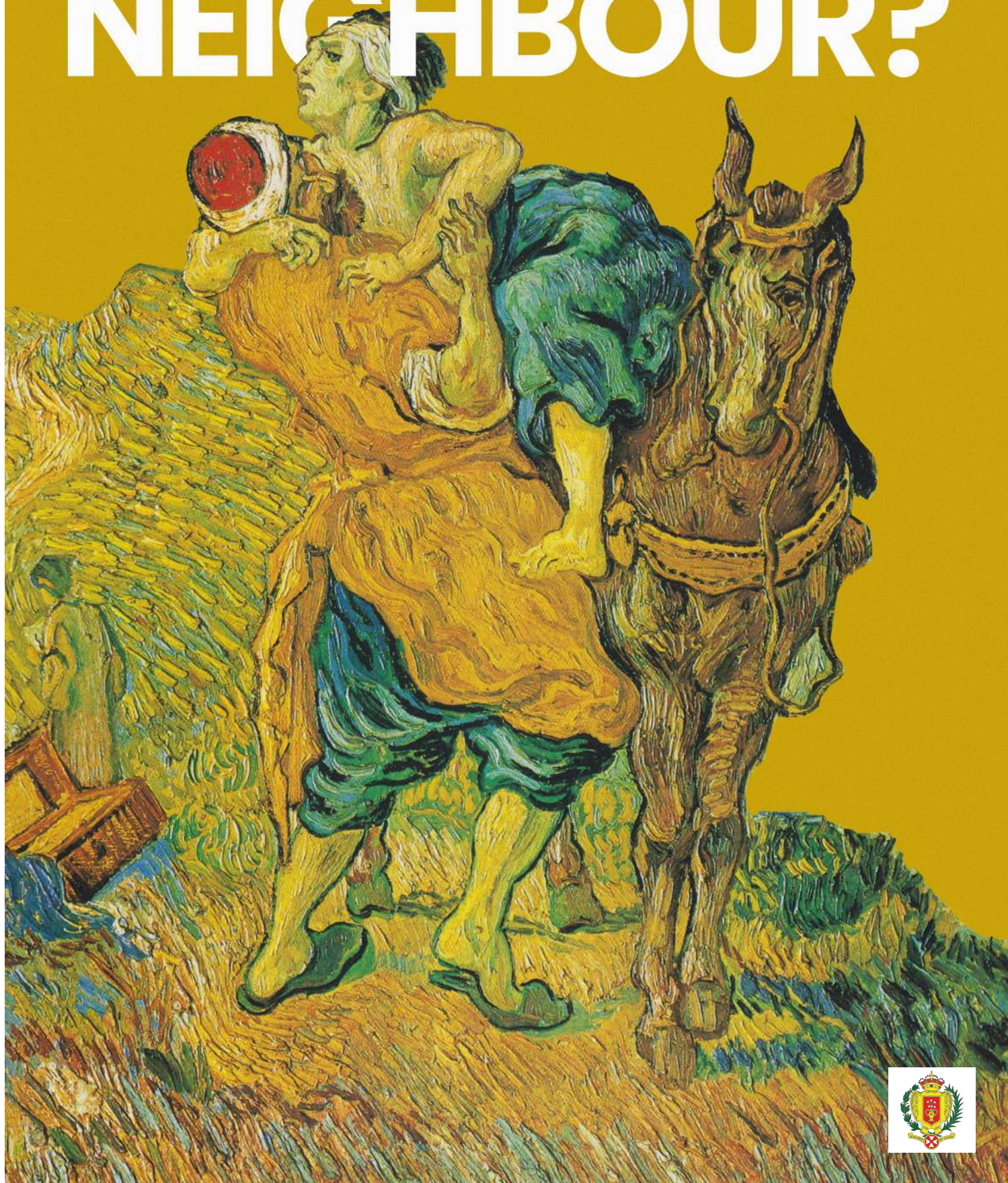


WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?







MOTIVATION

We prepare ourselves for a moment of prayer, of encounter with myself, with the God-Trinity, with the Community. I am calming the noises that inhabit me, the worries... and I become aware of the presence of God within me, in the Community, in history. We remember that the first Sisters said: "All the activity and vigour of the soul is based on prayer: from it, the soul receives strength to act virtuously, and from it the soul draws breath to run quickly along the path of piety and perfection." (Const. 1824, page 95).

SONG: CARE, mantra <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B10rye-YEXqQ>

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE (Lk 10, 25-37)

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?." He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?." And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?." Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii[a] and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, "Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?." He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."



SONG: CARE, mantra <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B10ryeYEXqQ>

REFLECTION

J.A. Pagola tells us that “the narration of the ‘Good Samaritan’ is not just another parable, but rather the one that best expresses, according to Jesus, what it means to be truly human. The Samaritan man is a person who sees someone who is hurt on his way, approaches, reacts with mercy and helps him in whatever way he can. This is the only way to be truly human: to react with mercy.”

The important thing in life is not to theorize a lot or discuss at length about the meaning of existence, but to walk like the Samaritan man, with our eyes open to help anyone who may be in need. “When one leaves the problem of love unresolved and does not courageously face this adventure of fraternity, he covers his nakedness, his failure, his not being truly a man, with two masks that apparently have a lot of thickness, but are weak as the morning fog: money and power.” (Arturo Paroli) Our life acquires a different colour and joy when we are able to renounce selfish interests to dare to act in a more fraternal and solidary way. Going with the eyes open to stop for those who may need help. We are invited to “move from hostility to hospitality.”¹

¹ Pagola, J.A. “The path opened by Jesus”, Luke, page 178.

YOU, matter,



OUR CONSTITUTIONS

The Constitutions of 1824, on page 4, tell us: “Because in reality the sacrifice of charity is more pleasing to God than every victim, burnt offering and any other works, which cannot be holy unless they are accompanied by charity; from which all good works sprout, as the many branches of a tree come from its root”, text taken from the homilies of St. Gregory.

These Constitutions also remind us of how to live charity: serving the sick, of all kinds of illnesses, out of charity, “without temporal interest”, even exposing health and temporal life for the health and temporal life of our neighbours.

“We share the life and mission of the Church, the people of God and Body of Christ, through welcome, service and announcement of the Gospel, especially to the poorest and the neediest, in an attitude of dialogue, overcoming any kind of frontiers” (cf. Const. 2011,8).

“The gift and welcome of the SCSA is born from the love of Jesus Christ and the love to the poor of Jesus Christ. Love is availability, desire to serve, promptness in welcoming and in love; it is also care, delicacy, detail. Love overflows all protocol and is not limited to the logic of obligation.”²

“This welcome full of human and evangelical quality that is hospitality, is made possible by a “contemplative” way of placing ourselves before the people we meet in life. The contemplative gaze is an attentive gaze, which avoids superficiality and haste, it is listening, an attentive listening that not only perceives words but also heartbeats; it involves using the five senses to enable the deepest possible encounter experience with the other person.”³

² Mollá Llácer, D., “Charity made hospitality, humility and heroism”, page. 18.

³ Ibid. págs. 18 y 19.

SONG: MY HANDS ARE THE LORD'S HANDS: <https://youtu.be/rLoBzpdXiG4?si=nzjt-3BuOG3qOgl0q>

Whatever you do to the least of my people: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=RE-2VW5DLoyk&feature=shared>

I ASK MYSELF

What remains in my heart from the texts I have read? I remember words, phrases, impressions, experiences...

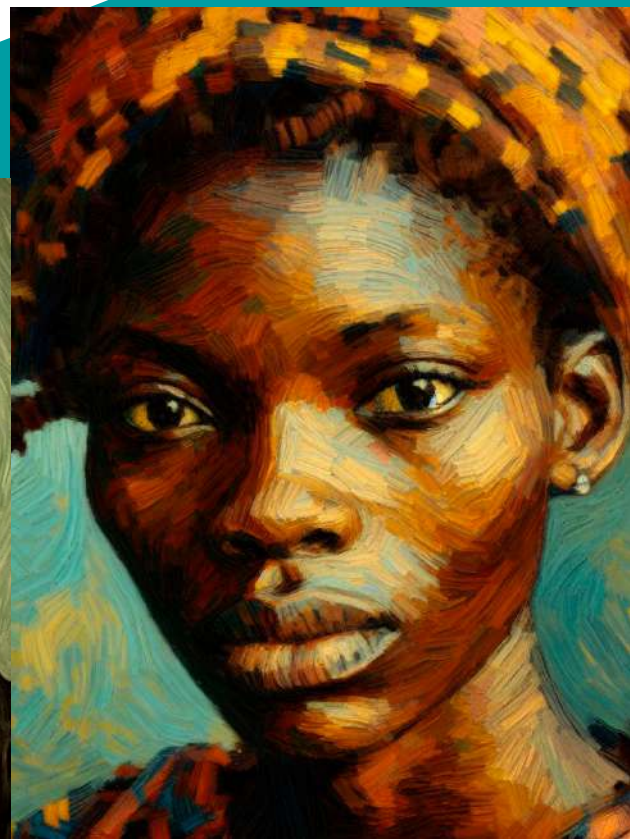
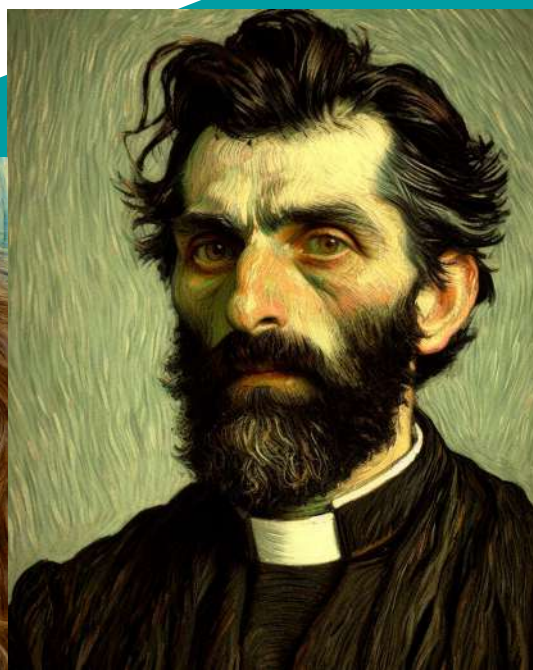
Which people are suffering around me? What has been my reaction to their suffering? Have I closed my eyes? Have I changed my way? Have I gotten close?

Which people have I made suffer? Under what circumstances?

*Which people, situations... have made me suffer?
Which people, events... have been Good Samaritan for me?*

What can I do in my Community, in the Center where I work... so as to listen to the people who suffer?

We share experiences in Community and make commitments to avoid sufferings, and to be close of those who suffer.



FINAL PRAYER

THE PRESENCE OF GOD
FILLS THE EARTH.
THE CARING GOD
INVITES US TO CARE.

TO CARE,
RECOGNISING IN EACH PERSON
THE DELICATE LIFE
THAT IS WITHIN,
WHICH OPENS UP STEP BY STEP
AT EVERY INSTANT.

TO CARE,
BY SENSITISING ALL OF US,
IN VALUING EACH OTHER,
ONE ANOTHER.

TO CARE,
BY RESPECTING AND PROTECTING.

TO
CARE,
FOR CARING.





**SISTERS OF CHARITY
OF SANTA ANA
Zaragoza**