

# Convergence 2020



## Introduction



Dear friends,

The first half of 2020 has been an eventful year! The Conovirus and the financial and social fallout related to this pandemic have shaken the world in ways that are still unfolding. At the same time, we continue to face a number of significant challenges and

threats to the global common good including the deterioration of democracy, the rise of nationalism and xenophobia, nuclear proliferation and the threats of climate change.

Nevertheless, there are signs of hope. People are rising up in movements to care for the sick, to declare that Black Lives Matter, and to fight against climate change.

For the work of our movements, two specific challenges arise.

### **The Challenge Global Solidarity**

Now more than ever, our world needs a genuine *global solidarity*. Even as many of us follow social distance guidelines, we cannot turn away from others and divide ourselves with borders and indifference. ICMICA, as a global Catholic community, is one way to build solidarity across borders.

This means that we ourselves must live this global solidarity within the movement, according to the traditional formula of Pax Romana: unity in diversity. This is not easy because there are many opportunities for division. As we look to our centenary in 2021, we are called to build “One Pax Romana” across cultures, continents and generations with an ability to solve possible problems in the sense of mutual growth, and a capacity for forgiveness and reconciliation.

### **The Challenge of a Genuine Lay Spirituality**

The unprecedented cancelation of public Masses in parishes around the world highlights the *need for a renewed sense of a lay vocation*. As a lay movement, Pax Romana has always pointed to the vocation and the responsibility of lay people to witness to the Gospel outside the church building, in homes, in workplaces and in society. As millions of Catholics seek other ways to live their faith temporarily without the Mass, our

movements offer ways to support the development of a spirituality for this moment. In response to both of these challenges, ICMICA at the international level has developed several initiatives over the past several months, including:

- **A New Website:** Please visit. [www.icmica-miic.org](http://www.icmica-miic.org)
- **Online Prayer Services** for Palm Sunday, Easter, and Pentecost engaging hundreds of members of IMCS and ICMICA from over 60 countries online,
- A new **guide for forming online Pax Romana groups;**
- Six *cross-continental conversations* with members of our movements from eighteen countries on the impact of COVID19;
- Re-Launch of a **new Pax Romana Journal** with IMCS as a space for sharing intellectual reflection;
- And the development of a joint ICMICA-IMCS online formation program related to our shared spirituality of action.

Looking ahead to next year, the Centenary of Pax Romana, we pray that ICMICA will be able to have our Plenary Assembly in Rome at the beginning of November. With all of this work, I am most grateful to my friend and ICMICA secretary general, Philippe Ledouble, the members of the ICMICA Council, and our **friends** in IMCS, especially Ravi Tissera, IMCS President. It has been a joy to work with him on several projects. Thank you also to my student intern, Kaushik Sridharan, who helped to prepare this issue of Convergence.

Sincerely,

Kevin Ahern, PhD, ICMICA President

Kevin Ahern, PhD is a theologian and a professor at Manhattan College in New York (USA). He is the international president of ICMICA-Pax Romana.



Pax Romana: International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs

*"We cannot close our eyes to any form of racism or exclusion, while pretending to defend the sacredness of every human life"*  
(Pope Francis, 10 June, 2020)

### *Becoming Anti-Racist: A Challenge for Pax Romana (IMCS and ICMICA)*

The recent killing of George Floyd by four police officers in Minneapolis has sparked a series of public demonstrations across the United States and in many other countries. Even with the continued threat of COVID19, millions of mostly young people around the world have taken to the streets demanding change to end systemic racism, inequality and police brutality. As IMCS and ICMICA, we join these voices in denouncing the killing of unarmed women and men by police and we lift our voices with them to announce: Black Lives Matter.

The killing of Mr. Floyd is another stark reminder of the continued sin of racism in our world. This sin is not only present in the individual acts of injustice but can be seen in many social, political and economic structures of our society in many countries. Sadly, this social-structural sin continues to be found in actions of commission and omission within the church. It is not enough to refrain from acts of racism, we must become actively anti-racist. As Catholics, we believe that a call to anti-racism is deeply rooted in our call to discipleship. To not speak out in this present moment would constitute a sin of

omission.

As international Catholic lay movements, we affirm the recent words of Pope Francis: "We cannot close our eyes to any form of racism or exclusion, while pretending to defend the sacredness of every human life" (10 June, 2020). To this end, we denounce racism and white supremacy in all their forms. We ask all members to open our eyes wider to the sins of racial injustice and white supremacy. We ask for forgiveness for any ways our movements over the past century have supported racism or failed to support anti-racist movements. In this moment, we re-commit ourselves to deepen our reflection on the structural evil that is racism, racial inequality and brutality in all their presence in our society, our church, and our movements. Joint statement of IMCS and ICMICA

Ravi Tissera, IMCS President, Kevin Ahern, ICMICA President  
June 19, 2020 (Juneteenth)

### *Online Dialogues and Liturgies*

**In response to COVID19, ICMICA and IMCS organized several online dialogues and liturgies.**

#### **Online liturgies**

- Palm Sunday Liturgy: 28 participants from over a dozen countries
- Easter Sunday Liturgy: Over 90 participants from more than 50 countries
- Ascension Liturgy: The International Teams and regional coordinators of IMCS and ICMICA celebrated together online.
- Pentecost (Pax Romana Day): Over 120 participants from more than 60 countries

#### **Cross-Continental Discussions on COVID19**

With IMCS, we have organized six cross-continental conversations with members of our movements from eighteen countries on the impact of COVID19. All of these are available on our website and YouTube channel. These include:

- Lap Man Law (Hong Kong), Stefano Biancu (Italy), Kevin Ahern (USA) and Philippe Ledouble (France)
- Leo (Uruguay); Juama Seco (Basque-Spain); Dione Benjumea (Colombia); Julio Medina; (Peru) and Elisabeth Muller (Colombia)
- Luc Sentier (Belgium); Jules Zannou (Benin)
- Lois Harr (USA); Maria Grace (Bangladesh)
- Budi Tjahjono (Switzerland); Idris Emame (Gabon)
- Elisabeth Muller (Colombia); Mónica Torres (Chile) Cristell Lino (Perú); Jorge Parra, (Chile).





## Online Pentecost and Pax Romana Day Celebrations

In order to mark Pentecost, which our movements celebrate as Pax Romana Day, more than 100 members and friends of IMCS and ICMICA from over 60 countries gathered online for liturgical celebration. As part of the celebration, some members of our movements were asked to share reflections in light of Pentecost and Pax Romana Day.

### Marina D'Costa (India)



My dear friends of Pax Romana IMCS and ICMICA, and to all those who have humbly accepted the invitation to pray together as one family. Thank you so much for making your presence felt. We have joined in big numbers across the globe

because this organization means something to us. I joined Pax Romana when I was 18 and today after 15 years I have deep gratitude to the movement for teaching me the purpose of my faith in Christ. It is about being that disciple who is time and again demonstrating the teachings of Jesus in action. There is no faith without action. And that is precisely why Pax Romana as a movement exists.

We at Pax Romana celebrate Pentecost as Pax Romana day because at Pentecost the followers of Jesus were sent out into the world and the barriers of language and citizenship were broken - so it's a call to build a global community. And that is what we are witnessing right now at this gathering.

Pax Romana IMCS and ICMICA together create a wonderful thread of growth for us. As a student and now as a young professional, I can testify how it has contributed to my formation. There was a time I took all of this for granted and felt that my role is over. But then the first gift of the Holy Spirit 'Wisdom' helped me understand that my mission has actually begun now. And in this time of crisis that our world is experiencing right now, it is an opportunity for us to remind ourselves

of Sacrament of Confirmation, where the bishop anointed us and said 'Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit', and we responded 'Amen', that Amen means that I gave my word to the church assuring that I will make best of the gifts of the Holy Spirit which I have received to fulfill the mission of Christ.

Pax Romana, a movement of Catholic Action through 'Judge - See - Act' has guided many to understand the realities of the world and has inspired them to take action. But the question remains, who will invite them to do this, who will train and develop these young minds, who will give them this opportunity to connect to lives.

The best way to answer this question is to recall how we all were invited to be part of this organization. It must have been through a parish, a word of encouragement by a priest, or a university and so many stories we will have to share. I would say these are our members of Pax Romana at the grassroots who have made this happen.

The movement is alive because of you and me, and this is the right time for us to understand the importance of Pax Romana in our lives and go out and invite many to join this historic movement.

IMCS began in 1921 (soon we will celebrate 100 years) and ICMICA formed in 1947 to have the students of IMCS continue their mission as professionals is indeed the hard work of our pioneers who had this wondrous mission. So on this day of Pentecost let's revive our spirits and respond to our bigger mission as disciples of Jesus.

Marina D'Costa is a trained anthropologist from India. She is the founder of the banner 'The Power of Dialogue'.

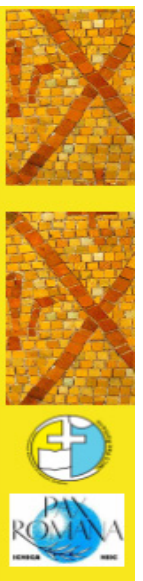
**Worldwide Pentecost**  
**Pentecôte globale**  
**Pentecostés mundial**

[www.icmica-miic.org/pentecost](http://www.icmica-miic.org/pentecost)

**2020-03-31**

**21:00 Hong Kong | 16:00 Nairobi**  
**15:00 Paris | 09:00 New York | 08:00 Lima**

**Pax Romana Day**  
**Journée de Pax Romana**  
**Dia de Pax Romana**



## Afou Chantal Bengaly



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today the scriptures remind us of very important moments in our life as Christians and these important moments we cannot live without the seven gifts of the Spirit. Remember that, baptized and confirmed Christians we are sons and daughters, kings and queens and prophets,

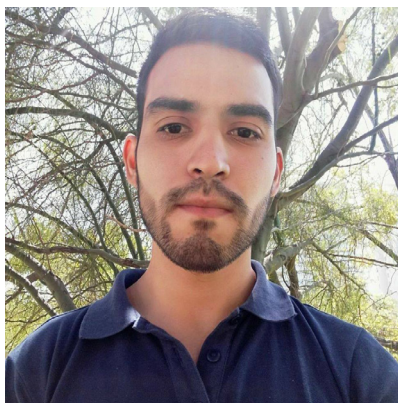
we are messengers of Christ on this earth, in our workplaces, in our homes, in our families, in our world. And we are all called, baptized and confirmed, to live the seven gifts of the Spirit which are wisdom, the spirit of understanding, knowledge, strength, counsel, godliness and fear.

These seven gifts must follow us everywhere in our life, in our workplaces in our family, in our countries, in our world and through these seven gifts, living them day after day, this should consolidate our faith in Jesus Christ and it should also help us to forgive our neighbor. Today I am sure that no one among you could have predicted six months ago that we would celebrate the feast of Pentecost online. We are called to have a spirit of wisdom in order to be able to discern and to be able to manifest our faith in our brothers and sisters and also helping us to forgive our neighbor.

This pandemic has taught us beautiful things but also frustrations. Among the beautiful things it has taught us is the importance of global solidarity, we are all inescapable towards each other. This pandemic also reminds us of the importance of living together as a family. A few years ago we ended in the church the year of the family but with this pandemic we live today as a global family, we are learning to exercise the gifts of the Spirit in our families and for me, it is an extraordinary thing. To say that the pandemic does not only have negative points, there are also this aspect of recharging one's batteries in the words of God and of living them as a family. For me today with this celebration of Pentecost, we need to move beyond the globalization of indifference. Let us all be united and united through these seven gifts of the Spirit. May the Lord continue to guide us in all that we do and may we be worthy, humble and modest messengers to serve this world in order to make it a more just, harmonious and loving place. Amen.

*Afou Chantal Bengaly (Mali) is a pharmacist with many years of experiences in programme/project management with international NGOs and faith based organisations. She is former Africa regional program coordinator of the MCS Pax Romana and a member of ICMICA in Mali.*

## Jorge Parra Herrera



Pentecost makes the church universal, it passes from being of a few, to being of all. We are all invited to enter it.

The impulse of the Holy Spirit invites us to union. Many members, cultures, languages, expressions, diversity, colors and a single body. Although sometimes we tend to believe that our

particular way of living the faith, with our family, with our parish groups, our communities, is the "correct" way. Even when we recognize ourselves open to sharing in ecumenical or interreligious spaces, when we witness other expressions of faith, even though they are very similar to ours, when observing that we have some differences, it already seems to us a sufficient reason for questioning. We do not know the theological or historical origin of this tax attitude that we often recognize in different sectors of the Church, a trend from which we do not escape.

Pentecost comes to liberate us, invites us to let ourselves be transformed by the Holy Spirit, invites us to trust in the strength of Christ's love.

In the current context, for the challenges that we face every day, we need to allow the Holy Spirit to be present, to show us the way forward, and in this way to come out of our own, particular interest. Thus, we will be able to identify in what ways we can go out to meet others, in times of confinement and social isolation, which in logical terms sounds like a contradiction, but that in spiritual terms, for Christians, represents a whole way to discover.

Jorge Parra studied Business Administration. He lives in Santiago, Chile and works in the Ministry of Science and Technology. Since 2018, Jorge has been the Latin American Secretary for IMCS and IYCS (MIEC-JECI).





We are now together celebrating Pentecost as the celebration of unity, comprehension and communion.

In our world, although we are increasingly close to one another with the development of the means of communication, although frontiers seem to be disappearing, we know

only too well that unity, comprehension and communion between people is extremely difficult.

I think the Holy Spirit brings peace and unity whenever and wherever we realize that, as the Babel tower biblical episode teaches us, we cannot build our world against each other. We cannot build a way to heaven by ourselves.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us we cannot live with the illusion that we can dominate all the forces of nature. No! We are vulnerable, we are creatures and we cannot construct and achieve whatever we like.

Vulnerable, creatures and...sinners as well, but God's Spirit embraces us and helps us to say: "This is our glory. we are poor creatures and sinners, You, our Lord, – not ourselves – are our Savior". God's Spirit enables us to taste how nice is to be forgiven, how sweet is the mercy of the Redeemer.

Unity, peace and mercy are gifts of God's Spirit. He gives us a new heart, a new language, a new ability to communicate with one another, to speak freely in a way that everyone can understand: the language of love.

As for Thomas the Apostle, the Holy Spirit gives us light to the senses, visits us inwardly and touches our hearts. Jesus can be recognized by his wounds. because exactly from that wound on the Calvary we all, as Church, received the

Spirit that at Pentecost gives the Church its mission towards the world. I think there is another important message from Pentecost at this time.

We do not grow in knowledge of this Love by locking ourselves into our own ego but if we become capable of listening and sharing each other. We are the Church. Behaving as Church means no longer being shut into our own, into our personal lockdown of faith.

Pentecost is for me the feast of being open to all things: it means inwardly welcoming the Spirit of unity but outwardly being enabled to proclaim that we have been forgiven, with courage, determination, with the help of the Spirit who teaches us the whole truth. We are not Christians when we close into ourselves.

So the one language that the Holy Spirit has taught us during this global pandemic is the language of a spiritual communion which brings us together whenever and wherever we believe we are vulnerable creatures and that our one and only strength is the Spirit of Jesus.

Born in 1984, he graduated in Political and International Sciences with honors at the University of Pisa in 2008. From 2011 to 2014 he was a student of the Doctoral School in Political Science of the Roma Tre University. Phd in Contemporary History, from 2015 to 2017 he was a fellow at the Italian Institute for Historical Studies in Naples. Since December 2017 he has been a research fellow at the Political Science Department of the University of Roma Tre. He collaborates in the National Edition of the Works of Aldo Moro and in the National Edition of the Epistolario of Alcide De Gasperi.

## *African Regional Dialogues on COVID and Education*

In response to the challenges posed by Covid-19, governments and private providers of education have shifted to digital learning (e-learning). This shift comes with a lot of challenges regarding the provision of quality and inclusive education to all children. With the intention to ignite reflection and bring the attention of the stakeholders around this issue, ICMICA Pax Romana Africa had online conversations in two languages. The English webinar took place on 30th May 2020 while the French webinar was held one week later. Each session lasted for around 1h30min. The events brought a panel of experts, parents, primarily catholic lay professionals, as well as education stakeholders from 8 countries.

### **Among the panelists anglophone were:**

1. Dr. John Mugo - Executive Director of Zizi Afrique Foundation, Kenya
2. Mrs. Josephine Lungu - Education Secretary, Archdiocese of Lusaka, Zambia
3. Prof. Neil Boothby - Professor and Director, Global Center

for the Development of the Whole Child at the University of Notre Dame, USA

4. Father Hubert Mvula, sj, Rector of the Jesuit Bonsomi College, East of Kinshasa DR Congo

### **And the francophone panelists were:**

1. Dr. YAOU Tamégnon, lecturer-Researcher at the University of Kara, Master-Assistant of Sociology of education (CAMES) in Togo.
2. Dr. HOUNKPE Débora, Lecturer-Researcher and training officer, Training manager with a Non-Governmental Organization named Graines de Paix in Benin.
3. Dr. Eléonore NGOMA VOUMBI, Lecturer-Researcher at the École Normale Supérieure in Libreville, Lecturer-Assistant in Clinical Psychology and Psychopathology (CAMES) in Gabon.
4. Father Hubert Mvula, sj, Rector of the Jesuit Bonsomi College, East of Kinshasa DR Congo

The two conversations were streamed live on Facebook and on Zoom and were able to reach around 150 people.

Among the challenges raised on e-learning were the accessibility to the internet, its inclusivity and its mode of delivery. The financial sustainability during this pandemic seems also to be a major problem for many schools since children are out of the classrooms.

Recommendations were addressed to the three major stakeholders in education, parents, teachers and the Church.

“The household is the first school for the child”. Emphasis was more on the role of parents as primary educators of the children. The Church can play a big role in channeling positive parenting messages. All actors should focus more on value-based education and invest more on the training for the teachers as part of an ongoing process to curriculum transformation.

## CAN Malaysia Online Discussions During COVID

### Latte with Jesus

*“There are also other ways to be a faith community like doing services for the marginalised and others that are impacted...As a community, let's focus on the accompaniment and “be there” for each other in prayer life, family life and community outreach. This pandemic has taught us that the Church is more than just a building. It consists of a community of believers on their journey of faith.”*

In the midst of COVID-19, the Community Action Network or CAN, the national affiliate of ICMICA-Pax Romana in Malaysia, launched a series of online dialogues entitled “Latte with Jesus” bringing together leaders from Catholic and Protestant churches in Malaysia to discuss what this moment means for people of faith. Viewers actively participated with the panels through online chats and all were invited to bring their own Lattes or other drinks.

The concerns raised in these ecumenical dialogues, which are available to watch at [www.facebook.com/CANMalaysia](https://www.facebook.com/CANMalaysia), reflect deeper concerns of Pax Romana members and other Christians around the world.

An article in the Malaysian Herald (5/31/20) summarized the tone of one of the early conversations on April 23rd during the early stages of the crisis:

Viewers shared, live on Facebook, their anxiety about their inability to celebrate Mass / Sunday services and partake in any community based spiritual activities. Was this a crisis of faith, a sense of hopelessness and helplessness, questioning why God has allowed this to happen to us? Is He listening to our fervent prayers? Or is this a test of our faith that God will deliver us from hardships as so promised by Jesus in the Gospels?

In another session, the concerns of how Christians should live out their faith in this moment, was acknowledged as a struggle. Even if we cannot go to Mass or Sunday services,

**LATTE WITH JESUS**  
**RACISM AMONG US :**  
**OUR FAITH RESPONSE IN MALAYSIA**

**DATE : 17TH JULY 2020 (FRIDAY) TIME : 8.30PM**  
Join us at **f LIVE** <https://www.facebook.com/CANMalaysia/>

Rev Dr Herman Shastri  
General Secretary,  
Council of Churches Malaysia

Fr Gregory Chan  
Priest, Catholic Church  
Petaling Jaya

Organised by Community Action Network (CAN), a member of Pax Romana. CAN is a Christian-based group creating spaces for social & faith dialogues between people, especially within the church.

**LATTE WITH JESUS**  
**ECONOMIC JUSTICE DURING TRYING TIMES: WHAT DOES FAITH DEMAND?**

**Date: 1.6.2020 (Monday)**  
**Time: 8.30pm - 10.00pm**

Fr. Joseph Stephen, CSSR  
Priest  
Catholic Church  
Ipoh

Pastor Dato' Dr Daniel Ho  
Founding Senior Pastor  
Damansara Utama Methodist Church  
Kuala Lumpur

Join Us On: **f LIVE** <https://www.facebook.com/CANMalaysia/>

Organised by Community Action Network (CAN), a member of Pax Romana. CAN is a Christian-based group creating spaces for social & faith dialogues between all people, especially within the Church.

we can still respond to the call of Jesus to serve the marginalized among us. “This pandemic has taught us that the Church is more than just a building. It consists of a community of believers on their journey of faith.” (Herald, 6/7/20).

Other sessions took up other critical themes, including COVID-19 Impacting the Marginalized: Our Faith in Action (May 20); Economic Justice (June 1); Youth in Crisis (June 17); Racism Among Us: Our Faith Response in Malaysia (July 17) and Youth Anxiety of their Future During the Lockdown” (June 17)

This ongoing series is open to all members and friends of Pax Romana and can be found at [www.facebook.com/CAN-Malaysia/](https://www.facebook.com/CAN-Malaysia/)

## *Latin American Regional Dialogue on Education*

Summary prepared by: Héctor Mella Escobar - Coordinator MPC- MIIC-Chile

Report of ICMICA Dialogue on June 13

On June 13th the ICMICA Latin American Team organized an online dialogue on Democracy in Latin America (Even in a Pandemic). The dialogue engaged 40 people from 11 countries. It was directed by Elisabeth Müller, Latin American Vice President and featured presentations by Gerardo Caetano (Uruguay) and Rolando Ames (Peru).

The following are some of the key themes to emerge from the discussions:

1. The evolution of history tells us that democracy in the region is at risk after more than 30 years in which dictatorial regimes driven by the ideology of national security left the region. This is a situation difficult to foresee as we value democracy after such bloody dictatorships.
2. That democracies do not necessarily end with coups, but can also be destroyed by regimes that initially emerge democratically, but that take root in power in the process until they end up installing themselves as authoritarian regimes where little by little individual liberties are being curtailed and end up being dictatorships made up of democracy (Venezuela, Nicaragua, etc.).
3. In its nature, democracy is an unfinished, dynamic system that must permanently balance the participation of powers. It is the people who rule. Today, we see that the Armed Forces are again taking a dis- tion of powers. It is the people who rule.
4. It is evident that the churches have more popular approval than the political parties and are assuming a position against the agenda of the new right. While less than other churches, some leaders in the Catholic Church are also advocating for a return to the order understood as traditionally established by

God and tend to resist advances in relation to gender equality. Other church leaders defend messianic leaderships and promote an extreme defense of authority and order.

5. The pandemic has put us in a very interesting scenario. The world has been given a moment to stop and reflect on its life style and whether the accelerated desire to achieve, enjoy and possess everything is really what makes us happy. It forces us to have good public policy. In the old system, there was a loss of prestige of everything communal, of the political, since it seemed that the development of society occurred naturally due to advances in science and technology.

6. Another risk for democracy in the COVID related lockdowns is the manipulation that can occur through the media and social networks. Today, there are very sophisticated means of managing people's tendencies and thoughts; In this scenario, highly authoritarian "messianic" leaders can easily appear, who can destroy democracy in more subtle ways than we knew in the past.

Finally, an important key in strengthening democracy is closeness to young people, since they better interpret the new times; and closeness to the poor, who will always be a benchmark of the voice of God crying out for greater dignity.

## *North American Dialogues on the Church After 2020*

On July 31st, Pax Romana launched the first in a series of dialogues on the Church After 2020. Dr. Daniel Cosacchi, a member of our North American team, moderated the discussion with Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv. Of Lexington, KY, Dr. Shannen Dee Williams Villanova University, and Michael Bayer of St. Clement's Parish in Chicago. The video of the webinar can be found on our website.

**THE CHURCH AFTER 2020**

**Friday, July 31 @ 3:00 pm EST**

JOIN US FOR AN ONLINE CONVERSATION WITH.

**Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv. Lexington**

**Shannen Dee Williams Villanova University**

**Michael Bayer St. Clement's Parish Chicago**

**Daniel Cosacchi Marywood University**



## *Pope Francis Speaks to Pax Romana in a Recent Meeting with Our Italian Movement*

On Friday June 12th, 2020 Pope Francis received the national Presidency of the MEIC (*Movimento Ecclesiale di Impegno Culturale*), our national movement in Italy at the Casa Santa Marta in the Vatican. The meeting celebrated the legacy of St. Paul VI, a founding patron of MEIC and ICMICA.

Speaking with the MEIC President Beppe Elia, and other members of the MEIC leadership, Pope Francis asked for a commitment of our movement on the themes of discernment and the role of the laity. During the meeting, which took place in an atmosphere of great cordiality, the Holy Father expressed his gratitude to MEIC for their contribution of cultural animation offered through its activities at national and local level, especially on the themes of synodality, democracy, social cohesion, immigration, and peace.

In particular, the Pope asked the movement to commit itself on two urgent fronts. On the one hand, he invited MEIC and by extension our movement to deepen our work on discernment, against all forms of relativism and moral rigidity. On the other hand, the Holy Father called us to reflect more on the role of the laity. The pope invites us to work together to overcome two serious dangers, clericalism and rigidity. We are called to renew the common priesthood of the baptized and to rediscover the laity as a vocation. In this sense, the Pope asked MEIC to com-

mit itself to finding new forms of presence and participation, especially of women, who show a more acute understanding of many questions concerning the life of the Church.

During the meeting, the members of MEIC shared their plans to host our next Plenary Assembly in Rome in 2021 as we celebrate the centenary of Pax Romana. The Presidency of MEIC is deeply grateful to the Holy Father for this meeting and has accepted the challenge to renew their commitment to the service of the Church and the country.



### Save the Date

#### Plenary Assembly and Pax Romana Centenary Celebrations 2021

We are happy to announce that ICMICA will celebrate our Plenary Assembly in Rome at the end of October. The exact dates still need to be determined, but it will be between October 29 - November 3, 2021. More news on this soon.



The International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs (ICMICA-Pax Romana) is a global community of Catholic intellectuals and professionals engaged in the world with a spirituality of action. Inspired by the Gospel and the Catholic social tradition, we live our faith by engaging the challenges of our times. As a movement, we are committed to the option for the poor, integral human development, interreligious dialogue, and the empowerment of women and young professionals. ICMICA brings together professionals, small communities and national movements to support one another across borders and to offer a voice in international forums, including the Vatican and the United Nations system.

Edited by Kaushik Sridharan