

Tribute to Rosemary Goldie

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Rosemary Goldie was born in Australia in 1916. At the age of 20, after graduation in her homeland, she came to Paris to study at the Sorbonne University. She took part in the activities of the women-student chaplaincy, which was affiliated to Pax Romana. In 1937, the Pax Romana International Congress was held in Paris and she attended it. The theme was: the formation of the student. In 1938, the international Congress was held in Vaduz (Lichtenstein, a little Duchy between Switzerland and Austria), and Rosemary Goldie was so much part of the Pax Romana family that she participated in that event as delegate of France since no other women-student was available !

During wartime (1939-1945) the Australian student movement got affiliated to Pax Romana through the international office, in that time in Washington. And as Rosemary Goldie came back to Europe after war, she participated in the "founding meetings" 1946-1947 which saw, under the umbrella title Pax Romana, the creation of the student movement (IMCS) and the professional-intellectual movement (ICMICA). In the new ICMICA secretariat located in Fribourg (Switzerland), an English-speaking staff member was badly needed. So Rosemary accepted this task under the guidance of the newly elected general secretary Ramon Sugranyes de Franch. She spent six years there. She was active in the "historical" Pax Romana meetings: general assembly in Amsterdam with the Pie XII message ("Be everywhere present in the vanguard of the intellectual combat..."), pilgrimage to Rome for the Holy Year 1950 (5000 intellectuals from all over the world)... As Pax Romana cooperated fully with the Holy See to prepare the first Congress of the Lay Apostolate, organized on the initiative of Vittorino Veronese, president of Italian Catholic Action and Vice-president of ICMICA, Rosemary Goldie got involved in the COPECIAL: the secretariat, in Rom, which had the duty to prepare the three Congresses for the Lay Apostolate in 1951, 57 and 67, and which will give birth to the Pontifical Council for Laity.

You may read the following stories of her life in the general tribute to her published in the press: she was auditor at the Vatican Council, active engaged in the drafting of the text on lay apostolate, she became an office bearer as under secretary in the Pontifical Council for Laity.

She never gave up her collaboration with Pax Romana after 1951, when she moved to Rom, but did it in a renewed way.

She is and remains a symbol of Pax Romana, of Pax Romana's contribution to the evangelization and of the contribution of Vatican Council to the Church: the role of laity, of women in Church and society, of intellectuals (graduates), the evangelization of culture, the presence of non Europeans in the governing body of the Church: today, we would say, the diversity and plurality of cultures within the Church...