



**FORO INTERNACIONAL ACCIÓN CATÓLICA**  
**INTERNATIONAL FORUM CATHOLIC ACTION**



# **EUROPA-MED CONTINENTAL MEETING**

**3 of March 2021**  
**6 PM (Italia) - 7 PM (Romania)**

# **ENCUENTRO CONTINENTAL EUROPA-MED**

**3 de marzo 2021**  
**18 h (Italia) 19 h (Romania)**



# 1. The Country in numbers and map

il paese in numeri e cartina geografica | el país en cifras & un mapa del país para conocer donde está en Europa

- The area of Poland - 312 696 km<sup>2</sup>
- Population – 37 672 367 (2020)
- Poland is an ethnically uniform nation – 97% of population declares Polish nationality.
- Poland was Baptised in the year 966.
- Following the partitions (1795 – third partition), until 1918, Poland was under Russian, Prussian and Austrian dominion for 123 years.
- After WWII, until 1989 under Soviet dominion.
- Member of UE since 2004.

## 2. The Church in numbers

La Chiesa in numeri | La Iglesia en cifras

- Roman Catholic Church in Poland: 2017 – 32.91 mln baptised (incl. 30.8 000 clerics) in 10.263 parishes. In 2018 mass attendance amounted to 38.2% of obliged faithful; 17.3% received Communion.
- Since 2015 Poland has been governed by organisations supporting Christian values in social life. However, recent months have seen an increase in activity of organisations hostile to the Church. Provocations against the Church have been particularly visible in large cities. Open acts of vandalism and destroying religious symbols have increased.

### 3. Lay people in the parish, associations, movements

I laici in parrocchia, associazioni, movimenti | Laicos en parroquia, asociaciones y movimientos

- Catholic movements and associations in Poland – appr. 2.5 mln faithful in appr. 140 different formative and charitable communities.
- The most numerous: Catholic Action, Catholic Youth Association, the Light-Life Movement.
- Numerous prayer groups – the living rosary is the largest group.
- There are ministries for professional and age groups.
- Mass initiatives: The March of Three Wise Men, Marches for Life, Border-bound Rosary

#### 4. The pandemic changes us, challenges us - activities

La pandemia ci cambia, ci sfida - attività | La pandemia nos cambia, nos desafía - actividades

- There have been limitations in the number of people allowed to attend church service since March 2020, though the churches have always been open (at least 5 people).
- Meetings of laity communities – largely limited, impossible on mass level.
- Public media broadcast Holy Mass daily.
- Internet pastoral work is developing.
- Catholic Action board meeting – online.

## 5. History of CA

Storia di AC | Historia di AC

- Catholic Action was brought to life in Poland in 1930, by card. August Hlond.
- Intensive development until WWII. In 1939 700.000 members.
- After WWII the communist authorities banned the organisation.
- Upon pope John Paul II's request, re-established by Polish Episcopate in 1996.
- John Paul II has been the patron since 2017.

## 6. Organisation

Organizzazione | Organización

- Currently the number of members - appr. 20.000
- Active in 38 dioceses (out of 40 existing in Poland) in 1880 parishes.
- Catholic Action operates within national, diocesan and parochial structures.
- Each diocesan structure has legal civil and church personality.
- In dioceses, CA is headed by a board with its president appointed by diocesan bishop from among candidates proposed by Diocesan Council.
- Diocesan Council is made up of presidents of parochial structures and persons appointed by the bishop. Each parochial structure also has its board.
- Nationwide the organisation is coordinated by National Institute made up of diocesan presidents and delegates.
- Each CA structure has its church assistant: in a parish it is the parish priest, in a diocese it is a priest appointed by the bishop and in the country – bishop chosen by the Episcopate.

## 7. Priorities and challenges

Priorità e sfide | Prioridades e Desafíos

- Finding a form of the Association's activity in epidemiological limitations
- Adjusting forms and methods of work to the rapidly changing reality – ideological attacks on the Church
- Reaching the laity – new members
- Smaller interest in cooperation by new generation of bishops and priests



## **8. Proposals with young adults children families**

Proposte con giovani adulti bambini famiglie | Propuestas con jóvenes adultos niños familias

- In accordance with the will of the Episcopate, Catholic Action in Poland is an organisation solely for adult people. Its activity centers around:
  - Individual and community formation
  - Diverse activity on parish level
  - A large group of dioceses also runs diverse activity (sport, contests, entertainment, song festivals, crib and carol contests, summer and winter holidays
  - Educational and cultural activity
  - Transformation of self-government circles
  - CA has 23 representatives in Polish Parliament
  - Present in Program Councils of public radio and TV