

Forum Internacional
de Acción Católica

International Forum
of Catholic Action

Forum Internazionale
di Azione Cattolica

NOTICIAS NEWSLETTER NOTIZIE

2008/1-2

A farewell message of thanks

IFCA Secretariat has a new Coordinator in the person of Emilio Inzaurraga, Vice President of the Catholic Action in Argentina.

From these pages of *Newsletter*, I wish to address him my friendly and grateful wish for the beautiful collaboration we experienced in the last three years: I feel sure that with him IFCA will continue growing, showing the beauty - calm and deep - of the Catholic Action's experience.

I wish to express my thanks to all the people I have met during my three year service in IFCA: thanks for the friendship we exchanged and for the mutual esteem that grew all the more as time went by; thanks for their determination in facing difficulties; thanks for their enthusiasm which supported ideas, projects and hard work. I think that with the passing of time IFCA's specific characteristic has come out: IFCA is becoming all the more a meeting point which helps to bring out the typical way of being Church which underlies the different situations actually experienced in the various countries. Today the Church needs to

to see not only the CA actual associations that exist here and there and carry out projects, but to understand that there is an idea - or rather an ideal - behind them, which is able to involve people, to drive them to place their lives at the service of the Lord and of the Church according to that style and that ecclesial spirituality, to share her responsibilities, to carry out her mission. Catholic Action's charism should emerge as a gift of the whole Church, for the service to evangelisation. This is also meant as a way to bring the Gospel leaven into the human and earthly realities, showing its fruitfulness when it makes them shine in all their beauty.

Today the Church needs CA, because she needs people who love the Church, who place themselves at her service and put her life and mission first, laying their own projects and preferences aside. Above all, there is a special need of CA because we need a Church who loves human history; who plunges in it friendly, according to Lord Jesus' example. A Church who is able to keep an open and friendly dialogue with it, according to the example given by Vatican Council II. IFCA's commitment for the laypeople's formation carried out during these years aims to prepare laypeople who are ready for this dialogue of the Church with the world; people who are able today, through their witness, to show the Church that the path of dialogue and friendly closeness is what today's humanity expects from every Christian community. The experience which is going to start this year in collaboration with the Pontifical Gregorian University will contribute, even symbolically, to express how much we care about the laypeople's formation.

In this spirit I wish to accompany the work which is going to begin for the next three years and present the Lord my wish and my gratitude for you all.

Paola Bignardi
IFCA Secretariat Coordinator 2004-2008
Member of the Pontifical Council for the Laity

Let us proceed together

Dear friends,

as representatives of the five countries elected during the V Assembly, we met in Rome as IFCA Secretariat with the hope to be of service to the Catholic Action in the world. Let us share the Word of God, the prayer, the Eucharist, the task and the friendship.

This meeting, first of all, aimed to define IFCA's guidelines for the next three years, taking as a basis what was done in the V Assembly, especially in the continental workshops. I think that these guidelines reflect IFCA's experience in these first 20 years. At the same time they push IFCA forward according to new exigencies which will mark our next course of action.

If you read these guidelines carefully, you can easily understand that they cannot be achieved through the Secretariat's commitment only: they require everyone's commitment. The challenge is great and each of us, starting from his/her own CA association, can work hard with devotion and creativity to achieve them. We count on everyone's contribution as to how we can promote and animate CA in the continents, help the youth coordination, work out some specific material to present CA, establish a dynamic and constant communication: these were the main themes discussed at our meeting.

First of all, in these months, we can thank God for having been able to start two new projects: "Pius XI CA school of sanctity" Foundation and the Course at the Pontifical Gregorian University "Vocation and mission of the layfaithful in the Church and in society at 20 years from *Christifideles Laici*: appraisal and prospects".

In the name of IFCA Secretariat for 2008-2011, I wish to express our gratitude to Msgr. Francesco Lambiasi, Paola Bignardi, Luigi Alici, Lourdes Azorín, Oana Tuduce, Terence Mbonabuca, who formed the previous Secretariat. They have offered their service with great willingness and have put their talents at IFCA's service. Thank you for what you have done, we continue to count on you, on your experience and on your generosity!

In the international work we have learned how much we are enriched by sharing our real situations and how much we can learn from our successes and our difficulties: the more we participate and "share", the more we grow.

Let us proceed together. Let us witness our vocation in the Church and in all spheres of life with joy. Let us help one another so that CA may provide a favourable atmosphere in our communities and may be effective and able to make faith, formation and evangelisation grow, according to the call of the Holy Father Benedict XVI on the 4th May in St Peter's Square: "*Dear friends, respond generously to this call to holiness in accordance with the ways that best suit your secular condition! Continue to let yourselves be inspired by the three great 'consignments' that my Venerable Predecessor, the Servant of God John Paul II, entrusted to you at Loreto in 2004: contemplation, communion and mission.*"

We entrust our commitments to the Most Holy Virgin, Catholic Action's Patroness, and feel sure that she always accompanies and protects us.

United in prayer,

Emilio Inzaurraga
IFCA Secretariat Coordinator

Index

A farewell message of thanks by Paola Bignardi	p.	1
Let us proceed together by Emilio Inzaurraga	p.	3
Benedict XVI's address to CA, 4 May 2008	p.	5
V ordinary Assembly - Press release	p.	8
List of the participant countries	p.	10
List of the member countries	p.	10
First meeting of IFCA Secretariat - Press release	p.	12
Guidelines 2008-2011	p.	14
Course at the Pontifical Gregorian University	p.	16
"Pius XI CA school of sanctity" Foundation	p.	20

Dear Children, Young People and Adults of Catholic Action!

It is a great joy to me to welcome you here today in St Peter's Square where in the past your praiseworthy Association has frequently met the Successor of Peter. Thank you for your visit. I greet with affection all of you who have come from every part of Italy, as well as the members of the International Forum who come from 40 Countries of the world. In particular, I greet Prof. Luigi Alici, your National President, whom I thank for his cordial words addressed to me, Msgr. Domenico Sigalini, your Assistant General, and the national and diocesan leaders. I also thank you for the special gift you have desired to offer to me through your representatives which testifies to your solidarity with the neediest. I express deep gratitude to Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco, President of the Italian Bishops' Conference who has celebrated Holy Mass for you.

You have come to Rome in the spiritual company of your numerous Saints, Blesseds, Venerables and Servants of God: men and women, young people and children, educators and priest chaplains, rich in Christian virtues, who have grown up in the ranks of Catholic Action which is celebrating its 140th anniversary in these days. The magnificent crown of faces that symbolically embraces St Peter's Square is a tangible witness of a holiness rich in light and love. These witnesses, who followed Jesus with all their strength, who spared no efforts for the Church and for the Kingdom of God, represent your most authentic identity card. Is it not still possible today for you boys and girls, young people and adults, to make your life a witness of communion with the Lord that is transformed into a genuine masterpiece of holiness? Is this not your Association's purpose? This will certainly be possible if Catholic Action continues to be faithful to its own deep roots of faith, nourished by full adherence to the Word of God, by unconditional love for the Church, a vigilant participation in civil life and a constant commitment to formation. Dear friends, respond

generously to this call to holiness in accordance with the ways that best suit your secular condition! Continue to let yourselves be inspired by the three great "consignments" that my Venerable Predecessor, the Servant of God John Paul II, entrusted to you at Loreto in 2004: contemplation, communion and mission.

Catholic Action is born as a particular association of lay faithful marked by a special and direct bond with the Pope, which quickly becomes a precious form of "collaboration of the laity in the hierarchical apostolate", "most earnestly" recommended by the Second Vatican Council, and which identifies its indispensable "characteristics" (cf. Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity in the Church, *Apostolicam Actuositatem* n. 20). This vocation of yours is still valid today. I encourage you, therefore, to persevere with generosity in your service to the Church. By adopting its general apostolic goal in a spirit of intimate union with the Successor of Peter and hard-working co-responsibility with Pastors, you incarnate a ministerial role in a fruitful balance between the universal Church and the local Church, which requires you to make a ceaseless and irreplaceable contribution to communion.

This broad ecclesial dimension which identifies your association's charism is not the sign of an uncertain or outdated identity; rather, it attributes great responsibility to your lay vocation: illumined and sustained by the action of the Holy Spirit and constantly rooted in the journey of the Church, you are challenged to courageously seek ever new syntheses between the proclamation of Christ's salvation to the people of our time and the promotion of the integral good of the person and of the entire human family.

In my intervention at the Fourth National Ecclesial Convention held in Verona in October 2006, I recognized that the Church in Italy "is a lively reality - and we see it! -, which conserves a capillary presence in the midst of people of every age and level. "Christian traditions often continue to be rooted and to produce fruit, while a great effort of evangelization and catechesis is taking place, addressed particularly to the new generations, but now even more so to families" (*Address to Fourth National Ecclesial Convention, Verona, 19 October 2006*). How can we fail to see in this capillary presence also a discreet and tangible sign of Catholic Action? In fact, the beloved Italian Nation has always been able to count on men and women formed in your Association who are prepared to serve the

cause of the common good disinterestedly, to build up a just ordering of society and the State. May you, therefore, be able to live up to your Baptism which immersed you in the death and Resurrection of Jesus for the salvation of every person whom you meet, and of a world that is thirsting for peace and truth. Be "worthy citizens of the Gospel" and "ministers of Christian wisdom for a more human world": this is the theme of your Assembly and this is the commitment you assume today before the Italian Church, represented here by you, by your priest chaplains, by the Bishops and by their President.

In a missionary Church, placed before an educational emergency such as that which is found in Italy today, may you who love and serve her be tireless heralds and trained and generous educators; in a Church called to give even very demanding proof of fidelity and tempted by adaptation, be courageous witnesses and prophets of Gospel radicalism; in a Church which is confronted daily by the relativist, hedonist and consumerist mentality, may you be able to extend the spaces of rationality in the sign of a faith that befriends intelligence, both in the context of a popular and widespread culture and in a more elaborated and thought-out research; in a Church that calls for the heroism of holiness, respond without fear, always trusting in God's mercy.

Dear friends of Italian Catholic Action you are not alone on the path that lies ahead of you: your saints accompany you. Other figures too have played significant roles in your Association: I am thinking for example, among the others of Giuseppe Toniolo and Armida Barelli. Inspired by these examples of Christianity lived out, you have embarked on an extraordinary year, a year that we could qualify by holiness, in which you strive to translate the Gospel teachings into practical life. I encourage you in this resolution. Intensify your prayer, reform your conduct on the eternal values of the Gospel, letting yourselves be guided by the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church. The Pope accompanies you with constant remembrance before the Lord, while he warmly imparts the Apostolic Blessing to you who are present here and to the entire Association.

Address of the Holy Father Benedict XVI
Rome - St Peter's Square, 4 May 2008

V Ordinary Assembly

Rome, 27 April/4 May 2008

For the life of the world (Jn 6,51)

Lay People in Catholic Action 20 years after *Christifideles Laici*

Press release

IFCA held its V Ordinary Assembly in Rome between the 27th April and the 4th May on the theme "For the life of the world (Jn 6,51). Lay Catholic Action members - 20 years from *Christifideles Laici*".

The meeting started on the 27th April in the afternoon with an opening prayer presided over by Mgr. Domenico Sigalini and with a welcoming address by Paola Bignardi. The 120 participants came from around forty countries in Europe, America, Africa and Asia. The Statutory Session lasted from the 27th to the 30th of April. This session was concluded on the 30th with a Public Celebration commemorating 20 years of *Christifideles Laici* (Guzmán Carriquiry, Luigi Alici, Beatriz Buzzetti Thomson, Oana Tuduce).

From the 1st to the 3rd May, working sessions followed. The working groups discussed Youth Coordination and Continental initiatives with particular attention to the Holy Land. The different countries had an opportunity to give a presentation about their activities and to speak about their concerns and plans.

On the 3rd May, the participants had a Pauline Pilgrimage to the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls where a Eucharistic Celebration, presided over by Mgr. Servilien Nkawuzita of Rwanda, was held. They also visited Tre Fontane, the place where St. Paul was beheaded.

On the 1st May, the IFCA Assembly participants were invited to the opening session of the XIII National Assembly of the Italian Catholic Action. On the 3rd May, they joined the Italian Catholic Action members for the Prayer Vigil and on

the 4th May for the grand meeting with the Holy Father Benedict XVI. The Assembly opened with reflections about "Where is the world going" by Father Federico Lombardi SJ - director of the Vatican Press Office, Sandro Calvani - UNO representative in Italy and Mother Amelia Kawaji - UISG President. These were followed by a biblical presentation (Romano Penna) and a theological presentation (Juvenal Ilunga Muya). Tullio Citrini spoke about lay people's responsibility in the evangelization and inculturation of faith giving examples of lay people, members of the first Christian communities, who were the collaborators of Paul the Apostle. In all these examples he stressed the missionary dimension (Lourdes Azorin Ortega).

The Assembly is always a splendid opportunity for IFCA representatives of member and observer countries to rediscover CA's identity (Paola Bignardi) and to get to know one another and exchange experiences. A presentation about the Normative Document and some possible implementation amendments (Giuseppe Gervasio) was given on the 30th April. The new Secretariat was elected. The five countries on the Secretariat are: Argentina, Burundi, Italy, Myanmar-Birmania and Poland.

The Eucharistic Celebrations were presided over as follows: 27th April - Card Rylko, 28th April - Mgr. Lambiasi, IFCA's ex-ecclesiastical Assistant, 29th April Card. Sandri and 30th April Card. De Giorgi, President of the recently constituted "Pius XI Catholic Action School of Sanctity Foundation" and 2nd May - Mgr. Robert Sarah, Secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

Recently, the President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity nominated Mgr. Domenico Segalini, General Assistant for the Italian Catholic Action, as IFCA's Ecclesiastical Assistant.

The message by the Holy Father was received with great joy by the ICA Assembly participants as well as by IFCA's representatives: "Dear children, young people and adults, members of Catholic Action! It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you here today, in Saint Peter's Square, where, many times in the past, your esteemed Association has met Peter's successor. I thank you for your visit. I warmly greet each one of you coming from all parts of Italy, as well as the members of the International Forum coming from forty different countries...".

Participants

AFRICA

1. Burundi
2. Cameroon
3. Ivory Cost *
4. Kenya
5. Congo Dem. Rep.

6. Rwanda
7. Senegal
8. Uganda
9. Zambia

AMERICA

10. Argentina
11. Colombia
12. Costa Rica
13. Mexico
14. Nicaragua
15. Paraguay
16. Peru
17. Venezuela

Member countries after the V Assembly

AFRICA

1. Burundi
2. Cameroon - diocese
3. Ivory Cost - application from a diocese to join IFCA
4. Kenya - diocese
5. Congo Dem. Rep. - diocese
6. Rwanda - application to join IFCA from diocesan to national level
7. Senegal - application to join IFCA at national level
8. Tanzania* - diocese
9. Uganda - diocese

ASIA

18. Corea
19. Myanmar - Birmania
20. Holy Land

EUROPA

21. Austria
22. Bosnia-Herzegovina
23. Bulgaria
24. Italy
25. Malta
26. Poland
27. Rumania
28. Spain
29. Switzerland CA of Ticino
30. Ucraina

AMERICA

10. Argentina
11. Colombia
12. Ecuador*
13. Mexico
14. Paraguay
15. Peru
16. Venezuela

ASIA

17. Myanmar - Birmania

EUROPA

18. Albany*
19. Austria
20. Luxemburg*
21. Italy
22. Malta
23. Poland
24. Rumania
25. Spain
26. Switzerland - CA of Ticino

* Absent

The undermentioned countries were accepted as IFCA members on 30th April during the Assembly:

- Rwanda national level
- Senegal national level
- Ivory Cost - KORHOGO diocese

First meeting of the Secretariat

Rome, 9-14 October 2008

Press release

The members of the Secretariat of the International Forum of Catholic Action (IFCA) met in Rome from the 9th to 14th October, after IFCA V Ordinary Assembly held in Rome as well between 27th April and the 4th May 2008, when they participated also in ICA's meeting with the Holy Father.

The Secretariat is composed of the national representatives of the 5 countries elected by the member-countries during the V Assembly, namely: Argentina (Emilio Inzaurraga), Burundi (Félicité Nyongere, Rev. Salvator Niciteretse), Italy (Franco Miano), Myanmar (Paul Themoi), Poland (Halina Szydello and Konrad Glebocki). IFCA's Ecclesiastical Assistant is H.E. Msgr. Domenico Sigalini, Bishop of Palestrina and General Assistant of the CA in Italy.

The five representatives elected as Coordinator of the Secretariat for the three years 2008-2011 **Emilio Inzaurraga**, national Vice President of the CA in Argentina. He is an engineer, married with Claudia and has got four children. As proposed by ICA, Giovanni Rotondo (ICA Regional Delegate for Liguria) accepted to be appointed as IFCA administrator and Chiara Finocchietti (ICA National Vice President for the Youth section) to be charged with IFCA Youth Coordination.

On the 10th October the members of the Secretariat participated in Spello in the initiative in memory of Carlo Carretto and visited San Gerolamo hermitage. On the 11th October, in Rome, they attended the presentation of the "Pius XI Catholic Action School of Sanctity" Foundation promoted by IFCA. On the 12th October, in IFCA head office in Via Conciliazione 1, they had an exchange with Fr. Alois - who is taking part in the Synod - and with some other Brothers of Taizé and closed it with a common prayer.

On the 13th October they went to the Pontifical Council for the Laity in order to meet H.E Msgr. Josef Clemens - Secretary, Guzmán Carriquiry - Undersecretary and Msgr. Miguel Delgado.

The last month of April Paola Bignardi, former Coordinator of IFCA Secretariat (2004-2008), was named as a consultant to the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

The Secretariat drew up the following guidelines for 2008-2011:

- TO PROMOTE the laypeople's formation and the CATHOLIC ACTION in the world.
- TO FOSTER meeting, reflection and solidarity between the CA at the different levels.
- TO ENFORCE the Youth Coordination.
- TO START an exchange of experiences between Adults and children.
- TO INTENSIFY the relationships with the International Faithful Associations: Movements, Organisms...
- TO QUALIFY the communication.
- TO SUPPORT TWO NEW INITIATIVES just started:
 1. "Pius XI Catholic Action School of Sanctity" Foundation and its aims together with ICA and the various parties concerned in the causes of beatification and canonisation.
 2. The course at the Pontifical Gregorian University in the second semester 2008-2009: "At 20 years from *Christifideles Laici*. The vocation and mission of the lay faithful in the Church and in society". With the patronage of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, with ICA and CVX.

15 October 2008

Guidelines for the years 2008-2011

The representatives of the 5 countries, in the light of the works of the V Ordinary Assembly held in 2008, have drawn up the following guidelines for the three years 2008-2011:

1. TO PROMOTE THE CATHOLIC ACTION

To present, give rise to and support the Catholic Action in the world, by:

- meeting the bishops and the priests who are interested in the CA, in the local churches as well as at national and continental level.
- Accompanying CA laypeople and forming leaders and priest assistants.
- Enforcing the work of the CA Promotion Group in the different continents and working out adequate instruments to present CA.
- Proposing to work with the *Fidei Donum* priests.
- Doing a research on the CA's history in the different countries.
- Proposing to organize a university course in the different countries following the experience of the first course 2008-2009, promoted at the Pontifical Gregorian University.

2. TO FOSTER

Meeting, reflection, and solidarity between CA associations at the different levels.

A. By an in-depth study on some important themes:

- in the spirit of the Pauline Year (after the reflection carried out during the last three years on the theme "where is the world going"): "how to become more and more effective disciples and missionaries in the world".
- Catholic Action parish and movements.
- Ecumenical and interreligious dialogue.

B. Realizing experiences of "brotherhood" between the CA of the different countries.

C. Animating the continental coordination.

D. Collecting direct informations from the countries, preparing interventions on important themes.

3. TO ENFORCE

The Youth Coordination (after the pilgrimage to the Holy Land, after the WYD in Sidney; in the ordinary life of the countries, towards the WYD in Madrid, ...).

To start an exchange of experiences between Adults and Children.

4. TO PROMOTE

The "Pius XI Catholic Action School of sanctity" Foundation and its aims.

5. TO DEVELOP THE RELATIONSHIPS WITH:

- International Faithful Associations (PCL)
- Forum of the International Catholic NGOs (Secretariat of State)
- Organisms of coordination of men and women religious (USG - UISG) and of the missionaries: paying attention to the laypeople.

6. TO INTENSIFY

The communication and the exchange of news: website, NOTICIAS and other tools.

7. TO DEFINE

The regulation to enact the normative document which is to be sent to the countries one year before the Assembly.

The vocation and mission of the lay faithful in the Church and in society

Twenty years after *Christifideles Laici*: appraisal and prospects

Course at Pontifical Gregorian University
Rome, February-May 2009

Course KP 0036 - A series of conferences by visiting lecturers
Academic Year 2008-2009 - Second semester

International Forum of Catholic Action (IFCA), Italian Catholic Action (ICA)
In collaboration with CLC (Christian Life Community)
Under the Patronage of the Pontifical Council for the Laity (PCL)

"At the conclusion of this post-synodal document I once again put forward the invitation of "the householder", proposed in the gospel: *You too go into my vineyard*. It can be said that the significance of the Synod on the vocation and mission of the lay faithful might very well consist in this call of the Lord which he addresses to everyone, yet, in a particular way to the lay faithful, both women and men. [...] Therefore I make a strong appeal to one and all, Pastors and faithful, never to become tired of maintaining - indeed always taking an active part to fix deeply in one's mind, heart and life - an ecclesial consciousness, which is ever mindful of what it means to be members of the Church of Jesus Christ, participants in her mystery of communion and in her dynamism in mission and the apostolate".

(*Christifideles Laici*, 64)

Course Content

The course aims to address the question of the laity within the Church and to look at the actual situation on the occasion of the 20th anniversary from the publication of *Christifideles Laici*.

Objectives

To stimulate awareness, debate, exchange of ideas and deeper study on the subject of the laity.

Target audience

- PGU students and students from other Pontifical Roman Universities
- Catholic Action lay leaders and priest-assistants
- CLC members
- Members of Associations and Movements
- Interested priests and lay people.

NB: One may register as a Guest Student at the Pontifical Gregorian University Secretariat even for this course only. As such, one may even attend the lectures meant for registered students.

Calendar 2009

All lectures will be held on Saturday between 9.30 a.m. and 12 noon

Course director:

Father Sandro BARLONE SJ, LAIKOS *director*

21 February

Lecture only for registered students for the course*

28 February

Ecclesiology in Vatican II and in *Christifideles Laici*.

OPENING SESSION: His Eminence Card. Stanislaw RYLKO

President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity

Lectio magistralis: Prof. Salvador PIÉ-NINOT

7 March

The theological debate on the laity from Vatican II to *Christifideles Laici*

H.E. Msgr. Ignazio SANNA

14 March

The theological debate on the laity after *Christifideles Laici*

Prof. Marco VERGOTTINI, prof. Stella MORRA

21 March

Lecture reserved for registered students for the course *

28 March

Lay Associations (round table) - criteria of ecclesiality, legal aspects:

Introduction and coordination by Dr. Guzmán CARRIQUIRY

PCL Undersecretary

Interventions by Catholic Action (Prof. Franco MIANO,

CLC (Prof. Leonardo BECCHETTI) and representatives of other lay associations

4 April

Lay collaborators in the *plantatio Ecclesiae*: Catholic Action

H.E. Msgr. Franco G. BRAMBILLA, Prof. Paola BIGNARDI

9 May

Lay people for the *l'implantatio evangelica*: service to the world

Msgr. Pietro PAROLIN, Prof. Carmen APARICIO VALLS

16 May

Spirituality and formation

His Eminence Card. Tomáš ŠPIDLÍK SJ

23 May

Lecture reserved for registered students for the course *

*Course coordinators: Prof. Carmen APARICIO VALLS,

Stella MORRA, Giorgia SALATIELLO

Information

The lectures will be in Italian and will be open to the public.

There will be time for questions and for discussion. If there have to be any changes in the time-table, these will be announced well beforehand.

Some lectures are intended for registered students only and will treat the subject in depth. The final examination will consist of a presentation of an assignment on a theme chosen by the candidates. Assessment will be based on attendance and on the candidate's active participation and contribution during the sessions.

The Bibliography will be given out during the course.

For further information:

laikos@unigre.it

info@fiacifca.org

PUG <http://www.unigre.it>

FIAC <http://www.fiacifca.org>

ICA <http://www.azionecattolica.it>

In collaboration with CLC <http://www.cvx-clc.net>

Under the patronage of the Pontifical Council for the Laity

<http://www.laici.org>

"Pius XI Catholic Action school of sanctity" Foundation

"Dear brothers and sisters, friends of Catholic Action who have gathered in Loreto from Italy, from Spain, from many parts of the world! Today, through the beatification of these three Servants of God, the Lord is saying to you: the greatest gift you can make to the Church and to the world is holiness.

May you have at heart what the Church has at heart: that numerous men and women of our time be won over by the fascination for Christ: may his Gospel shine once more as a light of hope for the poor, the sick, those who hunger for justice; may Christian communities be ever more lively, open and attractive; may our cities be hospitable and liveable for all; may humanity follow the paths of peace and brotherhood."

(John Paul II, Homily 5 september 2004, Loreto)

With this aim, the Foundation brings together CA Associations and those involved in promoting the causes of beatification of CA witnesses: saint, blessed and venerable. Its objective is to make these figures - whether their cause is in the Roman or in the diocesan phase - known, so that they may help us today as to how we can go through the CA experience as a school of sanctity especially for the laypeople, of every age and life condition, in the whole world. We should not forget that CA is a school of vocations and that many bishops and priests have contributed and are still contributing to promote CA.

This Foundation was dedicated to Pope Pius XI to remind us of this Pope who was a solicitous and watchful Pastor in a rather difficult time for CA in Italy (cf *We do not need*, 29 June 1931). He helped CA to be promoted in the Catholic Church and recalled its essential religious identity: *"the ultimate aim of the Catholic Action, that is the sanctification of the souls, in accordance with the evangelical precept: 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God'"* (Pius XI, *Firmissimam constantiam*, 28 March 1937).

These words anticipate the conciliar outlines of the CA's characteristics: *"The immediate aim of organizations of this kind - such as CA - is the Church's apostolic aim, that is, the evangelization and sanctification of men and the formation of a Christian conscience among them so that they can infuse the spirit of the Gospel into various communities and departments of life."* (AA 20.a) and the successive magisterium: *"I encourage the Catholic Action to develop more and more its own formative commitment so that its members may grow in sanctity of life and in ecclesial communion and may be credible witnesses to the Risen Christ, hope of humanity"* (Benedict XVI, *Angelus*, 8 December 2006).

The Foundation was constituted in Rome on 23rd December 2007, with its administrative office in the Vatican City. It was promoted by the International Forum of Catholic Action, the Italian Catholic Action and some parties concerned.

It was officially presented in Rome on 11th October, on the occasion of the first meeting of IFCA's Secretariat and ICA's national Council.

The Foundation Board is composed of the following founder members:

President: H.E. Card. Salvatore De Giorgi

Vice Presidents: Francesca Zabotti and Silvia monica Correale

Councillors: H.E. Msgr. Domnico Sigalini, Rev. Arnaldo Biagio and Encarnación Perez Ferris

Administrator: Vincenzo Serra

Secretary: Maria Grazia Tibaldi

Substitutes for Councillors: Card. Ricardo Maria Carles and H.E. Msgr. Renato Boccardo.

From the Statute

Art. 2 - Aim

The Foundation's aim is to collaborate and assist, in all possible ways and with all possible means, in accordance to the Canon Law, the parties concerned and the respective postulations of the causes for the Canonisation of those already declared blessed and of the causes for Beatification of those already declared venerable and servants of God. It does this in cases of lay CA members, priest assistants and Bishops who promoted Catholic Action (CA), in any country of the world and whether the cause is in the Roman phase or in the Diocesan phase.

To achieve its aim, the Foundation is committed to:

- spread information on "CA school of sanctity" and on the individual witnesses in collaboration with the local churches.
- Support the work on documentation, research, the compilation of relevant documents and research related to the causes.
- Collaborates in organizing meetings and research work on the life, work, moral teachings of the saints, blessed, venerable and servants of God who were CA witnesses, at international and national level.
- Provide material to CA Associations' means of information.
- Give legal assistance during the process, when this has already been started, and give information and guidance about the process, before this is launched.
- Help forming postulators and vice-postulators so as to encourage the involvement of CA and of the local Church in the ordinary pastoral work connected with the beatification and canonisation of their witnesses.
- Promote a movement of prayers and intercession, all over the world, among the catholic lay faithful and among those who knew

the blessed, venerable and servants of God personally and can speak about their work so that they can testify about their odour of sanctity and give instances of their intercession.

The Foundation can carry out all other activities which might be helpful and instrumental in the achievement of its aim.

To pursue its institutional aim and other related aspects, which may be instrumental and in any way relevant, the Foundation may undertake any movable, immovable and economic-financial activity as well as all related actions and operations considered necessary and/or opportune.

For further information, communications: info@fondazionesantiac.org

23 November 2008 Christ the King

1954-1955-1956-1957-1958-1959-1960-1961-1962-1963-1964-1965-1966-1967-1968-1969-1970-1971-1972-1973-1974-1975-1976-1977-1978-1979-1980-1981-1982-1983-1984-1985-1986-1987-1988-1989-1990-1991-1992-1993-1994-1995-1996-1997-1998-1999-2000-2001-2002-2003-2004-2005-2006-2007-2008-2009-2010-2011-2012-2013-2014-2015-2016-2017-2018-2019-2020-2021-2022-2023-2024-2025

Faded, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.



Faded, illegible text at the bottom of the page, likely bleed-through.

