

## FINAL COMMUNICATION

The international Forum of Catholic Action held its first european continental meeting April 4-6th in Malta.

In dealing with the theme "In dialogue with God, in the Church, with world and cultures", IFCA aimed to place this meeting in the perspective of its second General Assembly that is going to take place in Buenos Aires September 11-14th, precisely on the same theme.

Through these two important stages the Associations of CA which are present in different countries of the world, intend to participate in the common journey of the whole Church towards the Jubilee of the Year 2000; the path is that of the "new evangelization": with the Christian community, through a laity grown up in faith, in dialogue with peoples and cultures, for a lively announcement of the Gospel.

Dialogue leads the Christian faithful and the Christian community to live together with the men and the women, with the families, sharing the common situations and conditions of life, facing the concrete, outstanding problems arising from the complex society of our time. Dialogue makes us listen to the problems and aspirations that the different cultures bring to light. It leads us to search for responses to the questions about life's and story's meaning, about the efforts that peoples and societies mean to make in order to build their future. Dialogue looks like a common journey to rediscover "the full truth on man", God's plan of love on man and men's history.

The search for responses to the "mystery of world", to the "mystery of man" that the different cultures are carrying on through the dialogue, opens to the perspective of the trascendancy, to the "mystery of God", which is the heart of each culture. Dialogue then turns into announcement, and becomes dialogue of salvation. The meeting was attended by Mons. Stanislaw Rilko, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, who brought the greetings, and also the encouragement of Mons. Stafford, PCL's President. Mons. Rilko outlined the theme of dialogue in the light of the Magisterium of the Council and in particular of the Encyclical Letter *Ecclesiam Suam* by Pope Paul VI. From the works some common guidelines of commitment came out for IFCA, as a concrete instrument of dialogue among the various CA and with all those situations - particularly in the countries of Eastern Europe - where CA is being setting up or reforming through associations under that name or under other names. The main goal is walking together in order to foster the participation of the laypeople in the Church and in society: adults, youths, children, in cooperation with the Pastors of our own particular Churches. Especially the experience - already in progress - of the twinnings between diocesan Associations of the different countries can be developed as an ordinary activity of IFCA's members in Europe. The second european continental meeting will take place in the diocese of IASI - Romania - in summer 1998. In all probability it will be preceded by some activities for the youths of the countries of Eastern Europe. A special attention was dedicated to the preparation of the forthcoming Ecumenical Assembly in Graz, during which the CA of Austria is going to promote a specific initiative. On the Assembly of Graz an interesting report came from Dr. Helmut Steindl of the CCEE's Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of the CA of Europe, IFCA's members (Austria, Italy, Malta, Spain, Italian Switzerland, Romania - greek/byzantine rite and latin rite) and by those of the Non-European countries of IFCA's Secretariat (Argentina, Mexico); by the representatives of some eastern countries as observers (Poland, Slovachia, Hungary, while Albany could not attend the meeting). A representative of MIDADE-Europe (a catholic international organism for the children apostolate) was also present.

Malta, April 4-6th 1997