

In this issue: *New members in the European sub-committee of ICCRS. And the picture of CCR in Europe today.*

Elections

During the European meeting of National representatives of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, November 2011 in Germany, the National Service Committees elected new members for the European sub-committee of ICCRS (ESCI). The terms of Jude Muscat, Pierre Chieux, Lászlo Gorove and Katerina Lachmanova were finished. *Lászlo (from Hungary)* and *Katerina (Czech Republic)* were re-elected. New elected members are *Ged Farrell from Scotland* and *fr. Wojciech Nowacki from Poland*.

Jude (Malta) continues to be a member of ESCI because he is a European councilor in the worldwide ICCRS-council, just like *Darek Jeziorny (Poland)* and *Christof Hemberger (Germany)*. The term of Darek in the council will finish in July 2012.

Eva Sido from Romania is elected member to represent the young leaders network. Also ICCRS-president *Michelle Moran (England)* and ICCRS-director *Oreste Pesare (Italy)* are members of the sub-committee. Additional members are *Kees Slijkerman (Netherlands)* who serves as secretary, and *Charles Whitehead (England)* as advisor and treasurer.

Pierre Chieux from France served as an ESCI-member from 2003 till 2011. He has been of great value for ESCI. We really want to thank him. He continues to serve CCR in France on several levels.

Ged Farrell - northern Europe

With Ged Farrell as new member we have a real representative of Northern Europe. From the continent we nearly see no difference between England and Scotland. But the difference appears to be big. Scotland looks like Scandinavia: huge area, few Catholics, a lot of these Catholics are not born in Scotland.

Ged Farrell lives in the huge Diocese of Aberdeen, an area with 25,000 Catholics, constituting about 2.9% of the total population of the area. Ged is 52 years old, married, two sons. Ged is the Head Teacher of a Catholic primary school in his local town. He was baptised in the Holy Spirit in 1994. This completely changed his life and he has never been the same since. Ged became the leader of Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Scotland four years ago. He is open to the movement of the Holy Spirit in his life and finds that the Lord uses him in praise and worship, prophecy, praying for healing and in serving others.

Wojciech Nowacki – a Priest in ESCI

ESCI is happy to have again a priest in their midst, Fr. Wojciech. He is priest from the Lomza diocese (North Eastern Poland). After a short experience as a parish vicar he started his studies in Rome, where he defended his Ph.D. at Dogmatic Theology. Then he worked in the diocesan seminary as a lecturer. In 2006 he became a rector of this seminary. He has been involved in Catholic Charismatic Renewal for many years. In 1996 he became a member of the National Service Committee and then he has served as President of the Polish NSC in Poland for three terms (1999-2010). Now he is again a member of this body.

A sign

Two weeks before the meeting in Germany there was not yet one priest registered. The only priest would be Fr. Peter Hocken, who would come for one and a half day as a speaker. He presided the Eucharist the first two days. For the other days we finally found two priests from Germany. ESCI-chair Darek called this lack of priests a sign. The previous meetings organized by ESCI were all in Central-East Europe: Poland, Hungary and Czech Republic. And such problems did not appear. It was

interesting to see we had six married deacons: three from Germany, one from Hungary, Sweden and Switzerland. A great surprise a few days before we started was the message that CCR in Ukraine would be represented by Dmytro Hryhorak, who was ordained as bishop of the Greek-Catholic rite four months before. He came together with a Greek-Catholic priest, Wolodymyr Bilinchuk his secretary. In the final Eucharist the German priest draw our attention to the fact that pope Benedict right in this month - November 2011 - asked the whole Church to pray for a better appreciation of the Greek-Catholic tradition in our Roman-Catholic Church.

Beautiful picture

If you look at the homepage of our European website, you see the whole European group around the bishop, two priests and two deacons. A beautiful picture. See www2.iccrs.org/europe >>> www.isidor.se/ccreurope.



The situation of the Catholic church in the different regions in Europe is very divers. So, we had regional sharing groups and language groups. Countries like Germany, Netherlands and Switzerland have a lot in common, and are very different from Poland and Ukraine. Southern Europe is another different situation.

Responses

We've had good days together. Some spontaneous responses were:

- from Bosnia and Herzegovina: 'Everything in Germany was blessing to me and I've learned a lot, it was really great experience for me'.

- from Gibraltar: 'It was a blessing to have met all my brothers and sisters who serve the CCR. I believe The Lord has given us all a new birth and is pouring out His rivers of living water upon the whole of the renewal restoring and renewing us all in new ways and pastures. May we continue to pray for each other so that we may allow The Holy Spirit to move freely in each of our different nations.'

- from England: 'It was fascinating to go to the meeting and to continue to expand my understanding of what the Spirit is doing on a wider scale and to understand both CCR on the Continent and the Continent in general. It's always good and interesting to challenge our island nation mentality.'

- from Italy: 'I bless the Lord for this unforgettable meeting, the memory lives not only in the photo, but most importantly in our hearts. We are united in the Holy Spirit to raise our hands to the heavenly Father so that we will see his glory all over Europe.'

United in one heart: the heart of Jesus, through which all things will be renewed ...'.

Kees Slijkerman

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This Info-letter started in 1999 and is issued by the European sub-committee of ICCRS,

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