



## ICMICA Newsletter No 6 May 2008

### **Welcome.**

Welcome to our sixth European Newsletter, the main items are **a reminder of the Statutory Assembly in Nairobi** and information on the **Conference of the European Federation of Christian Teachers in Sicily**. Comments and contributions are most welcome to [kevin@newman.org.uk](mailto:kevin@newman.org.uk)

### **EUROPE**

#### **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.

#### **Austria**

KAVOe's programme includes an international seminar (in German) **What Europe has always wanted to know on Transylvania's culture and history** in Sibiu (2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:annemarieweinzettl@hotmail.com)

#### **Council of Europe**

The Spring Session took place in April. Pax Romana was represented by Philippe Grolleau and Philippe Ledouble. They met with Caritas International, MIAMSI and Gabriel Nissim OP, the coordinator of the Christian INGOs and attended the general assembly of the INGOs conference and a working group on the European Social Charter. As observers they attended some parts of the Parliamentary Assembly activities including Angela Merkel's speech.

#### **Year of Inter-religious Dialogue**

##### **Council of Europe**

In April the Council of Europe organised a meeting on intercultural and inter religious dialogue with the aim to improve mutual understanding and tolerance in European societies. Members of Governments, of religions and INGO attended this meeting.

[www.coe.int/t/cm/home\\_EN.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/cm/home_EN.asp)?

#### **COMECE**

Also in April, COMECE organised a seminar on Intercultural dialogue entitled: **Response to which problems? Christian and Muslim perspectives**. This was the first among four to be organised in 2008. The next one will be on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May

[www.comece.org/](http://www.comece.org/)

##### **Austria**

In Vienna, the Platform "Christian and Muslims" organise regular meetings on questions of integration. In April their subject was: **Mutual vision of one another: understandings and misunderstandings**.

##### **France**

"The Islamo-Christian House" situated near Paris, organised a meeting in January on **Religion and Politics, Islam and laity, and modernity**.

<http://www.lamaisonislamochretienne.com>

##### **Latvia**

On 10<sup>th</sup> of May, Dzintars will organise a meeting on the **Mosaic of History of Latvian Christian Church** about the long cohabitation of Catholics, Lutherans, Russian Orthodox and Russian old believers.

### **SECRETARIATS**

#### **SIESC**

The European Federation of Christian Teachers (SIESC) will hold their 54<sup>th</sup> International Teachers' Conference in **Agrigento, Sicily from 23<sup>rd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> July 2008**.

The theme of the conference will be *Education towards spirituality and inter culture* marking the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

There will be an associated cultural programme and an optional excursion through Eastern Sicily. Further information from Wolfgang Rank [w.rank@gmx.at](mailto:w.rank@gmx.at), [info@siesc.eu](mailto:info@siesc.eu) or from Enza Grecuzzo [enza.grecuzzo@tin.it](mailto:enza.grecuzzo@tin.it)

**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](mailto:p.hodgson1@physics.ox.ac.uk)

## **SIIAEC**

SIIAEC (International Secretariat for Catholic Engineers, Agronomists and Industry Officials) met at in June 2007 in Prague to discuss the theme *New agriculture, worldwide fair and sustainable, providing regional food security and renewable energy*. One emphasis of the discussion was the historical background of agriculture in Eastern Europe with the transition from collectivisation to joining the European Union with its Common Agricultural Policy. Further information on this conference and future activities will appear on the Pax Romana website.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **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.**

**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 and Mr Michel Camdessus, Former Chairman of the IMF. **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 30<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly: Statutory Session. Registration Fee: 100 euros. **Information & registration: P.O.Box 1540 – 00502 Karen [miic\\_icmicafrica@yahoo.com](mailto:miic_icmicafrica@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**

<http://congress.paxromana.org> is a new website giving further information the 30<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.paxromana.org)

The Pax Romana-ICMICA annual Human Rights Internship Program will take place in Geneva from **31<sup>st</sup> May to 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008** in connection to 8<sup>th</sup> Session United Nations Human Rights Council (2<sup>nd</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> June, 2008). Another Session of the programme will be held from **5<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> September 2008**. Each region can nominate two participants. IMCS and other partners are also welcomed to make nominations.

**International Council** The next International Council meeting will be held in Nairobi in July after the Plenary 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)

**With all best wishes**

*Kevin Lambert* (on behalf of ELC)

### **Dates for your Diary**

**10<sup>th</sup> May** Dzintars Conference, Latvia

**23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> June**, Summer Session of Council of Europe

**20<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> July** Pax Romana International Congress and Statutory Assembly, Nairobi, Kenya

**23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> July** SIESC conference in Agrigento, Sicily

**26<sup>th</sup> July - 1<sup>st</sup> August** AGRU Romania, Summer session on Christian joy and suffering