

OUR HISTORY

October 7, 1951 marks the beginning of the history of the community, when Fr. Andrea Gasparino, a young priest of the diocese of Cuneo, Italy, welcomed the first five street children and began living with them. The boys were homeless and without a family, the outcome of the second world war (1940-1945).

Since then the number of boys kept increasing, and that was the start of the Boys' Town ("Città dei Ragazzi" in Italian).

Fr. Andrea became known as " the Father" (i.e. " Il Padre" in Italian) of the boys. At first some lay volunteers joined him and together they cared for the boys. Among them there were some young girls who, within a few years, became the first religious sisters belonging to the community.

Since the beginning everything has been lived in complete trust to the Providence of God. Meanwhile the importance of prayer becomes quite clear, indeed the core of their lives, especially in order to be able to face with faith the sufferings and problems of the boys and entrust them to God,.

February 11, 1959 marks the most significant turning point about the priority given to prayer, when perpetual adoration to the Blessed Sacrament started in the central community.

Since then the brothers and sisters of the Community felt a growing need to commit themselves to serve the lowliest especially in developing countries. The dream became a reality when the first sisters left for ***Brasil in 1961***; and afterwards other sisters left for other Countries in Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe.

The life of all the fraternities in different parts of the world is built on two pillars: prayer, which is always centered on the Eucharist, and sharing the life of the poor especially their rejection. We do not build big structures, we want a friendly relationship with each individual.

In 1960s the community met religious brothers and sisters who followed the spirituality of Charles de Foucauld, and realised that there was a deep accord between their spirituality and ours. That is why we named the community "Contemplative Missionary Movement Fr. Charles de Foucauld".

At the same time the community feels the call to live among the poor and to share the gift of prayer and the Word of God with the youth, families and lay coworkers.

In 1990 the community was approved by the Holy See as "Contemplative Missionary Movement Charles de Foucauld"; thus it includes all people who share its spirituality in different ways of life.