

The encounter which the author proposes between the instruments of scientific research, the Somascan educative model and African wisdom, constitutes an authentic empowerment for successfully *embracing* the many *street children*, who remain *invisible* and *marginal* even when they are citizens of our streets and squares, sharing common space with us, everyday in our cities.

The author, Tobias Chikezie Ihejirika, is the first Nigerian religious of the Congregation of the Somascan Fathers: a catholic institution, which for five centuries, following the example and method initiated by the founder, the lay Venetian Jerome Emiliani, occupies itself with abandoned youths and victims of the *streets*. Tobias demonstrates, in this work, to be a competent interpreter of the charisma and mission of the Congregation, fixing his eyes constantly on a new logic rooted in African experience and culture, without forgetting the contributions of psycho-social and western philosophical researches. This is a merit that must be recognised for this work. It donates an African frame of reference to the Somascan thought and reflection. It is really this new perspective that enriches a vast horizon of educational and missionary challenges with the youths of today.

p. Franco Moscone, crs, (Superior General of the Somascan Fathers)

In the central part of the book (chapter three), the author, after a panoramic view of different approaches, methods and styles of intervention to the problem of street children, presents the educative model of global intervention: *an intervention addressed at the human person in his totality, departing from his concrete and particular situation*. The key for reading this method is empathy, which *associates itself to the consideration of a man in need not as an object of pity but as a custodian of rights and potentialities*.

p. Mario Ronchetti, crs, Founder, Arco d'Noè, Colombia

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Embracing street children.
Between myths and reality

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