



Obair an t-Soisgeul

In his Gaelic column this month, **ANDREAS WOLFF** reflects on the plight of the homeless and Pope Francis' dedication to the poor



AM FACA sibh am prògram air daoine gun dachaigh air BBC ALBA bho chionn ghoidid? Nochd fear sa phrògram aig an robh PhD agus a bha gun dachaigh. B' e an teachdaireachd a bh' ann gun faodadh a leithid tachairt do dhùine sam bith.

Fhuair mi fhìn an aon faireachdainn dar a thadhail mi air Coimhearsnachd Naomh Egidio anns an Ròimh. Is e buidheann de Chaitligich a th' anna a tha uile ag obair gu saor-thoileach. Tha na miltean a' gabhail pàirt ann. An toiseach thadhail mi air ionad-bidh. Trì tursan san seachdain bheir iad seachad biadh: do dhaoine a

tha feumach air. Ach an seo mhothaich iad nach eil na daoine sin acrach a-mhàin, tha iad cuideachd gann de charaidean. Thathas a' feuchainn ri bhith càirdeal riutha. Bidh feadhainn aca a' frithealadh na daoine bochda aig a' bhòrd m.e. Bhruidhinn mi ri dithis agus feumaidh mi aideachadh nach robh mi buileach cinnteach an toiseach an e daoine gun dachaigh a bh' anna no daoine a bha a' cuideachadh a' toirt seachad a' bhìadh. Fhuair mi a-mach gun robh a' chiad duine air a bhith a' fuireach air an t-sràid fad deich bliadhna. B' e fear gasta a bh' ann a bha dìreach air a bhith gu math mì-fhortanach. Bha tubaist air a bhith aige, chaill e obair agus an uair sin chaill e a dhachaigh. Thug a' Choimhearsnachd cuideachadh dhan dàrna duine gus àite-còmhnaidh a lorg agus bha esan anis a' cuideachadh sa chidsin seo. Chunnacas Eadailtich san àite sin cho math ri coigrich. Air là eile chaidh mi a-mach còmhla riutha dhan stèisean trèana, Roma Termini. Bidh iad a' dol ann uair san seachdain agus iad a' toirt biadh do dhaoine a bhios a' cadail an sin air an t-sràid. Bha boireannach bhon a' Choimhearsnachd os cionn ghnòthaich. Thug i air a h-uile duine seasamh ann an sreath agus bha mi fhìn is fear eile a' toirt seachad na ceapairean. Bha feadhainn dhiubh gu math modhail, ach cha tuirt a' mhòr-chuid aca facal. Dh'fheuch dithis ri argamaid a thòiseachadh, ach rinnear an gnothach gun sin a stad.

Gach feasgar bidh iad a' tighinn còmhla ann an Eaglais Naomh Mhoire an Trastevere sa Ròimh gus ùrnaigh a dhèanamh aig 8.30.

(Os cionn seo, Air do làimh chli) Coimhearsnachd Naomh Egidio air Ceàrnag Naomh Pheadair air làr dar a thuir am Pàp Prainnseas a' chiad Angelus aige. (Os cionn seo) Ùrnaigh làitheil le Coimhearsnachd Naomh Egidio an Eaglais Naomh Mhoire an Trastevere

Shaoilinn gun robh co-dhùit dà cheud neach ann. Air a' chiad Diluain gach mìos bidh iad ag ùrnaigh airson gach sgìre san t-saoghail far a bheil fòirneart a' dol an-dràsta. Tha an liosta aca cho fada. Ach thug iad lughdachadh air cuideachd ann an 1992. Is ann fo stiùir acasan a chaidh sith aontachadh ann an Mozambique an Afraga an dèidh 15 bliadhna de chogadh. Chunnac mise far an deach làmh a chur ris an aonta sna h-oifisean aca ann an seann mhanachainn ri taobh na h-eaglaise. Thadhail am Pàp Benedict XVI orra an-uiridh. Mar a bhiodh dùil tha iad a' dèanamh gairdeachas ri mar thuir am Pàp Prainnseas gun robh e ag iarraidh Eaglais bho chd agus Eaglais airson na daoine bochda. Airson 45 bliadhna tha iad air a bhith a' toirt cuideachadh dhaibhsan a tha feumach air anns an Ròimh agus ann an iomadh dùthaich eile air feadh an t-saoghail. Bheir buidheann bheag ann an Lunnainn biadh seachad m.e. Tha iad cuideachd an sàs ann an conaltradh le eaglaisean agus creideamhan eile m.e. le Eaglais Shasainn. Sin e bhuamsa às an Ròimh. Gus an ath-mhìos: Beannachd Leibh.

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Ann am Beurla (In English)

HOMELESSNESS can affect anyone, even people with a PhD. When I visited a soup kitchen by the Community of St Egidio in Rome recently I was not sure at first whether the two men I interviewed were homeless or helpers. The first one told me he had been living in the street for ten years due to unfortunate circumstances, whereas the second had found a flat with the help of the community and was now a helper himself. Thousands of Catholic lay people are involved in this group in Rome and around the world. They try to be friends with the poor and in this soup kitchen they serve them at the table. I also went to Roma Termini train station where they hand out sandwiches once a week. Some showed gratitude but many were just silent. There were Italians as well as foreigners. My job was to hand out tuna sandwiches.

At some point an argument started but a woman from the community did well at avoiding an escalation. Every evening more than 200 people gather in the Basilica di Santa Maria in Trastevere. On the first Monday of the month they pray for peace in the world. A long list of places where there is war is read out. But they managed to shorten the list. One of their greatest achievements is the peace agreement for Mozambique which was signed in Rome in 1992 after 15 years of civil war in the African country. Pope Benedict XVI visited them last year and they also rejoiced when Pope Francis said that he wanted a poor Church and a Church for the poor. The community have a soup kitchen in London as well and promote ecumenism, for example, through dialogue with the Anglican Church.