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CIRCULAR *Letter*

August 2010

Fellowship in progress

ICCS and ICFS/FICS, the Foundation for the international Catholic Conference of Scouting, have decided to create a Fellowship with the target to develop additional income for the work of ICCS. Mr. Tobi Suzuki, a new member of the Foundation, is working on its Statutes. Tobi Suzuki, a Catholic Scout leader from Japan, has been member of the World Scout Committee times ago. We give him a heartily welcome by ICCS.

Meeting with WOSM in Geneva

Because of some misunderstandings and pending questions of membership the General Secretary of ICCS, Baldur Hermans, met in Geneva the General Secretary of WOSM, Mr. Luc Panissod, member of the World Scout Committee and members of the staff. The main subject of the discussion was cooperation in respect to the constitution of WOSM and the Statutes of ICCS. It is foreseen to continue the dialogue and reflections about cooperation. ICCS has been asked to inform the World Scout Office and the Regional Offices of WOSM in time about ICCS projects.

World Congress of the Pastoral for Migrants and Refugees



In 2009 our General Secretary was participant of the World Congress in Rome ICCS was invited to participate because in many countries Scouts take care of young refugees or should do so. During the Congress many participants gave reports about experiences of youth involvement for immigrants and mentioned the fantastic possibilities scouting offers. In the Working Groups our General Secretary could inform about some project by Catholic Scouts he got to know. A docu-

mentation of this Congress has been published by the Council of the Laity and can be found on the Vatican website (www.laici.org)

Holy Year of Santiago de Compostela



Whenever St James's day (25th July) falls on a Sunday, the cathedral declares a Holy or Jubilee Year. Holy Years fall every 6, 5, 6, and 11 years: the most recent ones were 1982, 1993, 1999 and 2004. This year is the Holy Year because it happens in 2010, 2021, 2027 and 2032.

The Puerta Santa (Holy Door), which gives access to the Cathedral from the Plaza de la Quintana is opened since the 31st December and will be walled up again a year later.

As in the past, pilgrims reaching Santiago during a Holy Year, and fulfilling the conditions for it, are granted a plenary indulgence; and they are still years when particularly large numbers of pilgrims arrive.

As we know by tradition a lot of Scouts and scout group are moved to participate in the pilgrimage of Saint Jacques. This year it is also a starter on the way to the World Youth Days 2011 in Madrid.

Year of the Priest

Pope Benedict XVI has called last year all Catholics to celebrate a Year for priests that started on the 19th June 2009 and has ended last June 2010. The purpose for this year was to encourage priests in their striving for spiritual life and to ask all Catholics to support priests on their way. Pope Benedict declared Saint John Vianney as patron of this year and as one example for the way of life for priests.

The Ecclesiastical Assistants (Scout Chap-

lains) of ICCS on World and Regional level and some National Chaplains have been asked by a questionnaire about their experiences in the role as Ecclesiastical Assistants in the Scout Movement, about the expectations and about difficulties in the development of their mission. A good number of answer have been given to the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

Fr. John Seddon, National Chaplain of the Catholic committee in England and former Regional Chaplain has published a special edition of "THE LINK" about the Year of the Priests which we like to recommend for studying.

Project of a book "Catholic Scouts and their movements under fascist persecution" Historical stories and biographical report from European countries

In spite of a one hundred year history of the Scout Movement there is a lack of scientific and even popular literature about its historical set of ideas, praxis and experience and the social and political context in different periods from an international or at least multinational point of view.

Here is still a wide field to plough and it is obvious that subject matters as protection of nature and environment, health care, peace education, community development, religious education and socialization, gender roles, immigration and integration would be the right things for such scientific researches.



But also for the time of Fascism/ National Socialism which took over the social and political power in the late twenties, in the thirtieths and fortieths of the 19th century we do not have – apart from some good local or national studies – a real important attempt to describe, to analyse and to in-

2nd Ecumenical Encounter

In accordance with the commitment accepted at the 1st Ecumenical Encounter held in 2008, in Canterbury, England, a 2nd Ecumenical Encounter will be held in **Athens, Greece, on October 15-17, 2010**, hosted by DESMOS (Orthodox Christian Scouts).

Objectives of the Encounter are:

- To encourage the continuous dialogue on religiosity and spirituality in Scouting
- To discuss the tools and clarify what is to be taken into account when presenting the Spiritual Dimension in Scouting to the Scouts
- To assist Scout Associations members of Christian faith Scout Organizations in launching the process of improving Spiritual Dimension in their programmes
- To collect the examples of good practice in different countries and Associations
- To recognize what support Christian faith scout associations need in order to successfully implement Spiritual Dimension in Scouting.

For any information, contact ICCS Office (cics-iccs@cics.org)

interpret the fate of the Scout Movement and especially not of the Catholic associations and communities under the terror or dictatorship of fascist regimes.

That is planned to be done in a specific historical publication which I like to realize together with the ICCS European-Mediterranean Region.

Following countries are taken into consideration as far as we are able to find capable authors: Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia (with their common history), Poland and Lithuania. If we can add Croatia, Slovenia and Rumania depends on information we are missing. Commentary small articles from an outside view (United Kingdom, Switzerland and Liechtenstein) could round up the project.

All articles will surely be written in the context to the history of the scout movement in each country in general. But in our case the existence and the fate of the "Catholic" part of the movement, the Catholic leadership and the scout chaplains are in the centre of attention. And there have been martyrs of whom we want to take a specific notice. And finally the general relation of the church with the national fascist regimes and the oppression of church life by the rulers should be taken into consideration – not at last because fascist regimes claimed always youth and youth education for themselves. That was one of

the strongest reasons to clash with the Catholic Church.

New Polish President former scout of ZHP

The new President of Poland, Bronislaw Komorowski, born 1952 in Wroclaw, father of five children and of noble birth, has been in his youth a scout of ZHP, our Polish ICCS member organization. After school President Komorowski studied History, was committed to the defence of Human Rights in the Communist time of his country and worked as a journalist for underground newspapers. After the fall of Communism in his country he became elected member of the Polish Parliament and has been Minister of Defence. Congratulation!

Doris Freij became member of the Brotherhood Saint George



Doris Freij Rahwan, former delegate to ICCS and International Commissioner of the Palestinian Catholic Scouts of Saint John the Baptist was honoured on the 6th of July in Milano/Italy by getting the membership and medal of the Brotherhood Saint George for her selfless and long involvement on national and international level for Catholics in scouting of her country during very difficult political times, in particular during the first Intifada. The decision for this was already taken by the Steering Committee in 2005 in Rome. An earlier opportunity did not come up. Doris belongs also to the founder generation of the linking entity for Catholic scout groups in Palestine. She was trained in a Woodbadge Course of DPSG. Her home today is Milano/Italy. Congratulation!

Bishop Heinrich Janssen retired

Msgr. Heinrich Janssen, Auxiliary Bishop of the German Diocese of Münster and since his childhood a member of DPSG, the Catholic Scouts of St. George in Germany, retired from his functions by acceptance of Pope Benedict XVI. on the 31st of May. Msgr. Janssen is member in our Brotherhood Saint George since 1991 accompanied the Pilgrimage of DPSG in 2009. He served and helped scouting a lot on all lev-



els and will surely keep further on a strong relationship to Catholic scouting as it has been. Many thanks!

P. Guido Huegen OSB finished as National Chaplain

After three periods in function (9 years) as National Chaplain (Bundeskurat)of the Catholic German scouts of Saint George (DPSG) P. Guido Huegen, a Benedictine from the monastery in Meschede, finished his official commitment in DPSG by the end of National Council of DPSG from 2 to 6 of May in Essen-Kettwig. No new candidate was available for election. This will happen as soon as the German Bishops' Conference has given "free way" for a candidate presented by DPSG.

P. Guido was strongly committed to many activities of ICCS and its targets. Unforgettable will be his involvement during the World Scout Jamboree 2007 in England. P. Guido was a motor for the Central European Pastoral Seminar for Catholics in Scouting and recently he was strongly involved in the training of scout chaplains in Lithuania. Last but not least: P. Guido was a busy publisher and writer of pastoral and spiritual scout literature. He will be a supporter of ICCS activities also in future.



Thanks and 'fare well'!

New Archbishop of Arbil/Iraq

P. Bashar Warda CSsR has been appointed by Pope Benedict XVI in May 2010 as the new Archbishop of the Chaldean Church of Arbil/Iraq. Our General Secretary and Father Imad Twal (Jordan) met P. Bashar in 2009 in Arbil and got him interested in bringing scouting to the children and youngsters in the parish communities of Chaldean Christians in Iraq. Archbishop Bashar was born in Bagdad and ordained

as priest in the Congregation of the Redemptorists 1993.

Congratulation!

Robbery in Cochabamba

The regional Office of the ICCS Inter - American Region in Cochabamba/Bolivia has been robbed last month. The robbers took all what was not nailed or fixed. The Regional ICCS Committee and Secretariat has to recollect a huge number of documents of the archives which are lost by the stolen PC. If you can help or give financial help to re-equip the office, please do so. It is so important for the function of the region!

ICCS Steering Committee meets in Jordan

On invitation of the Catholic Scouts and guides of Jordan the ICCS World secretariat has decided to meet in the Steering Committee from 22 to 26 September 2010 in Amman/Jordan. It is the first time that a Steering Committee meets in the Middle East and concretely in the biblical Holy Land to which Jordan belongs to. So for the participants there is a chance to approach the roots of their faith. The Steering Committee is composed by the members of the World Secretariat of ICCS and the Regional Secretaries and Ecclesiastical Assistants. This meeting will be important for decisions on big events in 2011 as the World Seminar of ICCS in Brazil, the World Youth Days in Madrid/Spain, the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden and the next ICCS World Council.

Workshops of ICCS in Africa

After the last ICCS African Workshop 2009 in Kampala / Uganda the following Workshop for participants from South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and Zimbabwe will take place this year in Cape Town. The dates will be fixed soon when all the preparations have made with good results. In 2011 an African Workshop of ICCS will be held in Cameroon. The documentation on the Workshop in Kampala/Uganda 2009 is available by the Headquarters of ICCS in Rome.

Meeting of the Inter -Religious Forum of WOSM – Steps towards the World Scout Jamboree

From 4 to 6 May the members of the

Inter-Religious Forum of WOSM had a meeting in Kristianstad / Sweden near the Campsite of the World Scout Jamboree 2011. The meeting was chaired by our Secretary General. Three points on the Agenda covered most of the time of this meeting: 1. Evaluation of the Inter-Religious Symposium 2009 in Uganda ; 2. Discussion on the "Guidelines on spiritual and religious development"; 3. Faith and Believe Zone during the World Scout Jamboree 2011.

The evaluation of the Symposium in Uganda proved very important and critical aspects for the future of the Inter-Religious Symposiums. The Guidelines were taken into strong consideration for the next Symposium in Korea with the focus on "family and religious community" as basic elements for education through scouting.

Finally the Swedish organizers of the World Scout Jamboree 2011, in particular the members of the working group for the "Faith and Believe Zone", got a lot of criticism and different proposals when they presented their concept of the Zone. The discussion about these problems is going on.

After the Inter-Religious Forum Baldur Hermans as Secretary General and Gerry Glynn as coordinator of ICCS for the Jamboree went to Stockholm and had a meeting in the Bishop's Palace to give information about the Jamboree and the activities of ICCS and to invite Bishop Anders from Sweden for celebrating the Eucharist during the Jamboree. The visit gave also chance to meet Father Klaus Dietz SJ, former National Scout Chaplain in Sweden and member of the Brotherhood Saint George.

National Seminar of the Ecclesiastical Assistants (AGESCI)

The Conference was held in Assisi from Tuesday 9 to Wednesday 10, February 2010. - It 's the third round after the two previous ones: in 2006 on the announcement of faith in education scouts (F. Lambiasi Mons - Mons. G. Betori); in 2008 on the theme of catechesis fiction (Don R. Tonelli). The conferences in recent years have been interspersed with the events of Emmaus. - The themes in this third round:

- the narrative catechesis (theological and methodological tools) (p. Jean-Pierre Sonnet sj)

- aid on "Narrating the experience of faith" as a tool for Community Leaders. (Gr Tracce)

- the decade of the Italian Church on education (Msgr. Agostino Superbo).

There were about 250 participants, of which 234 staff members, plus some members of the National Committee of the Group "On Track" as well as some foreign guests: the Assistant to the region of Europe CIG, the Assistant General Manager of Scouts et Guides de France, two Slovenian delegation, two Swiss delegation, the Assistant General of the Belgian Guides.

Francesco Marconato

1st ICCS
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in
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