

Dear Friends,

Here are a few news, very late because of the preparation of a book, last item of my action as the representative of FIAMC at the Conference of the International Catholic Organizations (ICOs), from 2003 to 2008. It was published a week ago, and tells the story of this organization which included the largest ICOs, among which FIAMC was.

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**The beginning of year 2010** (January 12) was marked - five years after the tsunami on December 26, 2004 - by a new **natural disaster in Haiti**, making almost as many deaths. Two short FIAMC missions (one by Robert Walley, President of Matercare International, and the other by the catholic doctors of the Dominican Republic) have seen the extent of the disaster that can only be repaired - in this country, the poorest one in America - by the massive and sustainable intervention, not only of the NGOs, but also and above all, of the states themselves, and foremost among them - of course - the United States. Bravo and thanks to those who have been generous on this occasion.

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**From the 9 to the 11th February took place in the Vatican the 25th anniversary of the Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care, and the 18th World Day of the Sick.** Were present near Jose Maria Simon: Franco Balzaretto (AMCI), Hans Stevens, Anna Greziak, Ermanno Pavesi, Ann Barry, Eamon O'Dwyer, Rozica Loncaric (+ Ivan Luts and Alfredo Anzani the last day). These three days have allowed to recount the story of this Pontifical Council, but the speaking time given to FIAMC was very short (5 minutes). The Pontifical Mass on the 11th February at St Peter's was magnificent.

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**From the 12 to the 14th February, on the heights of Rome, took place the 2nd Forum of International Catholic-inspired NGOs,** organized by the Secretariat of State, whose purpose was to enable the various NGOs to meet, and to improve their coordination near the international bodies (UN, UNESCO, Council of Europe, FAO, WHO ...).

This Forum brought together 166 people representing 36 Catholic NGOs previously members of the Conference of ICOs (or affiliates, or invitees), 24 new organizations, 27 religious congregations represented near supranational bodies, 9 nuncios or permanent observer of the Holy See to the supra-national organizations, 12 representatives of the Pontifical Councils, 11 representatives of the Secretariat of State, and 4 speakers and facilitators from outside the above organizations, .

A wonderful presentation was made at the plenary session by Professor Aloyse Ramad Ndiaye (Higher Institute of Arts and Cultures, Cheik Anta Diop University, Dakar, Senegal), He particularly stressed the need for a sense of humanity in the education,

whatever the subject taught. I hope to get his text, and to be able to send it to you.

In addition to plenary sessions, working groups (English and/or French) have gathered the participants on the following themes: Human Rights, Family and Society, Life and Health, Education, Development, Environment, and Migration.

This forum was held partly under snow, but in serenity, the Holy See authorities, very friendly, having been a model of discretion in the debates. The contacts were numerous.

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**Lourdes Congress (6-9th May 2010)** is getting nearer. May it make all the Christian doctors we are miracle makers!

Here is further information:

- BIPEL Agency put as much as possible the participants of the same nationality in the same hotels.
- **IMPORTANT: Some fares are not listed on the Congress website ([www.fiamclourdes2010.fr](http://www.fiamclourdes2010.fr)):**

--> For *groups over 10 people* from Eastern Europe, the registration fee is reduced to 290 Euros per person (registration + accommodation 3 nights in double room + meals for the 3 days of the Congress). The fare of accompanying persons is only 190 Euros, but does not allow access to the sessions of the Congress. BIPEL Agency sends invitation letters, as soon as registration has been made, to those who need it to obtain a visa.

--> For *people who already have an accommodation in or near Lourdes*, there is a registration fee of 175 Euros, but it includes neither lodging nor the meals.

--> In both cases, send your application by email to [bipel.lourdes@bipel.com](mailto:bipel.lourdes@bipel.com).

--> In case of difficulty call BIPEL (+33 2 99 30 58 28), and ask for Aurélie Tascon.

- The board meeting of FEAMC will take place on Friday, May 7, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM.

- I finally suggest that every association prepares for the Congress a poster that will show their main activities.

According to the interest of this Congress, and its fairly low cost, we hope you will be very numerous in Lourdes.

Yours sincerely

François Blin  
President FEAMC

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Book Cover

Lourdes Congress: Brochure and Detailed Programme