

Forum Internacional
de Acción Católica

International Forum
of Catholic Action

Forum Internazionale
di Azione Cattolica

NOTICIAS NEWSLETTER NOTIZIE

Special Issue

2004/1

International Congress on Catholic Action

Rome-Loreto, 31st August-5th Settembre 2004

The year we have just started is a special year for Catholic Action all over the world.

From the 31 August to the 5 September an International Congress on Catholic Action will be held in Rome, it will join with the Italian Catholic Action's pilgrimage to Loreto Sanctuary and it will come to an end on Sunday 5th September with the Eucharistic Celebration.

IFCA will also be holding its IV Ordinary Assembly.

We are happy to give you this new and we invite all CAs and all our friends that receive Noticias to participate since now through the prayer and to collaborate to prepare our congress

These last few years, the teachings of the Holy Father have highlighted Catholic Action's charism particularly as a gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church of the III Millennium. "The Church needs Catholic Action", he told us recently.

The Congress will give us an opportunity to present an "active, strong and beautiful" Catholic Action through talks, prayer, dialogue, exchange of experiences and the discovery of promotional strategies, which will help us proceed from ideal reflections on the charisma to concrete action in our personal lives and in the life of the Church.

Bishops are invited to participate and Lay people and ecclesiastical assistants of the different countries.

Representatives of International Catholic Organizations, Movements and Lay Associations

As you can see from the attached provisional program, the theme of the Congress will be developed between the 31 August and the 2 September in Rome. The participants will travel to Loreto to take part in the various activities planned by the Italian Catholic Action on the occasion of the national pilgrimage to Loreto which starts on the 1st September.

The Congress will come to an end on Sunday 5 September at the feet of Our Lady of Loreto, to whom we entrust this new stage in the life of Catholic Action in the III Millennium. The Eucharistic Celebration will conclude the Congress and the Catholic Action Pilgrimage of the Italian Catholic Action and Catholic Action groups from all over the world.

On this same day, Catholic Action Associations in the different countries, organize a Pilgrimage to a Marian Sanctuary so as to be united with us during this celebration.

We entrust all these initiatives to the Lord and let us keep united in prayers.

We will be asking cloistered nuns to include our intentions and initiatives in their prayers.

May Our Lady and Mother, the Faithful Virgin accompany us in all our undertakings.



Beatriz Buzzetti Thomson



+ Francesco Lambiasi

Indice

Provisional program	page	3
General information	page	5
Invitation for the pilgrimage to Loreto		
Youth coordinaci3n	page	6
IFCA IV Ordinary Assembly	page	7
Prayer for the Congress	page	8
John Paul II Homily		
For Ivan Merz beatification	page	10
Alberto Marvelli "blessed" in Loreto	page	12

CATHOLIC ACTION INTERNATIONAL FORUM
ITALIAN CATHOLIC ACTION
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR THE LAITY

***"Duc in altum Catholic Action,
take courage for the future!"***

Catholic Action International Congress Provisional program

Rome - Loreto, August 31st, 2004 - September 5, 2004

Tuesday, August 31, 2004

OPENING SESSION

- 6:00pm - Eucharistic Celebration
- 7:00pm - Words of Greeting - Introduction to the Congress
- 8:00pm - Dinner
- 9:30pm - Festive evening

Wednesday, September 1st, 2004

CATHOLIC ACTION YOU BELONG TO THE CHURCH AND YOU ARE VERY DEAR TO THE LORD'S HEART

- 7.00am - Breakfast
- 8.00am - Eucharistic Celebration and Morning Prayer
- 9.15am - Presentation of the day's activities
- 9.30am - Tradition and novelty of the charism of the Catholic Action. Talk
- 10.15am - Break
- 10.45am - Catholic Action, gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church of today. Talk and discussion
- 1.00pm - Lunch

- 4:00pm - Round Table: *Catholic Action in the heart of the Church missionary communion*
- service to communion
 - evangelical animation of the world
 - primacy of formation and spirituality
 - associative life
- 5.30pm - Break
- 6.00pm - Discussion Groups
- 8.00pm - Dinner
- 9.00pm - Prayer Vigil

Thursday, September 2, 2004

DUC IN ALTUM CATHOLIC ACTION BE A PROPHETIC PRESENCE IN THE WORLD

- 7.30am - Breakfast
- 8.30am - Morning Prayer
- 9.00am - Presentation of the day's activities
- 9.15am - Presentation of FIAC and its service
- 9.45am - Catholic Action is one and diverse, "incarnates" itself in the various cultures and in the local Church. *Interventions from various countries*
- 10.30am - Break
- 11.00am - (program continues)
- 12.30pm - Brief presentation of the various activities
- 1.15pm - Lunch
- 3.30pm - Study groups
- 5.30pm - **CONCLUDING SESSION**
The Launching of the manifesto "*Catholic Action for the Third Millennium*"
- 7.00pm - Eucharistic Celebration
- 8.30pm - Dinner
- 10.00pm - Festive Evening

September 3 - 4, 2004

PARTECIPATION in the NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE of the Italian Catholic Action

Friday, September 3, 2004

- 7.30am - Breakfast
- 8.30am - Eucharistic Celebration
- 9.30am - Departure for LORETO
- 12.30pm - arrivals - accommodation - lunch
- Visit to the Holy House of Loreto
- Participation at the Meeting of the Parish Presidents and Assistants of the Italian Catholic Action
- 8.30pm - Dinner

Saturday, September 4, 2004

Participation to the various gatherings of young people, young adults, and adults

Sunday, September 5, 2004

HIGHPOINT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS AND OF THE NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE

- 10.00am - Piana di Montorso - Loreto
- Eucharistic Celebration
- 4:00pm - Return to Rome

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Congress will begin in Rome and conclude in Loreto

The National Presidency of Italian Catholic Action invites all participants to take part in the concluding celebrations including the pilgrimage to Loreto and the Eucharistic Celebration. Thousands of adherents to Italian Catholic Action together with young people, families and adults of other movements and associations will gather for this important event on September 5, 2004.

The Congress will begin in Rome, at "Domus Pacis" (Via di Torre Rossa, 94 - 00165 Roma).

On Friday morning September 3, 2004 the congress will move to Loreto. The return to Rome is scheduled for Sunday September 5 in the evening.

During the sessions of the meeting simultaneous translations will be available in Spanish, English, Italian and French.

Organization Secretariat: E-mail fiac@azionecattolica.it

Tel.: 0039 06 66132 344 - 661321

Fax: 0039 06 6868755 - 66132 360

Invitation for the pilgrimage to Loreto

We invite Catholic Action Associations from different parts of the world to join the Italian Catholic Action in a pilgrimage to Loreto from the 1st to the 5th September.

Pilgrims from the different countries will be hosted by various dioceses in the vicinity of Loreto. They will take part in the activities for children, youths and adults which will be organized by the Dioceses where they are hosted.

A detailed program may be found on
www.azionecattolica.it/aci/Chi_siamo/programma/03_04/proposte/pellegrinaggio

The participation fee, which includes lodging and meals for the 5 days, is 42 euros per person. We envisage group participation by countries or dioceses and not by individuals.

Interested countries may obtain more information from Maria Grazia Tibaldi, IFCA Secretariat.

From the organizational point of view, it will greatly help if you send in the approximate number of possible participants by the 30th May.

About 100,000 Italian Catholic Action members will be taking part in this pilgrimage.

YOUTH COORDINATION

One of the conclusions of the III IFCA Ordinary Assembly was Youth Coordination. In order to put this into concrete action and in view of the preparations for the Congress and the Assembly, we would like to have the name, surname, address, telephone number and email address of the person responsible for youth in your organization. This information is to be sent to these email addresses: fiac@azionecattolica.it; mjac@accioncatolicaes.org

In order to establish this contact among CA youth in the different countries, we are asking you to send information about the life and activities of your youth group to the following email address, which is the email address of the CA Youth Section in Spain: mjac@accioncatolicaes.org

fiac@azionecattolica.it

Telefono: 0039 06 661321 - 66132344 (diretto)

Fax: 0039 06 6868755 - 06 66132360

IFCA IV ordinary Assembly

Rome, Domus Pacis, 6th September 2004

Provisional program

- 07.30 - Breakfast
- 08.30 - Morning Prayers
- 09.00 - Report 2001-4
From the Congress to the IV Assembly
- 10.15 - Break
- 10.45 - Guidelines 2004-2007
Working groups on themes
 - formation
 - promotion of CA
 - youth coordination
- 12.30 - Plenary Session
 - report by working groups
 - discussion
 - presentation of candidate countries for the election of the new secretariat
- 13.30 - Lunch
- 16.00 - Continental working groups
- 17.00 - Election of Secretariat
- 18.00 - Plenary Session
 - presentation of new Secretariat
 - report by the continental groups
- 19.00 - Eucharistic Celebration

Proposal

- The Eucharistic Celebration will be open to IFCA member countries participating in the ICA pilgrimage to Loreto.
 - Presentation of the outcome of the Congress.
 - Dinner and celebration together.
- The same CA delegations from the different countries which take part in the Congress are invited to participate in the Ordinary Assembly.

Prayer to the Virgin Mary

Pilgrims to the International Congress on Catholic Action and to Loreto

Mary, Jesus' Mother and our Mother

We are young and adult people, men and women of Catholic Action who wish to live the Church in the heart of the world, as Your Son asks us. Fully committed with the hour and the time we are living. We wish to live with calm, strong and humble fidelity, in close union with our Pastors - Bishops and priests - with our religious and with all the lay faithful, the communion of the missionary Church. We feel ourselves marked with the Holy Spirit and sent again by Your Son to announce all the Peoples the Goods News of the Kingdom: the love of the Father. Through the faith we have fathomed the world we live in and through the heart of a Church-communion, we have committed ourselves in a dialogue and in making a journey of salvation. We do feel the challenges of this century which is approaching.

Mary, Jesus' Mother and our Mother

We leave our uneasiness and hopes, our sorrows and joys in Your heart. We wish to offer You our poverty, our prayer, our joy, our hope, our love for the Church inserted in the world as a universal sacrament of salvation. You well know what we need: a great spirit of contemplation to understand the poverty of men and the sorrows of the peoples; a great readiness to accept and live the Word of God, a calm fortitude to embrace the cross of Your Son and a joyful readiness to serve our brothers.

Mary, Jesus' Mother and our Mother

We wish to love the Church intensely and to live in deep communion with our Pastors. That we might be people who pray and missionaries. That we might accept the Word of God and contemplate it, live it and communicate it with the fire of the Spirit.

Help us to be faithful to our hour. It is a "dramatic and magnificent hour", full of challenges and hopes. Lay faithful are needed who live the sanctity of their Baptism and the apostolic commitment of their Confirmation; who live with daily simplicity the Easter Mystery; who are afraid neither of the cross nor of the martyrdom. Who only live the joy of sanctity in the missionary communion of the Church.

Mary, Jesus' Mother and our Mother

We are coming to You, to the Holy House of Loreto

We are different faces and different cultures with a different language, but we understand each other in the same Word of your Son who says to each of us: "Here is Your mother". Yes, we feel You so, Maria, as our Mother and our Lady. We only ask You to look at us and to listen to us. We have so many things, so many sorrows to tell You, so many graces to ask You for ourselves, for our countries and local Churches! But we miss time and words. It is enough for us to come and look at You and to know that You look at us and change us.

Now we go back to our homes, our countries, our local Churches, with the certainty coming from these words of Your Son: "Here is your Mother" and carrying in our hearts the joy of repeating with You to Jesus Christ - of today, of yesterday, of always - these words of Yours: "I am the servant of the Lord: let it happen to me as you have said". And we go back home, carrying Your presence as our mother who says to us. "Do whatever he tells you".

Mary, Jesus' Mother and our Mother

So we will commit ourselves to walk together along the roads of the world. Amen. Alleluja!

(from the Prayer made by Card. Eduardo F. Pironio at the conclusion of IFCA Second Assembly at the Shrine of the Virgin of Lujan - Argentina September 14th 1997)

The Saints, the Blessed, the so many witnesses, CA lay people and assistants, both in Italy and in the world... walk forward with us towards the CA International Congress, pilgrims towards Loreto

We thank the Holy Father for announcing the canonization of the Blessed Gianna Beretta Molla on May 16th 2004 and we remember His words during the Beatification of Ivan Merz – "Catholic Action pioneer in Croatia".

From the HOMILY OF JOHN PAUL II

Banja Luka, Bosnia Herzegovina
Sunday, 22 June 2003

3. (...) Dear brothers and sisters, the just man, surrounded by divine light, becomes in turn a lamp which radiates light and gives warmth. This is what we learn today from the figure of Ivan Merz. A gifted young man, he made a good return on his rich natural talents and obtained great human success: it can be said that he had a very successful life. But that is not the reason why he is today declared Blessed. What makes him one of the choir of the Blessed is his success in God's eyes. The great aspiration of his whole life was "never to forget God, to desire always to be one with him". In all his activities Ivan Merz sought "the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus" and he allowed Christ to make him his own (cf. Phil 3:8,12).
4. At the school of the liturgy, the source and summit of the Church's life (cf. Sacrosanctum Concilium, 10), Ivan Merz grew to the fullness of Christian maturity and became one of the principal promoters of the liturgical renewal in his country. Taking part in Mass and drawing nourishment from the Body of Christ and the Word of God, he drew the inspiration to become an apostle of young people. It was not by chance that he chose as his motto "Sacrifice – Eucharist – Apostolate". Conscious of the vocation he had received in Baptism, he made his whole life a "race" towards holiness, the "high standard" of Christian life (cf. Novo Millennio Ineunte, 31). For this reason, as the First Reading says, "his memory will not disappear, and his name will live through all generations" (Sir 39:9).

5. The name of Ivan Merz has meant in the past a programme of life and of activity for an entire generation of young Catholics. Today too it must do the same! Your country and your Church, dear young people, have experienced difficult times and now there is a need to work together so that life on all levels will fully return to normal. I therefore appeal to each of you; I invite you not to step back, not to yield to the temptation to become discouraged, but to multiply initiatives which will make Bosnia-Herzegovina once more a land of reconciliation, encounter and peace.

The future of this land depends also on you! Do not seek a more comfortable life elsewhere, do not flee from your responsibilities and expect others to resolve problems, but resolutely counter evil with the power of good.

Like Blessed Ivan, strive for a personal encounter with Christ which sheds new light on life. May the Gospel be the great ideal guiding your approaches and your decisions! Thus you will become missionaries in word and deed, signs of God's love and credible witnesses of the merciful presence of Christ. Never forget: "one does not light a lamp and put it under a bushel" (cf. Mt 5:15).

6. Dear brothers and sisters who take part with such fervour in this celebration, may the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, keep your heart and your spirit in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ! This is the prayer and the wish which, through the intercession of Blessed Ivan Merz, the Pope today offers for you and for all the peoples of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

After Angelus

Remembering the commitment of Blessed Ivan Merz to Catholic Action, I greet the Italian-speaking faithful. May his example as a Christian layperson help each of you to respond faithfully to the vocation you have received. I cordially bless all of you.

ALBERTO MARVELLI

"blessed" in Loreto

In Loreto on 5th September Alberto Marvelli (1916-1946) will be proclaimed "blessed". He was a CA young man from Rimini diocese

"He has shown how, in the changing of times and situations, Christian laymen are able to devote themselves unreservedly to the construction of God's kingdom in family, work, culture and politics, taking the Gospel in the heart of society" John Paul II – 13th September 1992

More informations

<http://www.diocesi.rimini.it/albertomarvelli>

March 2004