

Forum Internacional  
de Acción Católica

International Forum  
of Catholic Action

Forum Internazionale  
di Azione Cattolica

## NOTICIAS NEWSLETTER NOTIZIE

1999/2

“For two thousand years, the Church has been the cradle in which Mary places Jesus and entrusts him to the adoration and contemplation of all peoples”.

*(Incarnationis Mysterium 11)*

Dear friends of the Catholic Action,

in this Christmas, sharing the joy of the Jubilee, we beg Holy Virgin Mary, woman of silence and listening, docile in the Father's hands, to fill your heart and that of every member of your families, with the peace irradiating from Bethlehem.

We entrust Her, Mother of God and of the Church, with IFCA's journey towards the Third ordinary Assembly, when we will meet in Rome from 2nd to 6th December 2000.

Friendly regards



† Agostino Superbo



Beatriz Buzzetti Thomson

## In memory of mons. Oscar Alzamora

We learned that H.E. Mons. Oscar Alzamora, Assistant of CA in Peru, has returned to our Father's House.

We remember him in our prayer with affection and gratitude.

His simple style fostered meeting, exchange, friendship; his deep love to the conciliar Church brought him particularly near the laypeople whom he helped to understand and live their own vocation in the Church and in society; his great theological, cultural and spiritual background made him a spiritual teacher and father for so many laypeople, who were fully prepared to love and to witness Christ through their lives and deeds, at the school of the Holy Spirit.

He loved the Peruvian Catholic Action that he supported in its difficult renewal and shared IFCA's goals. He participated in the Assembly in Buenos Aires, in all American meetings. He was with us at the Third American Meeting, in April, at Mexico City, together with Alan Patroni, CA's President and his wife: he will continue to follow us in the communion of saints.

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## Third Ordinary Assembly

Rome, Domus Pacis, 2nd/6th December 2000

### FIRST NOTICE

The permanent actuality of a gift of the Spirit  
*The Catholic Action: lay faithful  
who live the novelty of the Gospel in the world and are sign of communion*

Itinerary of preparation FOLLOWS within December 1999

PLACE: Rome

Domus Pacis, Via di Torre Rossa, 94 - 00165 ROME  
tel 0039 06 6638820/6638791 - fax 0039 06 6620259  
for further information about the house see Internet  
[www.pagegialle.it/DOMUS\\_PACIS-01](http://www.pagegialle.it/DOMUS_PACIS-01)

DATE: December 2nd - 6th 2000

Some first instructions:

Arrival from Friday 1st December 2000

(please, not before the afternoon as the house is still engaged until then)

OPENING: Saturday December 2nd at 15,30

WORKING DAYS: Sunday 3rd/monday 4th

JUBILAR DAY in Rome: Tuesday 5th

CLOSING: Wednesday 6th with the lunch

### PARTICIPANTS

Each member-country is entitled to 4 participants

(men and women, youths and adults, one assistant)

Each observer-country is entitled to 2 participants

In consideration of the unicity of the Jubilee Year, please help us with quick information about the participants

We are sending a RESERVATION CARD to be filled and sent back within February 2000.

For those who wish to stay AFTER the Assembly: places are available.

PLEASE advise on the RESERVATION CARD.

The final REGISTRATION card follows and is to be sent back within JULY 2000.

FEE: 350 dollars including board and lodging 5 DAYS (+ 15 dollars for single room) - simultaneous translation in italian, spanish, english, french - transports for the Jubilee Day.

## Third American Continental Meeting

The Third American Continental Meeting of the International Forum of Catholic Action (IFCA) was held in Mexico City from April 6th to April 11th 1999, upon the topic of the special Assembly of the Bishops' Synod for America: "Meeting Jesus Christ today in America calls us to conversion, communion and solidarity and shows us the Father's love".

It was attended by representatives of the countries of the Continent which are IFCA's members: Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela and by representatives from Italy, Spain and Romania, which together with Mexico and Argentina, make up IFCA's Secretariat. It was attended also by representatives from Ecuador, Panama and USA and from MIDADE's Regional Delegate, as observers.

The last post-synodal Exhortation *Ecclesia in America* was the doctrinal and pastoral point of reference of this meeting, which is part of the journey of the CA of the American continent towards the Great Jubilee of 2000.

As a matter of fact it aimed to foster dialogue and reflection in order to find some guidelines out which may enable the CA of each country to respond to its own reality properly.

Afer the welcome by the President of MCA's National Council and the presentation of the goals of the meeting by IFCA's Coordinator, Mons. Agostino Superbo, IFCA's Ecclesiastic Assistant, held a lecture upon "Meeting living Jesus Christ", foundation of every missionary action.

Mons. Carlos Talavera, Bishop of Coatzacoalcos and President of the Episcopal Commission of the Lay Apostolate in Mexico, held a lecture upon

"What the Church and America expect from the lay people for the third millennium".

In the workshops the social dimension of conversion and CA's task as sign and instrument of reconciliation in society were particularly underlined. According to each country's reality, issues and areas of society were highlighted which need the reconciliatory presence of the Church; deeds and actions that CA together with other Lay Movements can undertake in order to contribute to the national reconciliation; signs and gestures of reconciliation inside the particular Churches.

Under the title "Third millennium, a challenge to formation", methods were laid out according to which the CA of the different countries are to prepare their members in order to respond to the challenges of the new century in a positive way.

The presentation of the experiences of the various countries, the exchange of fomative material and press, generated an atmosphere of solidarity and cooperation with the view of a common work among the different countries.

After the Mexican Party given by the CA Women of Mexico, the meeting closed with the Eucharistic celebration in the Basilica of our Lady of Guadalupe, presided by Mons. Agostino Superbo, ICA's General Assistant.

## Second Week of formation for Youths

### FINAL DOCUMENT

#### NOW, HERE, TOGETHER

We, european youths attending the Second Week of formation promoted by the International Forum of Catholic Action in Oradea, Romania, we are glad to have shared an experience of prayer, reflection, study and joy.

We are convinced that a common journey of all our Churches is necessary. In this view we think that the great Jubilee of 2000 is a decisive

opportunity to start a new style of life, marked more and more by communion, fraternity and ecumenism.

For this reason, we offer the richness and the originality of our differences, of our lives and histories, and above all the willingness to dialogue and to rejoice in the same God, Father of our Lord Jesus and our Father.

This richness is a patrimony of values we put at disposal of a new Europe, that we dream united also in the culture of peace and in the defence of the peoples' fundamental rights; an Europe without egoism and with a preferential attention to the poor of the world.

Europe needs to recover its own Christian history and to do it through a new evangelization, through the Gospel that is announced by life, by daily witness of lay faithful who are mature in their faith.

This is the journey we are making and that we intend to continue as Youths of Catholic Action.

In order to achieve this aims and to be a place to work ideas out and to promote values, we think it necessary to set ourselves up soon as Youth Coordination in the International Forum of Catholic Action together with our brothers and sisters of the other Continents.

Astru (greek-catholic Youths CA) - Romania

CA Romania (IASI - BUCAREST), Italy, Spain, Malta, Bulgaria

Observers: Bosnia-Erzegovina, Hungary (KALAZ), Poland and MIDADE

## **Third Continental Meeting Europe-Mediterranean Area**

New Date: March 10-12th 2000

Place: Cherstochowa, POLAND

Theme: CA laypeople  
**WITNESSES TO RISEN CHRIST  
in Europe in the third millennium**

Secretariat: CA Poland-Warsaw  
IFCA's Secretariat- ROME

## **NEWS FROM SECRETARIAT**

### **Youth Coordination and World Youth Day 2000**

One of the commitment of the Second Assembly is promoting IFCA's Youth Coordination and we are acting in this direction.

Two Weeks of formation for Youths were held at European level (IASI 98 and ORADEA 99); youths participated in the Third American Meeting in the delegations of the different countries (Mexico 99) and will be invited to the Third European Meeting (Poland 2000).

The participation of at least one youth was requested to IFCA's Third Assembly.

The World Youth Day in August 2000 has a special meaning in the journey towards the Third Assembly.

During the Secretariat's Meeting in October 99, we thought it important to favour meeting and exchange among CA youths who will participate in it.

1. It is obvious that ICA's Youth Sector will be especially involved in welcoming CA youths who, together with the youths from the dioceses of the world, will be received by the youths of the italian dioceses.

URGENT: please inform IFCA's Secretariat in which diocese CA youths of other countries will be received, so that exchange and meeting with the youths of that diocese may be favoured.

#### **2. IN ROME**

In August a point of reception can be organised at ICA's location, via Conciliazione, 1, with the participation of CA youths both from Italy and from other countries.

3. A "recognition sign" for the World Youth Day (a "logo") will be arranged. The material will be sent in advance, so that each country may "produce" its own sign directly or use that one ready according to its creativity.

Further indications follow end January, after the meeting of the Committee for the World Youth Day 2000 by the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

## Address-Book

### Invitation to collaborate

With the view of preparing the Third IFCA's Assembly, a special help is requested in order to get an up-to-date address book of all IFCA's CA, members or observers:

Address of the location - Today's leaders  
electronic post - Internet Site

Here below are the addresses of the Secretariat's members:

Argentina: Beatriz BUZZETTI THOMSON (Coordinator)  
Avda Mayo, 621 - Buenos Aires - Argentina  
Tel. 0054 13316721 - Fax 0054 13316323

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S.E. Mons. Agostino SUPERBO - ITALIA  
IFCA's Ecclesiastic Assistant

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email: presidenza@azione-cattolica.it

## IFCA and Jubilee

We are arranging some pages for a link on Internet in collaboration with Jubilee official Site (<http://www.jubil2000.va>): as soon as ready, we will inform you.

Both for the "Newsletter" as well as for this page on Internet, we need short information and data on what the different CA in the world have worked and how they are participating in the celebration of the Great Jubilee of 2000 in their own local realities, and in pilgrimages to Rome and to the Holy Land.

## NEWS FROM THE COUNTRIES

### Argentine

From August 14th to 16th of this year the Argentine Catholic Action held in San Juan the XXIII Federal Assembly upon the theme "Be one so that the world may believe".

About 15.000 ACA's members attended the Assembly. Together with the Bishops and the Assistants, they lived a real ecclesial celebration, with a strong evangelizing accent, expressed through an intense participation in the workshops where the participants could exchange projects and experiences linked to different aspects of social life: family, education, social problems, politics, work, science and faith, culture, art and communication, health and environment.

The Assembly was followed by two members of the Youth Section of the Italian Catholic Action and by MIDADE's latin-american representative.

The Assembly elected the new national leaders for the years 1999/2002 and Beatriz Buzzetti Thomson was elected again as national President.

### Austria

At the end of September 1999 the Autumn General Assembly of Catholic Action of Austria took place in Innsbruck, Tyrol. This Assembly, which takes place twice a year, gathers 60 delegates from all over Austria. The representatives from the 10 Austrian dioceses take part and the different federal institutions - organized by age, gender and professions.

At this Assembly the new Statutes were approved, which had been worked on for several years. Here are some of the changes:

- \* Catholic Action Austria will receive the status of an inner church legal entity.
- \* There are 4 Movements according to age and gender: Women, Men, Youth and Children Organizations and 4 organizations according to professions: Academics, Workers, Students and Literature Forum.
- \* A new feature is the establishment of "forums", these are not organizations but institutions that will deliver some answers to issues of today's world. Four of these institutions will start next year:
  - Labour, Economic Systems and Social Aspects
  - Art, Sciences and Media
  - Relationships, Marriage and Family
  - Future Issues.

The Secretary General Ruth Steiner will retire and the Assembly elected Ludwig Martin in this position.

In November the Austrian Bishops Conference also approved the decisions of the Assembly.

## Colombia

During the month of September 1999 the Colombian Catholic Action held its Assembly in Duitama upon the theme: "CA on its way towards conversion, communion and solidarity". The Assembly elected the new national leaders. Amparo Sardi ended her second mandate as President and Amelita Santa Maria de Pardo from Bucamaranga was elected in her place.

## Italy

The Italian Catholic Action held the 10th national Assembly in Rome from 5th to 8th December 1998, upon the theme: "We cannot stop proclaiming what we have seen and heard" (Ac 4,20) - Witnesses of hope in the cities of men.

The almost 1.000 people representing all diocesan CA, participated actively in the works and approved the final document from which the guidelines for the years 1999/2002 were drawn up.

The Assembly came to an end with the Eucharistic Celebration presided by H.H. John Paul II in Saint Peter's Church on February 8th, when the whole Association celebrates the Enrolment-day, at 130 years from ICA's birth in Italy and at 30 years from the new post-conciliar Statutes. During his homily the Pope outlined ICA's mission "almost at the threshold of the third millennium: to act so that Italy may never miss the wonderful light of the Gospel you have always to announce openly

and to live consistently. Only in this way you will be credible witnesses to Christian hope and will be able to spread it to all".

ICA, after the 10th Assembly, has renewed its national leaders. The new national President is PAOLA BIGNARDI.

## Malta

Members of the Malta Catholic Action met in General Assembly on Sunday 4th October 1999 to mark the launching of the social year 1999-2000.

The theme of the Assembly was "You too go out into the vineyard" (Math 20,4). The sound and light presentation depicting society in the year 2000 and the cry from specific sectors of society - namely the aged, adults, youth, adolescents, married couples, people with special needs, those of other beliefs, people involved in voluntary work, in mass media and in the field of culture - as well as the Mass and the National President's address all focused on the theme.

The meeting came to an end with a message by Mons. Annetto Depasquale, Auxiliary Bishop of Malta.

## Mexico

On September 1999 the First national Meeting of the Mexican Catholic Action took place in León. 40 delegations representing the same number of dioceses of the country attended the meeting: 3.000 people, children, youths and adults.

The opening of the Meeting was presided by H.E. the Emeritus Bishop of Huajuapán de León, Mons. José de Jesús Aguilera, by the national Presidents of MCA's 5 branches and 4 movements.

During the Meeting, different lecturers spoke on the following topics: the Church's goal and work, the christian lay faithful in the life of the Church, formation and unity, CA's goals, organicity in CA and in the Church and what Mexico of the next century expects from the laypeople and from MCA.

## Myanmar

On February 99 a course of formation for CA laypeople of Taunggyi, Loikaw and Taungoo dioceses was held in TAUNGGYI with IFCA's collaboration.

More than 100 people attended the meeting which was animated by Maria Giovanna Ruggieri and Marco Raengo of ICA.

This meeting allowed to know the small but lively reality of this CA, in a country where the Christians are discriminated, with a political situation of military dictatorship and a very poor economic condition.

The Bishop of Taunggyi, mons. Sotero Phamo, is asking for IFCA's help through scholarships for youths who cannot continue their studies in the universities closed by the regime, to enable them to study in the Philippines, engaging themselves to go back to their country. For any information, please apply to the Secretariat.

## Romania

From 7th to 9th May 1999 the Holy Father paid an ecumenical visit to Romania.

He was invited by the catholic Bishops, the Republic's President and by the orthodox Church. It is to notice that Romania is a country with an orthodox majority and is considered the second orthodox country in the world.

In this context, the visit was considered ecumenical and not according to the Catholics' expectations. The Holy Father visited neither Blaj, centre of the greek-catholic Church nor Bacau, in the middle of Moldavia, a roman-catholic region.

Friday, on his arrival, John Paul II paid the official visits: in the morning to the Holy Synod of the orthodox Church and in the afternoon to the Republic's President. On May 8th he started with visiting the churchyard Bellu, where he stopped in prayer on the tombs of the Bishops Martyrs of the greek-catholic Church.

He went then into the roman-catholic Cathedral in Bucarest, that is dedicated to Saint Joseph, where he concelebrated with the Metropolitane Lucian Muresan, all the Bishops of the greek rite and with the roman-catholic Metropolitane Ioan Robu. More than 900 priests were presents as well as official personages and many faithful. The Pope greeted Card. Todea who was also present.

Sunday 9th May in the morning the Pope attended the celebration of the Patriarch Teoctist. About 100 people were present - orthodoxes and catholics - coming from all the regions of the country. In the afternoon, the Holy Father concelebrated a mass in latin rite with the Metropolitane Ioan Robu, with the participation of more than 500.000 faithful from whole Romania, bringing banners and flags. It was a moment of deep spirituality. The whole visit is a very important step from a point of view both political and ecumenical, a sign of that spiritual communion to which all men aspire. A great event.

### **PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR THE LAITY MEETING NOVEMBER 2000**

Through ICA's national President, IFCA is participating in the preparation of the World Lay Meeting promoted by the Pontifical Council for the Laity and which will be held in November 2000 in Rome.

December 1999