



6th June 2013

THE SPIRIT OF CORRECTNESS

In the article, *'The spirit of Festa, and its rightful owners'* (Sunday Times, 2 June 2013) Dr Mark Anthony Falzon stated that: "The Curia has decided to ignore all the petitions and popular feeling and to go ahead and cancel this year's feast at Zejtun". This is not correct.

Following the petitioners' request for the feast to be held with reduced celebrations, the Curia revised its decision to cancel the feast at Zejtun and in fact, agreed to have a feast with reduced celebrations.

A working paper in this direction was agreed upon by the parish clergy and Parish Pastoral Council. Fr Gino Gauci, on behalf of the Church authorities gave this "working paper" to the four Associations concerned. A meeting was held on May 22, 2013 and the conclusion of the meeting (agreed by all those taking part) was: *"The following Associations: Beland Band Club, Zejtun Band Club, Pirotechnic Group and the Group for Street Decorations met with the Administrator and representative of the clergy from the Zejtun parish in order to discuss a working paper with respect to the feast of St Catherine which is scheduled to be held on 16th June. Since the Maltese Curia is prepared to reconsider its decision as per the statement issued on 9 May 2013, these same Associations are insisting that the feast should not be cancelled and should be held as usual. We are requesting an urgent reply".* (*"L-Għaqdiet Banda Beland, Banda Żejtun, l-Għaqda tan-Nar u l-Għaqda tal-Armar iltaqgħu flimkien mal-Amministratur u rappreżentant tal-Kleru tal-parroċċa taż-Żejtun biex jiddiskutu working paper fuq il-festa ta' Santa Katarina li għandha ssir fis-16 ta' Ġunju u peress li l-Kurja f'Malta hi ppreparata li tvarja d-deċiżjoni tagħha fl-istqarrija tad-9 ta' Mejju 2013, l-istess għaqdiet isostnu li l-festa ma titħassarx u kollox isir bħas-soltu. Nitolbu risposta urgenti"*).

This conclusion was made public in a press statement.

Dr Falzon is of the opinion that "six odd weeks of mourning are enough." He could be right, but why were "six odd weeks of mourning" not enough three years ago when the feast was cancelled by the same four Associations mentioned above? The same happened in other parishes following the death of a person who was involved with fireworks. Dr Falzon did not feel the need to criticize those who cancelled these feasts. He did not brand them obstinate, stubborn, cruel, etc. He reserved such labels for the Curia. Why?

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