

## COUNCIL OF CONGREGATION

### NEWS OF THE DAY

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## THE MIRACLE OF THE ARSENAL OF PEACE

At the end of our day out, the group is taken to the social work known as the Arsenal of Peace. Here, the Founder, Ernesto Olivera, and the Director, Rosanna, share their story of **the transformation of a wartime arsenal**, which manufactured all the weapons Italy needed in its various armed conflicts from the 16th century to the end of the 2nd World War, **into a place of peace**.



Founder Ernesto Olivera and manager Rosanna welcoming the group.

Damaged and abandoned, this **50,000 square metre** area was given to a small group of young people in the 1960s to turn into a peaceful space capable of meeting Turin's social needs.

Over the last few decades, this small group has grown into a fraternity of around 100 members and 1,500 volunteers open the doors of the Arsenal of Peace to those...

who need a place to stay, food to eat, Italian language lessons, a medical clinic where doctors, dentists, oculists... give their time and expertise free of charge to care for all the poor people who ask for its help.

The scenery of the first small chapel in the work bears witness to the painful cross carried by abused women and their children, displaced people... who knock on their door to arrive at the large, luminous cross of a recently built chapel. This Cross bears witness to the call for us to set foot on the darkness of our crosses, of our pain, to walk together towards the victorious Cross.

*The fraternity of the Arsenal de la Paix with its dedicated members and volunteers gives wings to hope in today's world.*

Sr Jocelyne Fallu, fdls

Day off - Visit to the Arsenale della pace



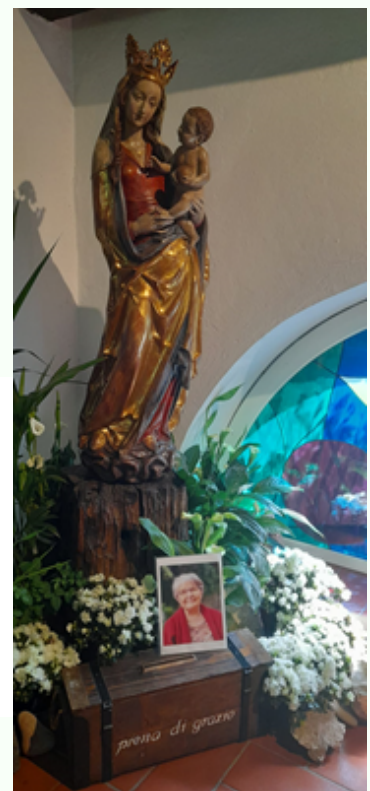
The main entrance to the former Italian arms factory, built before the First World War.

The pediment is adorned with four photos of the arms manufacturing process during and after the Second World War. The fourth photo in the series shows the state in which the factory was found in 1984.



This open, roofless space indicates that during the Second World War, the factory was bombed by the Germans. The bomb fell here. Founder M Ernesto wanted to leave this space roofless to signify that life rises from the ashes.

This little corner is dedicated to Mr Ernesto's wife. Together, they dreamed of taking action against world hunger and for peace. They put their project under Mary's protection.





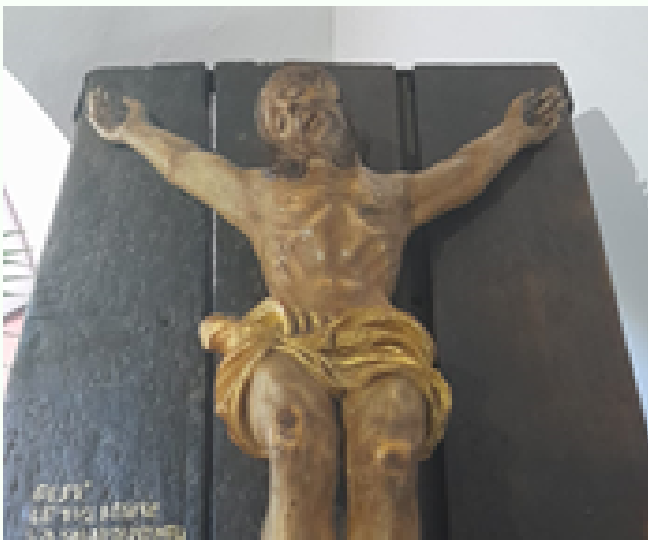
This chapel is called the **CROSS OF THE WORLD'S PAIN**. It's built entirely of materials from the former weapons factory. The nails on the cross represent war in the world and its victims.

All the wooden floorboards and furniture in the former armory are black to indicate the destructive and deadly effect of war, but God is present in the midst of suffering and victims, the dead and the living.



At first, their desire was to eradicate hunger, but God showed them other realities.

The Christ, the lamps, the tabernacle and the monument with the small flame were made from metals used in the manufacture of weapons of war. The door to the tabernacle is that of an old furnace used to melt weapons metal.



On this wall are written the names of all the countries in the world that have experienced war, and where the S.M.I.C. fraternity is present today to help and collaborate in various projects.





Ancient weapon-making machines are part of the scenery. Life, even of nature, has appeared over death.



This enormous hallway painting was created for refugee children who had come from different countries because of the war.



## CHAPEL OF LIFE, LIGHT AND PEACE



Death does not have the last word. Life can rise from ashes and evil