

**FROM CLC ITALY:
THE EXPERIENCE OF PALERMO**

Our Inspiration

The First Two Years

2007: A New Experience

The Relationship

Which Immigrants

Joys and Sorrows

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Our Gospel Inspiration:

"I Was a Stranger
and You Welcomed Me"



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From CLC General Principles

4.especially aware of the pressing need to work for justice through a preferential option for the poor...

5.Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius as the specific source

8.participating in efforts to liberate the victims from all sorts of discrimination....

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a small group of CLC members and
a larger group of people
from different realities
sharing the call for a mission

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2004

**We started
with basic Italian lessons
at Jesuits college "Gonzaga"**

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2007

**We opened
a day-time welcome centre
in the old city core. . .**

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... performing a series of activities
from medical care to legal aid
and basic needs satisfaction

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**Day by day, our open door
give us the opportunity
*to meet the people in the their real needs
to know their life condition
to listen to their problems. . .***

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...that is very different
from a classroom setting
where the only possible relationship is
between the teacher and his/her students

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This involves

the establishment of a human contact
between two people who talk to each other
sharing the same feeling
of mutual understanding
with a view of becoming friends

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**It, also, involves the emphasis on the
"person" way beyond the tangible help
(food, advice, . . .) and aimed at
highlighting him/her as
*a brother, a sister, a God's son***

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Who is the immigrant
knocking at the door
of our centre?

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The geographic position of Sicily produces
a particular typology of immigrants
arriving and staying in Palermo

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They land in Lampedusa
from a *overcharged boat* and
are locked in a *welcome centre*
like prison inmates for many weeks



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Those who can demonstrate
their right to obtain the *refugee status*,
are sent to another centre
where they wait
for the result of their request

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Upon rejection of their request
(which happens most of the times),
they are supposed to go back to
their home country within short notice ...

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Nevertheless,
they all stay and reach Palermo
looking for a shelter, a job, some food..
some aid

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These are the immigrants
we meet at our door
These are the situations
that make us feel *bad and helpless*

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*Our daily contacts with the migrants
are, often, painful situations
and it is difficult for us
not to lose our hope*

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We try to do *our best*
knowing that it's far from...
...being enough
compared to *their needs*

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But for us it's a *personal grace*
and for the whole CLC
a growth in the sense of mission

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