

NEWS of ACQUALORETO  
for the Wider Circle

01 September 2016

The festival season has come and gone, except in Todi, which is currently in the midst of its own summer festival. Our festa here in Acqualoreto was seen by most as a cultural upgrade from past years with increased offerings in the realms of graphic arts, music and theater.

However, as you all know, this part of the country was struck by a very nasty earthquake on August 24<sup>th</sup>. The town hardest hit was Amatrice, just 80 km east southeast of Acqualoreto. We have been very fortunate to escape any significant damage in our immediate area. As I write, the death toll is approaching 300, while we have no way of knowing just how many others have been injured or left homeless.

Efforts to mobilize to help the the people affected have taken many forms. Last night we attended a combination theater/supper event in the tiny village of Morruzze on the hill overlooking Acqualoreto. This was an amazing effort by the local people. All the proceeds of the evening are going to help the victims of the earthquake.

Most of you are receiving this newsletter because at some point you signed our Happy Hour guest book. It was not and is not our intention to sell you anything, only to give you occasional news of the village and the Circolo. One of the loyal and public spirited regulars of the Happy Hour, Peter Alegi, suggested that many people who frequent the Circolo might be interested in helping out the people affected by the earthquake, and that perhaps we could promote that effort through our mailing list. Following the exertions of the festa, my own response has been a bit slow but the post quake rebuilding will be a long, slow and painful process and I'm sure that anything we can do to help will be appreciated, whether acknowledged or not.

If you wish to contribute to the emergency funds set up to deal with the earthquake, we offer the following information to direct you to the right place. There are several principal organizations involved. One is the Red Cross and another is Caritas, an organization of the RC Church.

1. Red Cross- You can donate through the account whose name and number is: "Poste Italiane con Croce Rossa Italiana" c/c 9000 50 stating the motive for the deposit as "sisma del 24.8.2016". This can be done at any Italian Post Office.

The Red Cross has also opened an account for donations by bank transfer. The account is in the name "Poste Italiane con Croce Rossa Italiana-Sisma del 24 agosto 2016" The code IBAN is IT38R076010300000000900050.

2. Caritas- You can send money to Caritas Italiana, Viale Aurelia 796, 00165 Roma using postal account # 347013, again payable in any Italian Post Office, specifying: "colletta terremoto centro italia or, especially if you are not in Italy, you can send a money order or bank transfer to:

Banca Popolare Etica

Via Parigi, 17, Roma

iban: IT 29 U 05018 03200 000000011113

specifying the motive for the transfer as  
"colletta terramoto centro italia"

The broad lines of Caritas Italiana's efforts will be:

- Provision of humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable and most marginal areas during the early stages.
- Reconstruction of social structures such as centres for vulnerable groups like the elderly, disabled and families in need.
- Homes for the poorest families.
- Psychological and social support to those who have remained in the earthquake zone and also those from other parts of Italy who

were in the affected areas during the holidays, lived through this trauma or lost a relative.

- Support small companies affected by the earthquake, especially those owned by young and vulnerable families.
- Create cooperatives and social enterprises that can contribute to local development as well as providing a source of employment for local unemployed.

Undoubtedly, there are or will be other organizations collecting funds for this cause. We have simply referred you to two that would appear to be the most reliable. At any rate, you can check the websites of the Red Cross (Croce Rossa Italiana) or Caritas to confirm this information.

May you all be well, prosperous and undeterred from returning to Acqualoreto by concerns about earthquakes.