



that every occasion in life generates, whether it be at work or play, or any other situation, if we could only eradicate in ourselves the idea that we are owed something, then we would be eternally grateful and excited about every opportunity.

In this way, slowly but surely, we are trying to carry out our work in the Occupational Programs, where a lot of people end up and through constant change we try to offer them a place to express themselves, at a time in their lives when there is no other job allowing them to do so. This is what we offer, and we want them to be productive places, so that anyone using them can really benefit. Without this enthusiasm and desire to live every moment of this time and give fruit to our actions today, after I've been working with Caritas for more than six years, I would certainly be poorer. I'm not afraid to use this word because the economic criterion is only one of many ways of profiting that life offers us, and of course that's not what I mean.

Sometimes I feel like a young boy in the courtyard that still has much to learn. Sometimes at the end of the day I sit exhausted next to a passing colleague and we smile at each other, enjoying the beauty of what one simple working day can give us! ■

and consumer needs. In this busy environment life goes by, perpetuating the enthusiasm and energy of the young, the experience of the adults, ways of interpreting life, and encountering both prejudices and handshakes in support of a mutual effort. You know, sometimes when I write of our work, I wonder if anyone mocks my emphasis on highlighting normal days of work by describing the more or less exceptional nature of what goes on behind the scenes. It is possibly a clumsy attempt to insist on inviting everyone to enjoy the exceptional simplicity of what happens. There is no inheritance if not the wisdom provided by encountering and learning of others, gaining knowledge about life and its contradictions, about the good that an intelligent look can generate, and about the emotions which shape us into the people we are. Only in this way can the apparent banality of a job like ours become outstanding, and we can spend time well with those we welcome. Constant gratitude reinforces the idea that what we are doing is right, that we cannot live, even briefly, by simply going through the motions, because if we really perceive the potential good

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An old man was sitting on the wooden bench, staring into the distance and not asking for much in life. The boys in the courtyard glanced at him in a pitying manner, mocking his blank expression while tenderness and resignation were his only feelings. The old

man was brought back to reality for just one moment and seeing the boys, he smiled".

The Occupational Programs of Caritas are places where we meet, toil and hope. Whether you are twenty or sixty, age is irrelevant, whatever one is able to give they are called upon to do so. Work is the only tool

that we have, inevitably leading to meeting others, but both demand toil, and when there is no work available, each reserves hope. Our unemployed colleagues cover the whole area of Ticino, collecting and delivering goods that we sell to support social projects, guarding our services and managing market

WORKING and MEETING