



60th anniversary of the IFBDO

Talking about 60 years of story, no matter which story, means to pass through an important period of life. Relive some beautiful and other more difficult moments; recall people and situations that all together “did the story”. Intense years, that started on the far 4th December 1955, when those people had the dream of building up a new associative reality, with the main objective of solidarity towards all the ill people. They brought a new concept of culture of donation, whose units were sacrifice and creative solidarity. More recently, the concepts of sacrifice and generosity were combined with some new ones: emergency, civic conscience and participation. The result is the dedication to the cause, the civic passion and a patrimony of values that marked the evolution of the world. We reached the affiliation of 75 countries; we collected 23 million blood units worldwide and today we are 16 million associates. It has been possible, as our policies have always been clear, concrete and attractive. We were able to promote ideas and solutions. We stimulated debates and obtained consensus and participations. Our mission is global voluntary and non-remunerated blood donation promotion and our task is the diffusion of such values as responsibility, solidarity, conscience, knowledge, information and participation. The more effective will be our answer to the needs of the people, the more our action will be effective and valuable. IFBDO’s task is very hard and it shows many difficulties, that we have to overpass with intelligence, creativity, being smart and convincing. We have to make people understand that blood donation means to live a direct experience that includes a relation of help, participating in a strong and effective way on the responsible citizenship concept.

Give blood means being always able to individuate new ways of amplification, always paying attention to the emerging problems of the contemporary world, contributing to the creation of a new educational concept focused on solidarity. There is a net of Associations, that every day are available giving time, creativity and money, that millions of people offer to others, not just as a sacrifice, but pushed by a healthy and harmonious pleasure in giving and donating themselves.

For the celebration of the 60 years of life of our Federation, my wish is for a new path of growth and maturation. I hope that the collaboration between people and institutions, sharing love for life, respecting its dignity, sacredness and inviolability, will be strengthened and would grow always more.

Finally, I want to mention and thank the first IFBDO President, Mr Roger Guenin, Formentano, Pauli, Grange, Croesi, Picazo, Osorio, Thair, Rukmana, Petton, Mancenido, Colamartino and Niels Mikkelsen.

Thank you.

Gian Franco Massaro