



en.tapori.org
E-mail: tapori@tapori.org

January-February
2017- N°410

EXPELLED

At 14, Joseph got involved in another fight in the playground. The teacher went to find his mother and said, "That's enough! He's expelled for good! Don't bother turning up for the end of year exams. In any case he'll never pass!"

His mother said again,
"No! You are smart!
You are going to work hard
and succeed!"

She filled out the forms so
that he could take the exams.
He passed! He would be able
to become an apprentice! *

PASS!

= EQUAL!

This difficult childhood built Joseph's character and he didn't stop there.

He fought for peace and friendship around the world. With the help of others, he created the International Movement ATD Fourth World and Tapori for the children. That was 50 years ago. Today Tapori is you! **YOU are the champions of happiness. Together, you can change the world!**

peace and Friendship

RESPECT

Notes:
Altar boy - Children who help the priest when he says mass
Coal - Used to heat houses
Apprentice - School for learning a trade

Here is the true story of a boy named Joseph. He was born in France 100 years ago in 1917.



When Joseph was born, his parents had a difficult life. His father, who was Polish, could not find a job in France and had to go to find work abroad leaving behind his wife and four children. She fought hard and was ready to do anything to give the children a decent life. She took on some cleaning jobs to earn a little money.

The house is cold and dark. Their father comes and goes. The children are often hungry. Joseph knows and sees his mother's despair.



DAD, WHERE ARE YOU?

"Your father is Polish. You can tell by his name: Wladislaw Wresinski. We met when he was in Spain."

"Not at all! I'm Spanish. We fell in love and we got married. The first World War started! We went to France and they put us in a camp. After the war we moved to Angers. When you were born your dad couldn't find any work so he left to find work abroad."

"Mum, is Lucrezia a Polish name too?"



When Joseph was only four he wanted to help his mother. Some Catholic Sisters in the neighbourhood asked him to come every morning to be an altar boy* in exchange for a bowl of milk, some bread and a few coins.

Whatever the weather he went every morning.

4 years old

HUNGER



On the way home he passes an old factory. He knows there is pile of coal there* and he sorts a few pieces to take back to his mother.

Joseph gets older. He is now six years old. On the way to school with his brother and sister the other kids make fun of them, Here come the Kikis! Hey, the "Kikis!" Their name, Wresinski, was too difficult to say so... Wresinski... Kiki... was easier to say.

6 years old



This made him angry. Especially without a father to defend them. Joseph calms his anger and clenches his fists. It is not the first time! He is a fighter and more than anything he can't bear injustice.

FOIGHT UNJUSTICE

One day in the school playground he sees a big kid punching and kicking a smaller kid.



Often in the evening, sometimes even on Sundays, his mum puts a pile of cigarette papers and small cardboard boxes on a table. Then she calls the children,

"Come on, all of you, there is work to do!"

Louis, the oldest, starts counting the papers. They have to put a hundred of them in each box.



Joseph helps. He yawns. He was up early in the morning.

Joseph gets involved and hits the older kid. He doesn't know the smaller kid but he defends him without hesitation. The teacher stops the fight.



DEFEND others

Joseph was expelled from school.



At first his mother was angry with him. In the evening she calmed down

and hugged him, saying, "Our family is our wealth, the wealth of the poor." He will always remember that.