

'Fratelli tutti' and Giorgio La Pira

Webinar

Justice and Peace OP Europe

13th Jan 2022

Giorgio La Pira lay dominican

1904 Pozzallo (Sicily) - 1977 Florence



1926

Florence - professor Roman law

1946

Political engagement - Italian Constitution

1951- 1965

mayor of Florence

1965-1977

promotor of peace and human rights

1. In the footsteps of Francis of Assisi



2. Prophetic reading of time (FT chapter I)

- "...an increasing massified world that promotes individual interests and weakens the communitarian dimension of life." (FT 12)
- Invitation to hope
 - We began to realize that our lives are interwoven with and sustained by ordinary people valiantly shaping the decisive events of our shared history..." (FT 54)

- Apocalyptic ridge of history
- in spe contra spem



3. Poor people's expectations

- "What do poor people (the unemployed and the needy in general) expect? The answer is clear: a government with a single objective, in a certain sense, structured organically with this in mind: the organic fight against unemployment and poverty. In other words, a government seriously aiming (through the application of all the appropriate technical, financial, economic and political devices) at maximum employment and, at the limit, at 'full employment'"

4. Fraternity: need of the Gospel and of humanity (FT chapter II)



La Pira with Aldo Moro and Giuseppe Dossetti

5. The human person open to relationship

"The true worth of the different countries of our world is measured by their ability to think not simply as a country but also as part of the larger human family. This is seen especially in times of crisis" (FT 141)



- "The person has his own inner freedom and expresses himself in many communities that are like concentric circles, which start from man, pass through the family, integrate into the 'city', into the nation; they reach the whole family of nations: the person who expands... The draft constitution had this dominant thought: the concept of the person who expresses himself in many growing communities, which integrate him without oppressing him" (La Pira)

6. Social function of property (FT chapter III)

- “The right to private property can only be considered a secondary natural right, derived from the principle of the universal destination of created goods” (FT 120)
- Actions of La Pira as mayor of Florence

7. Local and global. Between city and world



- "Each city and each civilisation is organically linked, by means of an intimate connection and exchange, to all the other cities and all the other civilisations: they all form together a single great organism. Each for all and all for each"
 - (opening speech at the meeting of the mayors of the capital cities in Florence in 1955)



La Pira with Taha Hussein (Egypt)

8. War impossible, peace inevitable

“war is the negation of all rights and a dramatic assault on the environment (FT 257)

The path of Jesaiah

9. Non-violence as a method

- the 'non-violence of the strong'
- "The 'new frontier' of history is, therefore, lucidly indicated by Gandhi: it is that of Isaiah himself, that of the 'transformation of weapons into ploughs'".



Conclusion: dream and responsibility

"It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity..."

Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travellers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all". (FT 8)

"...the peace (and disarmament) of peoples; the (multiple) unity of peoples; the (distributive) justice of peoples; the grace (and holiness and beauty) of the human person and of peoples. Is all this a dream? No, it is the inevitable task that is responsibly entrusted to all peoples - and to each one - precisely at this turning point in history!"

SUL CONFINE

GIORGIO LA PIRA
Vangelo e impegno politico

Giorgio La Pira (1904-1977), originario di Pozzallo in Sicilia, professore di diritto romano a Firenze, laico domenicano e impegnato nell'apostolato per i poveri, lucido oppositore del fascismo, uno tra i padri della Costituzione italiana, sindaco di Firenze e animatore del ruolo delle città, profeta di ecumenismo, di disarmo e di pace, fu nel contesto del Novecento un testimone del Vangelo. Egli pose insieme un orientamento limpido di fede a un altrettanto chiaro impegno civile e politico dalla parte dei poveri, impegnandosi per una società equa e solidale e per un mondo in cui le armi fossero trasformate in aratri e si aprissero vie di disarmo e di pace. Radicato nella fede biblica maturò l'intuizione di una vocazione di Dio per i popoli discendenti di Abramo – ebrei, cristiani e musulmani – chiamati a vivere, attorno al mare Mediterraneo, relazioni di dialogo e di pace. Intuizione guida del suo pensiero era ciò che egli indicava come «il sentiero di Isaia»: la storia del mondo è paragonabile al corso di un fiume che sotto la spinta della grazia va verso la sua foce, la pace e l'unità dei popoli. La sua testimonianza continua oggi a interrogare un tempo che vive sfide analoghe a quelle da lui affrontate e a cui rispose con attitudine di fede e dialogo in vista di una fraternità universale.



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Alessandro Cortesi – Marco Pietro Giovannoni
Pietro Domenico Giovannoni

Giorgio La Pira

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Nerbini

Thank you for your attention

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