



## ICMICA Newsletter No 3 –June 2007

### **Welcome.**

This newsletter is based on the ELC meeting and the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations in Rome.. Comments and contributions are most welcome to [kevin@newman.org.uk](mailto:kevin@newman.org.uk)

**Kevin Lambert** (on behalf of ELC)

### **EUROPE**

**ELC Meetings** The ELC met in Brussels in January. Discussions were held with the Nuncio to the EU, the General Secretary of COMECE and with other specialists on European affairs. The negative results of the French and Dutch referenda induced lethargy in the European project but, with the German presidency, there is a new will to re-launch the European process. As members of church and civil society, we should be involved in this process. We will consider our vision of Europe and the contribution and role of women. In the May meeting of ELC work continued on organising a follow up to the Venice conference, hopefully in **Istanbul on 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2007**. It is hoped to hold a meeting in Ljubljana early in 2008.

### **COMECE Congress**

The congress of COMECE (Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community) was held in Rome in March and marked the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. The theme was *Values and Perspectives for Europe's future*. (See website: [www.rome-2007.eu](http://www.rome-2007.eu).) Vespers were held near the grave of Alcide de Gasperi, one of the founders of the EU, and there was a private audience with the Pope. Different perceptions of the EU were present. On the one hand it has brought peace and development for a long time, and is a testimony of hope for other countries. On the other hand, the EU seems to have lost its traditions especially the Christian one, and the Pope strongly criticised this trend.. The President of the COMECE, Mgr Van Luyn, invited us to become involved in reconciliation and union between nations and peoples.

### **Austria/Hungary**

The Austrian federation together with a number of other organizations held a conference in Pecs (Hungary) in May on the theme *The foreigner is only a stranger in a foreign country*. They used Pecs which is a culturally diverse city to explore the social and political situation of ethnic minorities, and their religious self-image in an attempt to understand the relationship between identity and integration

### **Latvia**

Dzintars is the oldest Latvian Catholic lay organization which was established by Latvian Catholic intellectuals and students in 1947. This organization was brought to Latvia after the re-establishment of independence in 1992 and there are now more than 200 members.

The 60th anniversary was celebrated in March with a special conference in Riga on *Mission and role of the Catholic Intellectuals*. This theme is very significant in a post – Soviet heritage and with the lack of a visible Catholic identity in society. Delegates included many members of the Dzintars organization, Catholic intellectuals, Lutheran colleagues, people from secular society and the leaders of Latvian Catholic Church.

The conference included not only talks on the mission of Catholic intellectuals; Gaudium et Spes and the role of Dzintars but also sessions on music, theatre and Interfaith Dialogue. The conference was very successful and gave many significant insights into the mission of modern Latvian Catholic Intellectuals in Church and society.

### **Netherlands**

A "City Sights" session was held in The Hague in April with nearly 500 participants. Lectures concerned the historical development of The Hague as an important city of peace and justice and with the function of The Hague as 'host' to the International Criminal Court, and the International Court of Justice. Later participants made a choice from a variety of activities: walks through town, visits to museums and guided tours in interesting places that are normally not open to the public. The day closed with a lecture on *Music relating to war and peace* and ended with a beautiful part of Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*. The weather was excellent – and the day was very successful!

**Women's Vision** Further information about the women's group from [annemarieweinzettl@hotmail.com](mailto:annemarieweinzettl@hotmail.com)

**Federation events**. The next Newman Conference is on Creationism on **2<sup>nd</sup> June in England** and KIK have a major conference in

**Poland from 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> June.** A *Citysights* session is planned for **22<sup>nd</sup> September, in Luxembourg** by Thijmgenootschap who also have a symposium on *Food and Globalization* on **10<sup>th</sup> November** KAVO (Austria) have a Summer week in **Vorau (Styria) from 7<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> July** on *Women's Role in the Old Testament*. The IX National MEIC Congress will be held in **Camaldoli (Arezzo) from 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> June** on the theme *Do we need a new Camaldoli Code?*

## SECRETARIATS

**MIJC** The Jurists group were well represented at the Rome celebrations as they had been closely involved in the revision of the statutes and their President gave the formal acceptance speech at the signing ceremony.

**SIIAEC** The next meeting will be held on **1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> June in Prague** on the theme: *New Agriculture*, further information: [hwsptaler@gmx.at](mailto:hwsptaler@gmx.at) or [th.quendler@chello.at](mailto:th.quendler@chello.at)

**SIQS** The Secretariat for Scientific Questions is open to scientists, applied mathematicians and technologists as well as theologians and philosophers concerned with the relations between science and the Catholic faith. SIQS publishes its own bulletin and arranges lectures and meetings. Further information from Dr P E Hodgson [p.hodgson1@physics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:p.hodgson1@physics.ox.ac.uk)

## INTERNATIONAL

**60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** Pax Romana was founded in 1921 and a separate graduate/professional group (ICMICA) was established in 1947 in Rome where the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations were held in May. There were over 70 residential delegates with numerous day visitors. The conference opened with memories of Pax Romana over 60 years and visions of its future. St Peter's Basilica was the magnificent venue for the opening Mass and the following day the revised statutes were signed at the Pontifical Council for the Laity. The study session was held in the imposing surroundings of the Augustinium, beside the St Peter's Square, on the theme *The Holy See: a face of another globalisation*. There was a distinguished team of speakers, including Cardinal Martino, and their contributions were supported by expert panels including several members of Pax Romana. The full proceedings will appear on the Pax Roman website. As a climax to the conference we were present at the Papal Audience and heard the Pope announce the presence of the ICMICA delegation.

**Nairobi 2008.** The next **Pax Romana Statutory Assembly** will be held in the Catholic University of East Africa in **Nairobi, Kenya from 20<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July 2008**. We hope that there will be a good representation from the European federations at this assembly.

**Friends of Pax Romana** Lidia Tresalti is working on a project to revive the Friends of Pax Romana who will support the movement financially and in other ways. Further information from [tresalt@tiscali.it](mailto:tresalt@tiscali.it)

**International Council** International Council met in Rome immediately after the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. An impressive series of reports were received on the activities of Pax Romana in different continents and especially the work at the United Nations in New York, Geneva, and Vienna and at the Council of Europe and UNESCO. Other major items of the agenda included the General Assembly in Nairobi and the continuing difficult financial climate for Pax Romana.

## DIARY OF EVENTS

**1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> June** SIIAEC Conference, Prague

**1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> June** MIEC Congress, Camaldoli

**2<sup>nd</sup> June** Newman Conference, Hatfield (UK)

**15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> June** Gniezno Conference (Poland)

**7<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> July** KAVO Summer Week, Vorau (Styria)

**22<sup>nd</sup> September,** Citysights Luxembourg

**8<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> October** Newman Pilgrimage, *Egypt to the Promised Land*

**25<sup>th</sup> October** Intercultural conference, Rome

**10<sup>th</sup> November** Symposium (Netherlands)

**20<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> July 2008** Pax Romana Assembly, Nairobi