



FIAMC

Fédération Internationale des Associations Médicales Catholiques
World Federation of Catholic Medical Associations

Udine, March 15th 2001

To all the friends of FIAMC

Dear friends,

I have the pleasure to send you the program of the International Meeting dedicated to the problem of discriminations suffered by Catholic Obstetricians in many countries. As you know, in fact, there are difficulties for those who want to work in the obstetric field respecting their conscience and the ethical teaching of the Church. Trainees are requested to perform abortions, specialists are denied job appointments, or are discriminated in their careers, with justification that they do not cover every kind of service. This situation, besides being an offense to human rights, is causing the practical disappearance of Catholic obstetricians in many countries, with tremendous consequences for the Pastoral of the Church and its educating presence among women. We would like to create a forum for denouncing human rights violation and a network able at least to permit training for all Catholics interested in becoming obstetricians – gynaecologists, with possibility of academic degrees from prestigious Universities.

As you will see in the program, the interest of the Church for the Meeting is enormous and the Holy See will be represented officially at the highest levels. A special audience with the Holy Father will be granted very likely.

I urge all of you to spread the news of the meeting among the members of your Associations, in your Bulletins and Web sites, and in the media.

Please, do all you can to permit that somebody from your country will be able to come and present a communication, especially if there are actual problems of discrimination. Please note also that attendance is not restricted to specialists in obstetrics and gynaecology, since news about discriminations can be reported by everybody, including Pro-Life groups. We are trying to find money for travel scholarships for participants coming from developing countries, but at the moment the funds are not certain. In any case, those interested in scholarships are invited to present their request.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience, if you have any news.

Thanks for your co-operation and best greetings.

Gian Luigi Gigli, MD
President of FIAMC