplies bought and collected were then donated to the Soup Kitchen on Monday 20th December, the day we officially celebrated 'Milied li Jimla l-Qlub' 2021.

Apart from the charitable aspect of the event, the EkoSkola committee also prepared a set of activities for the whole school so that students could celebrate Christmas in a meaningful way. These activities did not only focus on the philanthropic aspect of the event but also promoted communication skills, creativity, teamwork, physical activity, and various healthy methods and ways of enjoying oneself and





de-stressing. This year's activities included dance sessions, debates for older students, an adapted escape room and a series of brainteasers, to name a few.

A special assembly before the activities commenced, focused more on the religious aspect of celebrating Christmas, which is very important for the Franciscan community of which we are part. It's important to highlight that all of the activities organised were adapted to respect all the Covid-19 measures in place.



Each year the aspect of 'Milied li Jimla l-Qlub' to which all students look forward is undoubtedly the Christmas panto, which is written and put up by the dedicated educators at Saint Francis Secondary School Sliema. Undaunted by all the complications and restrictions due to Covid, these teachers recorded this year's version of the panto, so it could be streamed in all the classrooms and all the students could enjoy it safely. The effort of these teachers is greatly appreciated.

While working on and enjoying 'Milied li Jimla l-Qlub', the students are united to reach one common goal, that of helping our community and others in our society deal with the different challenges we face. This Catholic spirit brings groups of people within the school environment together to achieve a much greater result than one would be able to achieve by oneself, and to reach out to and help more people.

I was personally a part of these activities for the past five years and I am very grateful to have been involved. One of the purposes of 'Milied li Jimla l-Qlub' is to sensitise students to other people's needs, and to broaden our knowledge of organisations, no matter how small, which perform invaluable acts towards people in need. Assisting different groups of people each year has changed my perspective on Christmas, charity and what it really means to give a helping hand to those in need.



**“Ejjew inħobbu lil Ġesù  
l-iżjed ħelu tagħna li  
jħobbna infinitament!”**

**VENERABBLI QADDEJJA T'ALLA  
MADRE MARGERITA**



**SORIJET FRANĠISKANI  
TAL-QALB TA' ĠESÙ  
PROVINĠJA TA' MALTA**