



ICMICA Newsletter No 5 March 2008

Welcome.

Welcome to our fifth and very full European Newsletter including the European Pax Romana Symposium in Celje. Comments and contributions are most welcome to kevin@newman.org.uk

EUROPE

European Symposium

A Symposium *The Struggle for Gender Equality in Europe - a story of success and ignorance* held in Slovenia in January was very successful with about 35 participants from 14 European nations assembled in Celje. The Friday evening discussion showed great differences in equality status in every area of life. Saturday was dedicated to the themes of roles of women and men and of gender mainstreaming. These were discussed by Dr. Nadja Furlan from Slovenia – a specialist in religious feminism and women's studies - and Dr. Erich Lehner from Austria – psycho-analyst and specialist in male and gender research. Their lectures focussed on the role of the Catholic Church as well as on the interpretation of the Bible in regard to the discrimination of women. It became obvious that men's role as protagonists in the process for more equality for women has undergone changes since it was made a new discipline in the field of science and the humanities. Gender mainstreaming is a route into equal partnerships between men and women.

In discussion participants proposed that individuals and federations should commit themselves to networking with public, social and religious institutions in their home countries and with NGOs pursuing the same aims. That educational institutions need to pay particular attention to gender questions, in order to get rid of typical gender stereotypes; Politicians need to help to care for equal rights and equal duties in family and everyday life.

On Sunday there was a visit to Ljubljana and Mass with members of the Slovene Federation before saying good-bye. For further information see Pax Roman website www.paxromana.org including some of the delegates outside the University in Ljubljana.

The symposium was organised by Annemarie Weinzettl with support from other members of the Women's Vision group and from members of the Slovene Federation to whom we are most grateful. Further information on the Women's Vision group from annemarieweinzettl@hotmail.com

ELC Meeting

The ELC meeting was held in Ljubljana after the symposium. It was largely concerned with arrangements for a meeting in Strasburg later in the year, with future membership of the ELC and with a document prepared by Philippe Ledouble. This document is a reflection on activities of Pax Romana and related groups in Europe over the last year and the implications for the movement. It is still in draft form but will be circulated to federations later in the year. The Committee also discussed the political situation in Kenya and the Assembly in Nairobi.

Vatican

Twenty years after the apostolic letter to women *Mulieris dignitatem*; an international conference *Woman and Man, the humanum' in its Entirety* was held in the Vatican in February with 260 participants. Some of the talks are now available in English. Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko opened the conference and was followed by Cardinal Antonio Canizares's talk on evaluation and prospects since *Mulieris dignitatem*. The role of women as mothers and home makers was stressed in many papers but the main focus was on the complementarity of men and women and their mutual responsibility in begetting and nurturing children. Some panel contributors attacked the UN, EU and various NGOs for supporting equal rights between the sexes and, at best, dismissed the results of gender studies during the 20th century. However others addressed the problems of men and women combining family and career. Janne Matlary used Norway as an example of a women and family friendly society. Others used insights gained by feminist theologians such as in Hanna Gerl-Falkovitz's talk on "Jesus, Mary and Women in the Gospel and Early Church".

Working groups had limited time to explore and share the insights from the various speakers. A number of planned initiatives were mentioned which could be very positive and which Pax Romana and other NGOs could assist.

References:-

<http://www.zenit.org/article-21742?!=english>
<http://www.zenit.org/article-21757?!=english>
<http://www.zenit.org/article-21737?!=english>,

UK

The next Newman conference will be on **Catholic Migrants – Opportunities and Challenges** and will be held in Altrincham, Cheshire on **Saturday 19th April 2008**. Further information from kevin@newman.org.uk

Austria

KAVOe's programme includes a seminar **The year 1938 in Vienna** (10th – 14th March) an international seminar (in German) **What Europe has always wanted to know on Transylvania's culture and history** in Sibiu (2nd – 6th May) and "summerweeks" **History as a Cultural Phenomenon between Reminder and Nostalgia** (in Carinthia) and **This Man was God's Son; Jesus and the Understanding of Christ in the New Testament**. (in Styria). Further information from annemarieweinzettl@hotmail.com

Basque Country

A series of evening seminars on problems of sub-Saharan Africa is planned in Bilbao in April further information from mikel.gotzon.etxebarria@bizkaia.net

SECRETARIATS

SIQS The Secretariat for Scientific Questions is open to all 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

INTERNATIONAL

Nairobi 2008.

The next **Pax Romana Statutory Assembly** will be held in the Catholic University of East Africa in **Nairobi, Kenya from 20th to 27th July 2008**.

July, 20th -22nd: International Congress on "**Global Governance, Global Justice: Africa as a symbol and as a reality**" Opening mass Cardinal John Njue, Archbishop of Nairobi. Speakers include: Prof. Wangari Mathai, Noble Peace Laureate 2004; Dr Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, UN Under Secretary-General; Dr Guillermo Kerber, Programme Executive, Human Rights and Advocacy, World Council of Churches; Mr Rudolphe Adada, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and African Union for the UN Mission on Darfur. **July, 23rd:** Special sessions on: Human Rights and Rule of Law: Catholic NGOs and Catholic Movements: Round table on East Africa: **July, 24th:** Regional Assemblies & visits and activities in slums. **July, 25th-26th:** Pax Romana ICMICA/MIIC 30th Plenary Assembly: Statutory Session.

Registration Fee: 100 euros. **Information & registration: P.O.Box 1540 – 00502 Karen**
miic_icmicafrika@yahoo.com

We hope that there will be a good representation from the European federations at this assembly.

Fundraising

The budget for the Nairobi Assembly is 200,000€ of which about half has already been promised. Offers of support from individual federations/parishes etc are urgently required however small. In particular there is a need to support young leaders from African and Asian countries to attend.

Website

A new Pax Romana website www.paxromana-30th-assembly.spaces.live.com is a focus for discussion on the 30th Plenary Assembly in Nairobi.

Internship Programme

A very successful Pax Romana ICMICA/MIIC Inter-religious and Intercultural Internship Programme was held in Bilbao in December on the theme **Citizenship in a Multicultural and Multireligious Society**. For the final statement see website www.paxromana.org

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

Requiescat in Pace.

Mrs. Lyd Nuchelmans, the wife of the late Mr. Jan Nuchelmans, passed away on January 9, at the age of 87. Jan Nuchelmans was very active in the Catholic Teachers' Union.

Personal

Many members of Pax Romana knew Tony Mottram from the Newman Association and some have written to him recently. Sadly his memory is failing and, whilst he does recognise many faces he can no longer remember names, and he cannot carry on any correspondence. For the last three years his family have written to Pax Romana friends where they have addresses, and would now like to thank them and to let them know that Tony is no longer living in Princethorpe

International Council The next International Council meeting will be held in Nairobi in July after the plenary Assembly.

With all best wishes

Kevin Lambert (on behalf of ELC)