

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Adelmo Galindo. I am Brazilian, and since February 2012 I have lived here in Paris, where I came to train in the field of publishing. In the context of this day's rejection of poverty, I would like to share with you three moments of my life concerning poverty and my contact with it. The first is my own family's experience of poverty. We were fourteen children . When I was eight, my parents separated. We children stayed with my mother and we had to start work at quite an early age to supplement the family budget. My father, as it happened, did not help us financially. We were also helped by people close to the family who spared us from going hungry . For several years, with the help of the state, we had the minimum necessary to feed ourselves. This, also, drove me, at the age of thirteen, to start working eight hours a day . At a certain point, I had neither the inclination nor the time to study, and I dropped out of school. It was only at the age of sixteen that I returned to school. A few years later I understood its importance in gaining a place in society and in enjoying a quality of life. With great determination I pursued my studies while working nine hours a day.

The second moment that I would like to share with you is the two key years that I spent in a slum (favela) in Recife, as a representative of the NGO New Humanity. This NGO supports extracurricular activities, sports and training for life in society. Friendly relations struck up with several young people who had not had the chance to have a true childhood, or had fallen into crime touched me deeply. During my stay in this neighbourhood I met young people who have since been killed because of crime. And at the same time I had the opportunity to accompany adolescents who were full of hope for the future.

I have come to the third moment of my relationship with poverty. Marked by these experiences of poverty, I wanted, at the end of my my Bachelor's degree, to study study the Economy of Communion project, developed by the NGO New Humanity. The goal is to allow those who are in poverty to move towards a better life through adequate training. Given my experience I wished to make a personal contribution.

In conclusion, I thank each and everyone who is personally committed to this cause, and I cannot but support you in this fundamental undertaking to ensure that every human being has the opportunity to live in dignity, because we are all part of a common humanity, I am deeply convinced that the dignity of a human being is founded on development of all dimensions of the individual : physical, intellectual and spiritual.

A special thank you to UNESCO for its efforts in this direction.
Thank you for your kind attention!