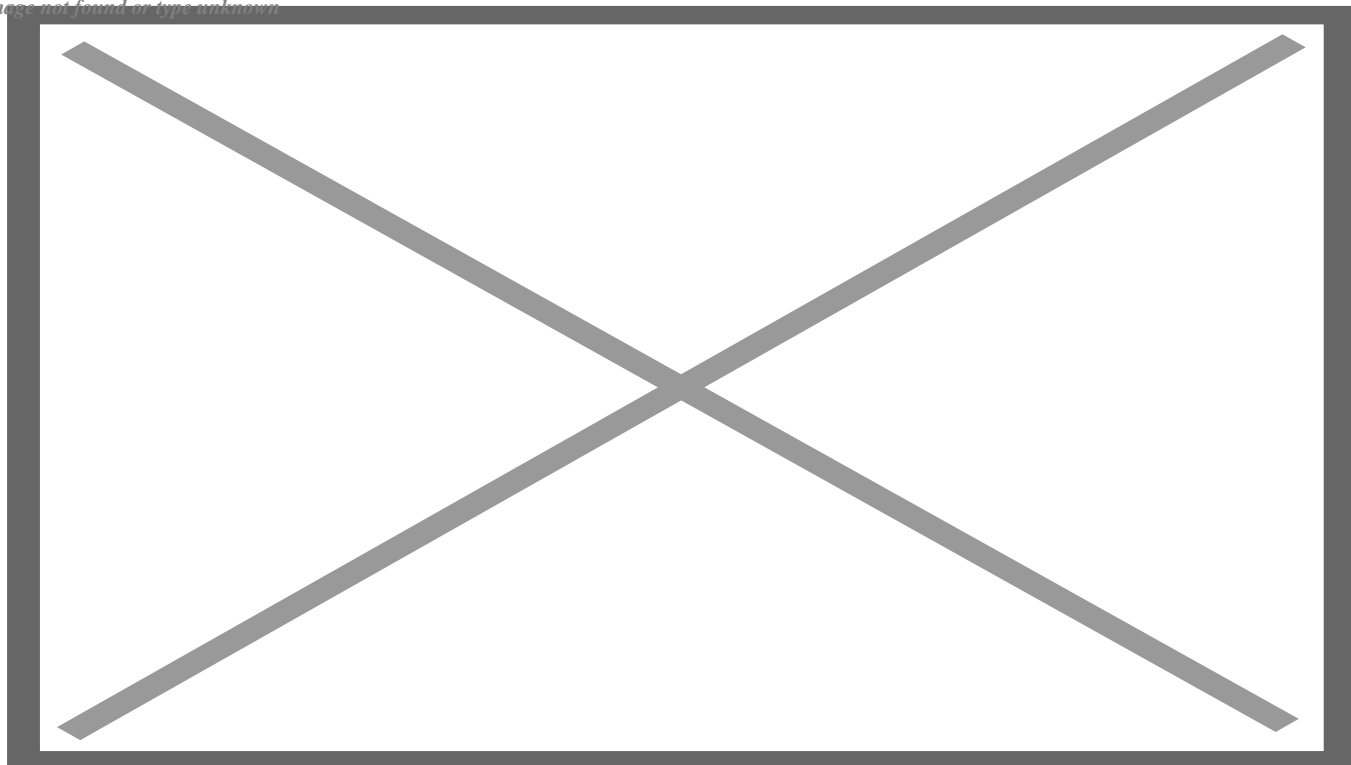


Pilgrims against U.S. blockade on Cuba arrive in Rome

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Rome, December 22 (RHC)--The Sant'Egidio Christian community welcomed in Rome on Wednesday participants in the pilgrimage along the St. Francis Way in favor of the end of the blockade against Cuba and world peace.

Paola Cortellessa, responsible for the relations of the lay movement with Cuba, Latin America, and the Caribbean, was the host of Cubans living in Italy and the United States who concluded the walk of a hundred kilometers in four days.

The delegation was headed by the coordinator of the Bridges of Love project, Carlos Lazo; the coordinator of the Associations of Cuban Residents in Italy, Ada Galano, and the president of the Italian Agency for Trade and Economic Exchange with Cuba, Michele Curto.

These three groups are the main organizers of "A Road of Love," an initiative also sponsored by the Sant'Egidio community itself, AsiCuba Umbria, the Sano Justo y Solidario network, and the Student Missionary League, whose main activity was the walking tour of a hundred kilometers in

four stages.

Cortelessa received the pilgrims in the capital's dining room for the poor, founded in 1988 by her group, where she spoke about the help given to the neediest, especially in the food field.

The walkers also visited the neighboring church of Sant'Egidio accompanied by the official who offered information about its characteristics, while Professor Marco Bartoli addressed aspects related to the life and work of St. Francis.

The international community created in 1968 groups thousands of men and women present in more than 70 countries dedicated to prayer, assistance to the poor and the promotion of peace, another of the objectives of the event "A Road of Love", which is concluding this Thursday.

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