

Forum Internacional  
de Acción Católica

International Forum  
of Catholic Action

Forum Internazionale  
di Azione Cattolica

## NOTICIAS NEWSLETTER NOTIZIE

1996/2

**T**his second number of IFCA's News will reach you in a moment of important events for the Church and for IFCA.

The Churches are in full activity to prepare the 3 years journey (97/99) towards the celebration of the great Jubilee of 2000. IFCA too can give its contribution directly in the Pastoral Commission through the participation of its coordinator. The reference point for all is John Paul II's Apostolic Letter Tertio Millennio Adveniente.

**T**he Jubilee will be a great sign for the whole mankind, with which the Church is in dialogue: with the christians of different confessions, with the believers of all religions, starting with Abraham's sons of the Jewish and Islamic religions, and with all men and women of good will.

As IFCA's members we wish to be corresponsable lay people in an alive Church that cares for the situation of injustice and is near to all those who live in need; a Church of saints also in our time, rooted in a deep spirituality, to build the civilization of love.

We cannot close our eyes before so many conflicts which today, owing to different reasons, are striking mankind, particularly the poor and the weak and are based on intolerance, on serious world economical unbalances, on the loss of the fundamental values in a context of increasing secularism: we are confronted with these challenges and are called to witness hope.

**C**atholic Action can offer laypeople in the particular Churches a proposal of formation and mission so that they might be and become the first witnesses of hope in every day's life, in the family, in the culture, in the politics: called to build up the christian community through the richness of their personal vocation and the ministeriality of their association.

In November '97 IFCA is going to celebrate the II Ordinary Assembly, as a stage towards the great Jubilee, through two continental meetings in Latin America and in Europe. The main topic: Christ yesterday today always. In dialogue with God in the Church, with the world and the cultures.

We wish to address a cordial and grateful greeting to H.E. Mgr. Salvatore De Giorgi, IFCA's Assistant and ICA's General Assistant, recently appointed Archbishop of Palermo by the Holy Father.

We pray the Holy Spirit for Mgr. De Giorgi's new pastoral service and for the new ICA's Assistant H.E. Mgr. Agostino Superbo.

I thank, in IFCA's name and in mine own, Card. Angelo Sodano for appointing the undersigned, IFCA's Coordinator, and Giuseppe Gervasio, ICA's National President, respectively member and adviser of the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

We entrust our Assembly and all CA-associations – those already in existence and those that will come – to Mary, star of the evangelisation and Church's mother; to St. Joseph, patron of the Universal Church and of IFCA and to St. Peter and Paul, as a memory that IFCA's acknowledgement bears the date of June 29th 1995. Just one year ago.

Friendly greetings,

Eduardo Ramirez Cato

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## MEETING OF THE SECRETARIAT IN ROME

On April 12/14th IFCA's General Secretariat met in Rome, with the participation of the 5 Countries, of the Coordinator and of the Assistant.

The meeting opened Friday afternoon. It was possible to pray the Evening Prayer in Sistina Chapel.

Saturday morning followed the Eucharistic Celebration in Santa Maria in Trastevere and then the meeting with the President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity in the near seat of San Callisto's palace.

It was the first meeting of the Secretariat with Card. Eduardo F. Pironio after the official acknowledgement of the International Forum of Catholic Action. It was a very cordial meeting and also an occasion to take into account the present and especially the future perspectives of this new organism.

The works then continued at Domus Pacis until Sunday evening. On Sunday morning also Maria Eugenia Diaz de Pfennich, once President of CA-women of Mexico and new President of UMOFC, joined our works.

Here you can find the text of the letter sent to the Holy Father.

Very Blessed Father,

on the occasion of the first meeting of the Secretariat of the International Forum of Catholic Action (IFCA), after the acknowledgement of this international organism of pontifical rite by the Pontifical Council for the Laity, we wish to express your Holiness our filial respect and to confirm our commitment in the universal Church through the Catholic Action of the particular Churches in the countries which are IFCA's members.

Your Holiness' teaching about Catholic Action encourages us to strengthen this association in those countries where it is already present and to promote it in other countries, with the aim of forming laypeople, more and more aware and faithful to their vocation in the Church and in the society.

Through your guide we will continue our journey towards the great Jubilee of 2000 during which our next Assembly will take place in Buenos Aires from 6th to 9th november 1997.

We are glad to communicate you the topic of our reflection, in the light of the Apostolic Letter Tertio Millennio Adveniente: "Christ yesterday, today and always. In dialogue with God, in the Church, with the world and the cultures".

Holy Father let us receive your blessing.

# TOWARDS IFCA's SECOND ORDINARY ASSEMBLY

## The general topic

### CHRIST SAVIOUR YESTERDAY TODAY ALWAYS

in the ecclesial community with the participation of laypeople who announce the Gospel and dialogue with the cultures

## The slogan

### IN DIALOGUE WITH GOD IN THE CHURCH WITH THE WORLD AND THE CULTURES

## Dates

### II ORDINARY ASSEMBLY

November 6/9th 1997 in Buenos Aires

### EUROPE CONTINENTAL MEETING

April 4/6th 1997 in Malta

### LATIN AMERICA CONTINENTAL MEETING

November 8/10th 1996 in Paraguay

## Preparation

within July  
will be sent:

- first information and invitation to the continental meetings.
- Questionnaire and latest term for the replies (see page 6)  
to the CA of the various Countries  
to the Lay Committees or the Commissions for the Lay Apostolate  
of the Bishops' Conferences of the Countries where there is no CA.

### Latin America/Europe – within August 31st

second communication with detailed information about the continental meeting, together with the participation card.

## CONTINENTAL MEETINGS

Latin America 8–11/11/96 Tuparenda, Paraguay (40 kms from Asunción)  
Europe 4–7/4/97 Malta

FIRST day  
afternoon (15–19 o'clock)

- Arrival
- Welcome and presentation of the delegations
- Interpretation of the questionnaire's data
- Eucharistic Celebration

SECOND day  
morning (8–12.30 o'clock)

- Study session: introduction,  
on the main topic
- Workshops

afternoon (15–19 o'clock)

- Workshops
- Plenary session
- Eucharistic Celebration

THIRD day  
morning (8–13 o'clock)

- Eucharistic Celebration
- plenary session with proposals about IFCA's  
promotion and support
- towards the II Ordinary Assembly  
in Buenos Aires
- Closing session and departure

## TOWARDS IFCA's ASSEMBLY IN ARGENTINA

### Latin America – Europe 30/11/96

Invitation to participation with

- technical information
- topics and programme
- material for the preparation

### Latin America – Europe 2/6/97

- short report of the works of the Continental meetings
- material for the preparation of each Country
- invitation to Observers

### Latin America – Europe 1/9/97

Last term to communicate the participation to the Assembly in Argentina

## IFCA's SECOND ORDINARY ASSEMBLY

7–9/11/97 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

International Forum of Catholic Action  
**QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**FOR THE CONTINENTAL MEETINGS**  
(max. one sheet for your replies)

1.- COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_ 2.- DATE \_\_\_\_\_

3.- Total population: \_\_\_\_\_ people

- Catholics \_\_\_\_\_ %
- CA members \_\_\_\_\_
- Other lay-associations/movements
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_
  - d) \_\_\_\_\_
  - e) \_\_\_\_\_

4.- Which are the choices qualifying CA?

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_

5.- Which are the difficulties, the feeble points of CA?

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_

6.- Which are the most important and urgent challenges to the Church?

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_

7.- Other essential data can be added in order to understand CA's contribution to the evangelisation and to the life of the Country.

**TO BE SENT BACK DULY FILLED BY FAX OR LETTER**  
**WITHIN OCTOBER 20TH 1996**

## **A. NEWS FROM CA** **BY THE SECRETARIAT**

### *MYANMAR*

In February 3.000 of the 5.000 members of Myanmar CA attended an inter-diocesan meeting in Loikaw. IFCA's coordinator Eduardo Ramirez Cato was also present and experienced warmth in their welcome, seriousness in their apostolic commitment and great joy in their meeting. The support of the two Bishops † Mathias U Shwe and † Sotero Phamo has been very important for CA. Next year a seminar will be held for lay leaders with IFCA's participation. Meanwhile the Bishops' Conference has been urged to set up CA at a national level.

### *BURUNDI*

We received end May a letter from Salvatore Niciteretse, CA's Assistant and Priest of Bujumbura Church-Cathedral: in sending his greetings to all IFCA's friends, he gave also very serious news about the dramatic situation in Burundi: 300 people were killed in March only in his diocese; the half of the 80.000 people leaving in his parish at night sleep in the Churches or in the open air: "We are all afraid" of the soldiers who kill children, women, old and weak people. What does CA do? They are doing their very utmost to help people to live together, to overcome hate, to support their hope.

### *ROMANIA*

Exchanges ICA - AGRU (95/96).

Since 1990 AGRU, name of the greek-catholic CA laypeople in Romania, attended IFCA's activities. Meanwhile a contact has gone on with ICA, particularly with CA of the greek-catholic diocese in Lungro (Calabria). Last year the regional delegate and secretary of Lungro attended an interesting yearly activity, the Summer University.

In 1996 the exchange foresees in July the visit of friends from Romania to Calabria and in August a stay there of a young man from Cluj.

## **B. NEWS AND REQUESTS** **BY IFCA'S SECRETARIAT**

### *PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR THE LAITY*

On June 5th the Osservatore Romano published a list of new members and advisers of this organism among them Eduardo Ramirez Cato, IFCA's Coordinator, from MCA (member) and Giuseppe Gervasio, ICA's National President (adviser).

*THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE HOLY YEAR*

has already started its activities through a large number of commissions. Among them the Pastoral Commission. Eduardo Ramirez Cato was invited to participate. The President is Mgr. B. Agrè, Archbishop of Abidjan, Ivory Coast and the Vice president is Mgr. Cesare Nosiglia, Auxiliary Bishop of Rome.

*VISIT OF SOME BISHOPS FROM MYANMAR*

On the occasion of their visit ad limina four Bishops have visited also IFCA's seat, confirming that they are interested in promoting and supporting CA and that appreciate the already planned seminar (June '96).

*OIC*

During the last meeting in Rome the Secretariat sent the OIC (Catholic International Organizations) a letter asking for IFCA to become member of this international organism.

*VADEMECUM*

We are preparing the final drawing up which includes a unitary booklet dealing with CA identity and various files upon all CA-associations that up to now have formed the Secretariat.

*WORLD YOUTH'S DAY IN PARIS*

All are kindly requested to send us details concerning CA-people who – on national and diocesan level – are attending the next World Youth's Day.

## **For the communication and for the file**

Here again is the text edited in NEWSLETTER 1996/1, urging this simple and useful form of cooperation.

It would be a good thing to get information and material from all CA-associations since there are people – Bishops and lay people – who come to Rome and ask for them! We ask for a special cooperation in order to begin this small centre of documentation and then...; a constant supplement of cooperation to bring it up to date.

*Data:* national leaders, seats, magazines, material and news.

June 29th 1996