



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

pedophilia and child pornography

The numbers of a “psychological murder”

Introduction

by Father Fortunato Di Noto



«The **battle against pedophilia** must be hot, fiery, powerful and full of witty courage and that is why the presence of Associazione Meter was as important as it was necessary. Thank you for giving to me and to all the other victims a chance for redemption, for having listened to and understood us, for having had that right amount of **empathy** that is now unknown to many. Revolutions are not made in silence, but **together** and with voices in unison».

(Gloria, 18, a victim of abuse at the age of 12)

The 2021 Annual Report of pedophilia and child pornography. The numbers of a “psychological murder” have represented, for twenty years, the concrete and incontrovertible activity of Associazione Meter in the protection and protection of minors, in Italy and abroad, against all forms of abuse, with particular attention to pedophilia and child pornography.

Numbers, data, activities, services, reports, complaints, listening, accompaniment and healing itineraries, presented in the Report, represent not only numbers, but the real and concrete possibility of redemption for the victims of pedophilia and child pornography that were killed by the abuse suffered.

Speaking of child abuse, Pope Francis, meeting with Meter on May 15, 2021, in fact defined the sexual abuse of minors as a “psychological murder”

Meaningful, strong, important words that went straight to the heart and that highlight the fact that those who, during childhood, have negative, traumatic, offensive experiences, risk the threat of the present, with the annulment of their innocence, and of the future. If the wounds are not healed, they can compromise the psycho-physical development of the minor and have a decisive and permanent impact on the formation of their own identity.

The Report, which we recommend reading and studying, reveals that sexual abuse during childhood increases the possibility of a disturbed psyche in adulthood and also reveals the importance of the

parental role in preventing the onset of such frailties. From the requests for help addressed to our Listening Center for Support to Parenting, the awareness of the difficulties in the parenting role emerges. Starting from the assumption that there are no perfect parents, it is possible, with humility and courage, to regain possession of the authoritative educational role towards children, offering them the opportunity to grow and acquire the profound meaning of their own existence.

A disturbing emergency is represented by the abuse of minors by minors; by the use of virtual gaming platforms, with the risks of enticement and addiction; by the inhuman and infernal perversion in involving children in sexual relations with animals.

We will not tire ourselves of working, with tireless commitment, in the prevention of abuses, through information and awareness-raising meetings, which, despite the pandemic period, have never been interrupted and which have seen the involvement of thousands of people, children and adults.

Empathic listening to silence makes noise, we must continue the battle. The victims of abuse we meet and support are asking heartily.