

MEMBER COUNTRIES

Europe

ALBANIA, AUSTRIA, ITALY, LUXEMBURG, MALTA, POLAND, ROMANIA, SPAIN, ITALIAN SWITZERLAND, LUGANO

America

ECUADOR, ARGENTINA, COLUMBIA, MEXICO, PARAGUAY, PERU, VENEZUELA

Africa

BURUNDI, CAMEROON (Yaoundé), DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (Bukavu), Ivory COAST (Korhogo), KENYA (Murang'a, Maralal, Nyahururu), RWANDA, SENEGAL, TANZANIA (Kigoma), UGANDA (Lugazi)

Asia

BIRMANIA - MYANMAR

OBSERVER COUNTRIES

BOSNIA and ERZEGOVINA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, CUBA, COSTA RICA, GERMANY, GUATEMALA, FRANCE, EL SALVADOR, HOLY LAND (CA Bethlehem and CA Nazareth), HUNGARY, Korea, LITHUANIA, MALI, MOLDOVIAN REP., NICARAGUA, NIGERIA, PHILIPPINES, PORTUGAL, SLOVAKIA, TOGO, UKRAINE, USA, VANIMO - PAPUA NEW GUINEA, ZAMBIA.

Secretariat 2008-2012

ARGENTINA, BURUNDI, ITALY, MYANMAR - BIRMANIA, POLAND
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Chiara FINOCCHIETTI (CA Italy)

Administrator: Gianni ROTONDO (CA Italy)

Secretariat in Rome: Maria Grazia TIBALDI

Dear Friends, I invite you to renew your "yes" and I consign to you three duties.

The first is "contemplation": commit yourselves to follow the way of sanctity, keeping your gaze fixed on Jesus, the one and only Teacher and Saviour of all. The second is "communion": endeavour to promote the spirituality of unity with your Church Pastors, with all your brethren in faith and with all the other ecclesial associations. Be the leaven of dialogue with all men of good will.

The third is: "mission": as lay people, take the leaven of the Gospel to homes, schools, to places of work and recreation. The Gospel is a word of hope and salvation for the world.

JOHN PAUL II

Loreto 5th September 2004

Is it not still possible even today for you children, youth and adults to make of your life a living testimony of communion with the Lord so that it becomes a genuine masterpiece of sanctity? Is this not exactly what the aim of your Association is? This will definitely be possible if Catholic Action continues to be faithful to its deeply rooted faith, nourished by full adherence to the Word of God, by an unconditional love for the Church, by an active participation in civil life and a constant commitment to formation.

Dear friends, answer generously to this call for holiness following the ways most suitable to you as lay people!

Let yourselves be inspired by the three great "assignments" which my venerable predecessor, the Servant of God John Paul II entrusted to you in Loreto in 2004: contemplation, communion and mission.

BENEDICT XVI

Rome - Saint Peter's Square, 4th May 2008

IFCA INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF CATHOLIC ACTION



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Twenty years of history... from 1987

IFCA is a young organism born in 1987 after the Bishops' Synod on the "Vocation and Mission of the Laity in the Church and in the world".

The founding countries are: Argentina, Austria, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Paraguay, Romania (Greek rite) and Spain.

The Pontifical Council for the Laity gave its recognition to IFCA in 1995 and in the year 2000 gave its Normative Document its definite approval.

In 2004, in collaboration with the Pontifical Council for the Laity, the first International Congress on Catholic Action was held in Rome. The theme was "*Duc in Altum* Catholic Action. Have courage for the future".

The Congress reached its climax with the meeting with John Paul II, held in Loreto on the 5th September.

In 2008, on the occasion of the 140th Anniversary of the ICA, the V IFCA Assembly (27.04.2008) participants had a meeting with Pope Benedict XVI. The meeting was held in St Peter's Square on the 4th May.

Constitutional Assembly Rome 1991



Ordinary Assemblies

Austria 1994, Argentina 1997, Rome 2000, Rome 2004, Rome 2008

Continental Meetings - America

Venezuela 1994, Paraguay 1996, Mexico 1999, Peru 2003, Argentina 2006, Mexico 2010.

Continental Meetings - Europe-Mediterranean

Malta 1997, Romania 1998, Bosnia-Herzegovina 2003, Spain 2007, Poland 2010.

Weeks Formation Meetings for Youth-Europe

Iasi - Romania 1998, Oradea - Romania 1999, Miromir - Bulgaria 2001

Continental Meetings - Africa

Kenya 2000, Burundi 2002, Uganda 2006, Rwanda 2010 and Senegal 2011.

Youth Coordination

WYD Cologne - 25 August 2005

International Youth Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

28 December 2007 - 6 January 2008

Meetings in Rom March and October 2009

"Together in the heart of the word"

an Experience for young people in the Land of Jesus

First session 28 November - 13 December 2010

CA Promotion Group

Meetings in Rome: October 2005 - 2006 - 2008

Projects in: Central America (Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Guatemala) Kenya (Nyeri Metropolis Diocese), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Banja Luka)

Paola BIGNARDI, IFCA Secretariat Coordinator from 2004 up to 2008, was named member of the Pontifical Council for the Laity on 24th April 2008.

From the NORMATIVE DOCUMENT

Identity

The International Forum of Catholic Action Associations and Federations is made up of Lay Apostolate Associations which are constituted at national level and which adhere to the four characteristic notes laid down in the Vatican Council Decree, *Apostolicam Actuositatem* 20,2-3 and in the Post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles Laici* 31,3.

Goals

- to be a place where Catholic Action Associations from different countries, regions and continents share their concerns and support one another;
- to analyse the worldwide dimension of the great problems that contemporary society poses to the Church and to Catholic Action;
- to encourage and promote "new evangelization" in the different pastoral contexts and in the different CA set ups.

Objectives

- To encourage reciprocal understanding among the different Catholic Action Associations and Federations of Movements of the different Countries;
- to promote initiatives, aimed at supporting and developing the specific service which Catholic Action Associations and Federations of Movements are called upon to give, always in keeping with their identity. This service can take different forms and has to fit in with the cultural, social and ecclesial contexts where it is being given.
- to promote initiatives aimed at a deeper understanding of the problems which affect the life and the mission of the Church at universal, continental or regional level;
- to foster dialogue and cooperation with all the International Lay Apostolate Organizations especially with those which are recognized as ICO's;
- to represent the Catholic Action Associations and Federations of Movements, members of the Forum, on the Pontifical Council for the Laity and on other Holy See Organisms;
- to represent the Catholic Associations and Federations of Movements, members of the Forum, on civil International Organizations, respecting the ecclesial nature of the Forum and in keeping with its goals.

Organization

The organs of the Forum are: the Assembly and the general Secretariat.

INFORMATION about IFCA and about CA Associations in the different countries

Web site: www.fiaccifca.org

Newsletter in 4 languages
Noticias Notizie News Nouvelles