



THE HOSPITALITY IN NOMADELFIA

www.nomadelfia.it



Nomadelfia

Nomadelfia is a civil association of about 300 people, made up of about 50 families who live a full daily sharing of life, adhering to the same purposes expressed in a single educational project. They live as a community. The head office is in Italy, near Grosseto, while some families also live in Rome.

A family of families

Families live together in family groups. In Nomadelfia, there are 12 family groups. Each group is composed of about four or five families that share the same living room. However, every single family has autonomous (private) rooms for their sleeping quarters.

The minor with his family has a wealth of relationships in front of him every day that help him socialize and promote balanced growth.

Families open to welcome

Families are open to welcoming minors in a state of hardship or neglect, reported by the Social Service or the Juvenile Magistracy.

There are currently 100 minor children, and about one-fifth are welcomed.

Families share education

The children's education is carried in a shared way by the adults committed to the children's formation according to a prevailing pedagogical line.

Each child is offered the same opportunities without discrimination of any kind while respecting everyone's needs.

Mutual help between families offers children and families security and stability. It is also an effective way of dealing with complex situations.

Its story

The idea of Nomadelfia was born to Fr. Zeno (1900-1981). During his first Mass, he welcomed as a son a young man who had just come out of prison. Then, many others followed.

He did not want to create a boarding school but wanted to offer them the affection and care of a mother, the warmth of a family. Some young people and families in the village began to take care of those boys. Later, Fr. Zeno understood that it was also necessary to offer a living environment that considered the needs of each one, especially the children. This intuition of his, over time, materialized into the reality of what Nomadelfia is today. And from 1931 to the present, it welcomes and reintegrates about 5,000 minors into society.

AN EDUCATIONAL ACTION WITH THE CHILD AT THE CENTER

Nomadelfia offers children an educational proposal in which the values transmitted by parents find consensus and consistency in the living environment. The variety of experiences and relationships provided to children have an educational and re-educational value.

A family and living school

To accompany a child in all aspects of his growth, Nomadelfia has created a school from childhood to maturity. The family dimension remains in it, and life experiences are valued. The boys take the eligibility exams at state schools.

Educational and recreational activities

In the educational project, the children are involved in carrying out theatrical activities, dances and sports tournaments. It also proposes the study of a musical instrument or singing to those interested.

A life in contact with nature

The large spaces in which Nomadelfia lives allow children to live in contact with nature and as much as possible outdoors, educating them to respect the environment in which they live.

The Children's Congress

The community tries to educate the child to be a protagonist rather than a passive spectator. In this line, all children aged 12 to 21 participate in the congress, a body in which they are free to express their ideas, formulate proposals and organize recreational and training activities.

Life experiences on the path to autonomy

Autonomy is not acquired at the age of eighteen but becomes the result of a path built day by day. The relationships, educational and recreational proposals described above helps the child during his growth to become aware of himself. In addition, children following their age are involved in small daily tasks. Having practical experiences and acquiring technical skills facilitates the possibility of autonomy, allowing oneself to develop a sense of responsibility towards oneself and others.

WITH THE EYES AND HEART OF CHILDREN

In this reality, children breathe the profound sense and value of hospitality. Every child in his uniqueness feels "awaited". He or she, first and foremost, finds a space in the heart of the family and of the whole community that welcomes him. It is in this climate that the children grow up. And, through this school path, they can express what they live and what they consider meaningful.

Children's rights. What do you think is essential?

Every child has the right to be born, have a family, have school, be fed, play, be free, and experience the love of a father and a mother.

D. 8 years old

The first right of a child is to be born. We help all mothers in the world. When a child does not have parents, you must give him one immediately; otherwise, he suffers a lot, and it is not fair.

B. 10 years old

We must not abandon a born baby; we must all take care of it.

T. 10 years old

Every child has the right to be loved. We must help mothers who cannot keep their children not to kill them by telling them that we can keep them for as long as they need.

D. 8 years old

It is nice to be able to give mothers and fathers to those who do not have one.

N. 8 years old

A need for all children is to have a family consisting of a father and a mother from whom they can receive love and protection.

G. 15 years old

In all families, there should be parental love. However, many times children do not feel and do not understand this love. A child accepted into a family should not feel excluded.

I. 14 years old

Experiences on hospitality

I arrived in Nomadelfia when I was four years old. I immediately met my family and my ten brothers. I remember N., the youngest, who came to meet me with his father and mother. At lunch, the whole family group was waiting for me. Everyone was happy with my arrival as if they had been waiting for me for a long time. Now I have a mom and a dad who will always love me.

A. 10 years old

As soon as I arrived, my mother welcomed me into her family, and I was overjoyed. I was still small; when I grew up, I realized how much my family loves me. I didn't think Nomadelfia was like that.

D. 8 years old

I have a large family that loves me, educates me, is patient because I am a lively, persistent and somewhat naughty child. I love my mother so much that she welcomed me, and I love it when I'm alone with her; she talks to me and is all for me. I go to visit my mother L., who at the moment cannot keep me. But my parents in Nomadelfia also love her and teach me to respect her.

A. 11 years old

When my father and mother told me that a new brother was coming, I was thrilled. Sometimes we argue, but we know how to forgive ourselves immediately. It seems to me that he has always been with us.

C. 9 years old

When I came to Nomadelfia, I was immediately happy because I instantly received a family that always supports and loves me. They do so even when I do all sorts of mischief. I need it. But in Nomadelfia, since we are all brothers, I always find someone in the family group or at school who compliments me if I behave nicely. They also correct me whenever I misbehave, and this is important, so I grow up well.

S. 13 years old

In my family, we are eight brothers, but we are not all born of the marriage. One morning my father went to get a little brother. We took a cot and some clothes. I was joyful as if it were my birthday. When he left, I thought that I wouldn't have any problems anymore. But it wasn't easy because I missed him a lot.

E. 10 years old

When S. arrived in our family, she was very baffled, and she did not speak our language well. The first thing she did was ask her mom: "Can I call you mom?". Now, she feels loved and has many friends.

P. 10 years old

My mom from Nomadelfia loves my parents and helps them by giving them clothes and food. Sometimes we invite them for lunch, and they are happy.

D. 9 years old

I can welcome any little brother in my family.

C. 6 years old

I can verify and intensify my experience with hospitality over the years. Thanks to the custody in my family of a sister and a brother. I immediately consider them brothers, and I share every emotion with them. I think that welcoming is a positive gesture on every occasion. But in the case of foster care, it brings with it the suffering of estrangement from the family of origin.

T. 16 years old

I have two parents and seven siblings. My family took in some kids, and these kids I had never seen became my brothers. I see and understand that it is arduous for them to settle in and accept some truths that life imposes. We didn't decide to be born, and I didn't decide to grow up in a stable family. I don't know why some of my siblings should have gone through difficult times that will affect them for the rest of their lives, but these things happen. What makes the difference is the way you react and face obstacles. Therefore, I think that hospitality is a considerable opportunity to do. As we grow up, we children need to feel maternal and paternal love. Only in this way can we become great men and women. I believe in the value of hospitality, and I hope my brothers will be able to perceive it.

M. 17 years old

For me, having a family that is open to welcoming is normal, but it's not the same for everyone. I had siblings in foster care who left abruptly, and there was sorrow on both sides.

D. 17 years old

In my opinion, welcoming children is a positive experience in many respects, but above all, because they have the opportunity to play a dignified life and heal wounds. I say these things because I have experienced them. In Nomadelfia, I felt welcomed. I never lacked anything, I felt loved, and I have exceptional brothers, sisters and parents who accept and love me.

R. 15 years old

I think a child should not lack either love or support, both in good times and in moments of despair. I understood this through the brothers whom we welcomed into our family. That is, even if some stayed only for a short time. I have always felt them like my brothers. The joy one feels when a new brother arrives is indescribable. I have always wished that every brother could count on me and I on him for any problem.

S. 17 years old

I am happy to share the love of my family with my two brothers entrusted to us and giving them my affection as a sister. When I grow up and, I become a mother, I will do the same thing. I will give to those who need a mother's love.

C. 18 years old

The arrival of other brothers with whom I can share my life has always been a moment of joy; I think that we should ask the youngsters for their opinion and make them free to choose.

G. 15 years old

I think that in whatever way foster care is, it will always be a trauma. No matter how much love there is in a welcoming, there will always be a piece of negative baggage that the child carries with him. Foster care saved my life. Since I arrived in Nomadelfia, I stopped hearing from my biological parents on my will. Thus, I gave myself another chance in life, in which I have miraculously found my "real" family.

G. 16 years old

My family has only welcomed two brothers; one still lives with us while the other is back with his relatives, but we still feel each other. For me, every child should have a father and mother figure who educates him and brings him to maturity.

D. 17 years old

My family had the opportunity to welcome several young people. Some stayed with us, while others returned to their family of origin. The main thing to make sure a guy doesn't feel uncomfortable or different is to make him feel loved not just by his family but by all the people around him.

M. 17 years old

One aspect that can hinder reception is that the child believes he is treated differently from other siblings. Even though this is not true, he or she must understand that his parents love him for who he is. In my opinion, the two fundamental aspects of foster care are stability and clarity. I have come across many cases of children who have been moved to multiple different accommodations and families many times. Thus, this causes them to lose confidence in themselves and others. Clarity with the family of origin sharing the educational guidelines is necessary not to make the path null and void.

T. 17 years old

Since I was born, I have lived together with born brothers and welcomed brothers. I feel them all my brothers, regardless of their origin or their history. I try to give them what some of them have never had; however, many times, it happens that my brothers are the ones who give something to me and help me. Welcoming a boy does not mean hosting him but making him feel "at home", the son and brother of that family.

J. 15 years old

The family unit is a sacred, beautiful and, important thing. Now, I'll tell you because I know a little about the family and its importance. I was reborn into a family (that is, a family welcomed me). As soon as I arrived in Nomadelfia, my new family received me well, as if I were their son. They do not make distinctions between me from the others; they treat me equally. I've lived with them for six years now. In the beginning, I had a bit of difficulty. But over the years, I have grown very fond of them. And if they were to tell me to change my family, I would say no.

I want to say thanks to the UN organization that remembers the problems of children.

I know that many children do not have the opportunity to tell their experiences on fostering. While, I who have the chance, have tried to tell mine in a nutshell. I'm glad I got this chance.

G. 16 years old