

UNIVERSAL MANIFESTO OF THE EMMAUS MOVEMENT

"Serve first those who suffer most "

Adopted at the 1st General Assembly, Berne, May 1969

PREAMBLE

The name of our Movement -EMMAUS- comes from the Palestine town where two desperate recovered hope. This name shows all people, believer or non-believer alike, our mutual conviction that love alone can unite us and make us progress together.

The EMMAUS Movement was born in November 1949 from the encounter of:

- People who came to realize that they were in a privileged condition and who understood their social responsibilities in the presence of injustice,
- and people who had no longer any reason to live,

they both decided to combine their will and their actions in view of helping each other as well as those who suffer, because they believe that you can save yourself by saving others.

In order to achieve this, Communities were formed : they work in order to live and give.

Furthermore, some groups of friends or volunteers were formed in order to fight at the civil and private levels.

1. **Our law** is the one upon which depend, for all mankind, a meaningful life, true peace and joy for every person and society:
"Serve before yourself those who are less fortunate".
"Serve first those who suffer most".
2. **Our firm belief** is that the respect of this law must animate any pursuit of justice and consequently of peace among men.
3. **Our aim** is to help through our action every man, every society and every nation to live, assert and fulfil itself through communication and sharing, and with equal dignity.
4. **Our method** is based on the creation, support and animation of circles where all, feeling free and respected, can meet their own needs and help each other.
5. **Our first mean**, wherever feasible, is the recovery work which allows the revaluation of things and the increase of possibilities of emergency action to help those who suffer most.
6. **All other means**, making the awakening of consciences and challenge possible, must also be used in order to help or make others help first those who suffer most, by sharing their troubles and struggles, both private and civil, until the very roots of each particular ill disappear.
7. **Our freedom** : In the accomplishment of its task, EMMAUS is not subordinated to any ideal other than the one expressed in the Manifesto, and to no authority other than the one instituted within the Movement, according to its own constitution. It operates in accordance with the Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations, and in accordance with the fair laws of every society and nation, without any political, racial, linguistic, spiritual or other discrimination.

The acceptance of the contents of this Manifesto is the only thing required from anyone wishing to participate in our activity.

8. **Our members**: this Manifesto constitutes the simple and specific foundation of the EMMAUS Movement. It must be adopted and applied by any group wishing to become an active member.