

OLYMPIC PEACE for TOKYO 2020 (2021)

For 13 years we have been proposing and promoting the OLYMPIC PEACE TRUCE (in Ancient Greek *ἐκεχειρία*, /ekecheiría/) which for the OLYMPIC GAMES of the past was a fundamental factor. It was not only a guarantee for athletes and spectators, but it also marked the SACRED NATURE of the events from Olympia onwards.

Over time, though, it has seemed difficult to confirm and affirm that priority of PEACE, until the national committees and the International Olympic Committee have ceased to consider it essential.

Yet we think that today and precisely today that priority is important, since over 30 countries in the world are at war and yet they compete and exhibit their own flags shedding tears of solitude and suffering. It would be nice if the achievement of the OLYMPIC TRUCE was not considered impossible, in case all PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES IN THE OLYMPICS, exceeding in number the member States of the United Nations, were to sign for it.

In 2008 for the Olympic Games in Beijing our application for a visa to enter China was rejected because the promotion of PEACE was considered alien to the Olympic spirit. Since then, in the awareness that history is very often disregarded, as the DALAI LAMA himself also stressed when he wrote that HUMAN RIGHTS and PEACE were absent in BEIJING 2008, we have taken that beautiful MISSION to heart. It would be marvelous to promote everlasting PEACE, PEACE and just that... YET we could be content with 20 days of OLYMPIC TRUCE, which would not be so bad, a sort of appetizer with a sweet taste that anyone would really enjoy... for ever!! ☺

Who can forget what happened at the Olympic Village in Munich in 1972 when some Israeli athletes and accompanying staff were killed ... No-one could have imagined that and so no-one could protect them.

THEREFORE, the Truce is truly necessary!

Our PEACE proposal was extremely successful during the 2012 London GAMES! How many people signed for Peace, how many testimonials, athletes and spectators were photographed, including the Italian gymnastics champion Jury Chechi and many more. All of them were convinced that the OLYMPIC TRUCE is genuinely important!! It was so exciting to see the television broadcast of a bicycle flying over the stadium at the opening of the OLYMPIC GAMES, along with the WINGS of PedAlIamo Insieme [LET US PEDAL TOGETHER], our own prophetic association which started the MISSION in 2008. And above that stadium, from the top (of the TV screen), a beautiful PHOTO of myself with a medal as a happy wish.

What came as a great surprise for the volunteering world and for the association PEDALIAMO INSIEME [LET US PEDAL TOGETHER] which had started, just like a drop in the ocean, to promote this kind of promotional activity in favor of peace, was that in August 2013, during the WORLD YOUTH DAY in RIO de Janeiro, on the Town Hall balcony, POPE FRANCIS, kissed the Olympic flag in front of many young people and said that come three years, during the OLYMPIC GAMES, the priority of all priorities was to be PEACE, just as the inventors of the SACRED GAMES IN OLYMPIA had set.

We were happy to hear that appeal coming from the POPE, who in the end became for us **the best TORCHBEARER**, a generous and courageous prophet of PEACE and also the first HEAD OF STATE to do so. Of course, we had also been pleased with the wishes from President Napolitano for London 2012. Nonetheless, the clear cry of **POPE FRANCIS in RIO** marked a new stage in the promotion of OLYMPIC PEACE. With this great fuel and encouragement, we enhanced our promotional action even more, as shown by some photos attached herewith, particularly those taken in Krakow during the World Youth Day, exactly one month before the Games in Brazil. All were deeply involved, all became protagonists of the PROMOTION OF PEACE. HOW MANY SMILING PICTURES and how many favourable sponsors amongst

the youths, their trainers and leaders such as Mons. GianCarlo Bregantini, POPE FRANCIS' spokesman, Fr Federico Lombardi and Card. Angelo Bagnasco, in loving memory of POPE KAROL, great witness of that harmony between SPORTS and PEACE. And in 2016 for the JUBILEE AND OLYMPIC PEACE, many other more SIGNATURES FOR PEACE by my students and colleagues, ordinary people, as well as representatives of politics, international representatives and members of different religious groups.

Then, in RIO many many ATHLETES joined the OLYMPIC PEACE campaign, such as the Italian Paralympic athlete ALEX ZANARDI with his competitors, and other Greek athletes and managers, whom I urged above all to feel proud of claiming their right to RESTORE THE TRUCE. But we are equally pleased if ITALIANS are privileged enough to fight this rightful and beautiful battle for PEACE! Ultimately the Magna Grecia region is entitled to do so: PEDALIAMO INSIEME [LET US PEDAL TOGETHER], our association with the colours of Europe in its logo, is based in ancient Magna Grecia and I am personally grateful to my students for what GREECE invented, namely PHILOSOPHY, DEMOCRACY as well as the OLYMPIC GAMES.

The whole of Europe today can only be proud of that in its leading role in promoting PEACE and human rights, anywhere, because no wars have been waged within its borders for many years, a feat for which it was also awarded the **NOBEL PRIZE FOR PEACE!**

We believe we ought to follow the example set by POPE FRANCIS who gave a great promotional demonstration without making us feel too small (the best things are often revealed to little ones...) in the Olympic grandstand where the organizers and sponsors would not think it is possible for the LIGHT of PEACE to shine again (even in the Olympic torch). That light is beyond all beauty and in fact highlights the beauty of Olympic athletes who simply love sport and are saved by that beauty. Besides, in PANAMA at the end of January 2019, during those special Youth Days, so many young people from all over the world, not only from Italy, but also from other European countries, showed their local Latin American peers among others how to be the protagonists of a HISTORIC MOMENT which in TOKYO they will be able to experience with greater awareness and engagement.

To tell you the truth, I would really like to devote two days of my holidays, or rather of my OLYMPIC MISSION to an event in HIROSHIMA or NAGASAKI next August. I imagine POPE FRANCIS blessing me on my departure saying 'Come on, MARIA CARMELA, let us set off the bomb of PEACE !!

He has said it so many times, but for an event IN JAPAN it would be a beautiful paradox indeed!! ☺

I dream that in TOKYO someone, why not? my grandma!!, may hand on to the Emperor's own daughter a TROPHY OF PEACE (coming from Italy...), containing the SACRED OIL (perhaps the new "BergOil" olive oil variety), the very same SACRED OIL which was used to anoint athletes, who in the world of ancient Greece fraternally fought for a fairer and more equitable world and felt that THEIR MISSION came from Heaven, and so it was truly precious and beneficial to everyone!

I wish it could become her first unexpected responsibility, a sign and a dream for the next EMPRESS OF JAPAN (if so please her and GOD too) ☺

THANKS TO **YOU** who are reading this now and thanks for everything you will set into MOTION to promote **OLYMPIC PEACE with US.**

Maria Carmela Dibattista