“Love Never Fails”

The joy of young people from the Holy Land who have come to Rome for the Jubilee

Celina, Nelly, and Daniella have just arrived in Rome from Jerusalem for the Youth Jubilee. It was not easy for them to get here, and at one point it seemed that their group of about 20 young people from the Holy Land would not be able to make the trip. Yet, despite many difficulties, they succeeded and are now in Rome, fully experiencing these days of faith, sharing, and a call to complete joy.

“What I’ve enjoyed most so far is the chance to be among so many other young Christians, *and take part in activities with them, for example visiting churches, spending time together, and having fun too*,” says Celina, a young graphic designer. “It was also wonderful to meet other young Arab, Syrian, and Lebanese Christians. This is not easy for us to do coming from Jerusalem, but here it was possible, and it has been a really beautiful exchange”.

Coming from a complex place like Jerusalem, all these opportunities, which many other young people take for granted, are not so for the young people of the Agape group (this is the name they have chosen).

Nelly, a young artist, fashion designer, and glassblowing expert, shows me a T-shirt with their logo and motto: *”Agape never fails”* (“Love never fails”) and explains what it means to her: “Our trip to come here had been cancelled. Yet, despite all the difficulties and everything happening back home, we are here, living this experience and drawing closer to God.

That is it -love never fails, no matter what."

As the Jubilee draws to a close, I ask Daniella, who is studying biotechnology in Jerusalem, what she still hopes to gain from these days:

"To feel even closer to God and to become an ambassador of peace when I return home to Jerusalem."

Before leaving the group to their many commitments during their days in Rome, I ask the girls, just prior to their upcoming meeting with Pope Leo XIV, what they would say to him if they had the chance to speak with him in person. They reply simply: "That he should stop the war, if he can."

Elena Dini

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