

# The Announcing and Sharing Day

## What is an announcing and sharing day?

This Day was launched after the 2001 international pilgrimage in Lourdes. It has two purposes:

### Announcing, a mission

Faith and Light has been entrusted to us to be a sign in the world. We must be witnesses of the vocation of the person with intellectual disability. We are called to share the "Good News" that we received in the parish, the schools and the other movements. We suggest you to "Come and see!" Our sisters and brothers with a disability who are so often rejected open a way.

### Sharing, solidarity

We are a great family of 1500 communities in 80 countries of the world. As a family, some of us are wealthy, other ones less and others are very poor. As a family, we must help each other.

Our international family can only continue to live and grow if each community of each country is inventive, active and give their share. It starts from 1 euro or 1 dollar in the poorest countries up to 250 euro or dollars for the countries economically developed. Some communities even manage to find much more.

### How?

Since it started, some communities have been living their "Announcing and Sharing Day" with exciting and beneficial activities. Many testimonies have shown that organising that day involves the whole community around a project and has given a new impetus.

### When?

Every moment favours the organisation of the Announcing and Sharing Day: in February with the Feast of Light, during Lent or even during the summer to plan things outside...



Brigitta and her little daughter, Lubumbashi

Our Announcing and Sharing Day was very successful and we rose 350 euro for solidarity with Africa. The photos sent by the international Secretariat helped to make great panels for decorating the room. The faces of our brothers and sisters from Africa gave a beautiful meaning to our initiative.

In the morning, we animated the parish mass and the coordinator of our community introduced Faith and Light. In the afternoon, the community performed a mime of the Nativity. Many friends helped us to recite poems. A choir came to sing Christmas Carols... Christian, a person with disability and member of our community, had a huge success with his "ballad for a harmonica"!

## Here are some ideas for a good agenda

- Make a decision together and sufficiently early on about what aids will be used on the day. A show, mime, a performance or a concert (as in Japan and in France), a sale of cakes, pancakes or jam in prettily decorated little pots, flowers, bric-a-brac or flea market, raffles... calendars (as in Lebanon or Mauritius) or cards that can be made easily with a computer! Feel free to ask the international Faith and Light Secretariat for any photos from Faith and Light across the world, especially taken in the poorest countries. We can also organise a meal, a dinner dance...
- Make an open invitation to all your friends, parents, neighbours, acquaintances...
- Announce Faith and Light to the parish, to the Christian or local radios, or in the local newspapers. Share widely the agenda of the day...
- Be there on "D-Day" with everyone wearing their most beautiful smile!
- When everything is over, the coordination team can make an evaluation to see what went well and what needs to be improved next year. Write it down, we forget so quickly!
- And finally, don't forget to send the money raised to your provincial coordinator.



A booklet: "A few easy recipes to raise fund" is available at the International secretariat (1 €).



In the streets of York

Each year, for our Announcing and Sharing day, around 250 members of Faith and Light meet in the centre of York, which is one of the most beautiful cities in England, to sing Christmas carols in the streets. It attracts plenty of people. Friends hand out large numbers of Faith and Light leaflets and explain who we are and why we are singing in the street like this all together. On average, we collect 300 pounds for solidarity and everybody has a wonderful day....

We had decided to make Christmas cards and to sell them for the Announcing and Sharing Day. When they returned home, two people with Downs who took part described their day with pride and enthusiasm: *We drew cards to help other Faith and Light communities.* They were the ones who were giving. It's important to allow the weakest ones to be donors as well. It really confirms them. They know that they are fully members of the community.

On "D-day", each member of the community arrived with a bowl of pancake batter. A restaurant owner had lent us hot plates and we made our crêpes in the cathedral square. We had decorated everything with big crepe paper flowers in every colour and put up a small stand with information. What a success! After talking about Faith and Light at the end of the mass and inviting all the parishioners to gather outside, they all queued up to buy pancakes. The final crepe was sold by auction, in a festive atmosphere full of laughter: 35 euros!