



FORO INTERNACIONAL ACCIÓN CATÓLICA INTERNATIONAL FORUM CATHOLIC ACTION

10 of March 2021
11.30 (India) - 15.00 (Philippines)

**ASIA
CONTINENTAL
MEETING**

**ENCUENTRO
CONTINENTAL
ASIA**

International Forum of Catholic Action (IFCA) - short presentation

*The International Forum of Catholic Action (IFCA) was born in 1987 as a result of a meeting among various groups of Catholic Action in Rome, during the Bishops' Synod on the lay faithful in 1987. The support by Cardinal Eduardo Pironio, then president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, and the publication of the post-synodal apostolic exhortation *Christifideles Laici*, which makes an explicit reference to Catholic Action (CFL 31), favoured the constitution of this Forum. The key-point of reference is the document *Apostolicam Actuositatem* (AA 20). The following Magisterium by John Paul II and Benedict XVI and now by Pope Francis confirmed the validity of this démarche. The pontifical Council for the Laity, now Dicastery for Laity Family and Life recognized the International Forum of Catholic Action in the year 2000.*

With this slogan, ***Catholic Action Catholic Passion***, IFCA intends to encourage encounter and communion, through initiatives in different continental realities, promoted at regional and national level, involving new countries together with member countries. The objective is to train lay missionary disciples in the parish, conscious of their proper vocation, in the faithful people of God to develop a culture of encounter (cf EG 220), never tiring of fostering fraternity (cf EG 91).

INFO IFCA IN ASIA

In Asia, the first meeting was held in Bangkok in 2012.

http://www.catholicactionforum.org/bangkok2012_page/?lang=en

We prepared to hold our second meeting in Asia in Manila, in March 2020. We worked in collaboration with the Episcopal Conference of the Philippines, through LAIKO, the Lay Associations' Council which became an IFCA member in 2017. We were also in contact with FABC.

BUT we couldn't meet last year

Now we are promoting this meeting on line

These meetings are an opportunity for participants to know each others and exchange views for the future

The 4 options which characterize Catholic Action - with this name or with another name - and which the Second Ecumenical Vatican Council has defined in *Apostolicam Actuositatem* 20 - are always to be updated, renewed, and inculturated in the local Churches around the world to promote lay people's co-responsibility in the Church and in society : ecclesiality, responsible lay people, organized as association, in according with the Bishops

An outgoing Church requires a missionary formation for holiness for all the laity: children, young people, adults, families, elderly people, both male and female, and requires priests to accompany each individual's faith journey and that of groups so as to ensure continuous discernment.

It is true that, in Asia, the challenges are many and great, but the living reality of the Church, of the laity, of lay groups has much to teach the whole Church as regards dialogue and mission.

What does Catholic Action mean? Pope Francis goes to the essentials: ***Catholic Action Catholic Passion!***

Lay people in the heart of the Church, in the heart of the world, in the heart of Jesus where we find the inexhaustible source of love and passion for the Church and for people, learning to walk in step with the poorest and the weakest.

The magisterium of Pope Francis is very encouraging and demanding. He offers us an updated post-conciliar and universal synthesis which we hold as the basis for our commitment in Asia as well as in the other continents: *“This is the concrete people that you are to form. With this concrete people, and for this concrete people, you are to pray”*

Inspired by Pope Francis dream for our Church expressed in *Evangelii Gaudium* so clear: *“I dream of a ‘missionary option’, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation (EG 27)*, we as lay people of Catholic Action, gathered together in the International Forum of Catholic Action (IFCA), with generosity and enthusiasm and in accordance to our own identity, we put ourselves to the service of this missionary challenge inspired by the witness, the gestures and the words of Pope Francis along his ministry. We would like to follow Jesus, to let Him come closer to us and to serve our brothers.

In April 2017 the IInd International Congress of Catholic Action, with the theme: *“Catholic Action is Mission. With All and For All”* represented for us, as IFCA a turning point, an exhortation to continue our work in all the world in order to truly be ***lay people with everyone and for everyone*** guided by our passion for the Church and its mission.

In these last years Pope Francis through documents, journeys and gestures is very challenging us as lay people, as people of God, as association that lives in the parish, in the local Church and in the universal Church. We are thinking about *Laudato si*, the Abu Dhabi document, *Fratelli tutti*, as well as the Holy Year of Mercy, *Gaudete et exultate* and our vocation to sanctity and now we are ready to work for the next Synod about sinodality, exactly *“For a synodal Church: communion, participation, and mission”*

[IFCA in a minute](#)