



Dear colleagues,

First of all to everybody a happy and blessed 2019, hoping and praying that the Lord may bless your work and the people entrusted to your care!

It has been a long time since the last Newsletter. I think a short review of 2018 and update is good to see where we stand, and how we can improve things.

Report 2018

I realise that my activities as ICCPPC representative in Europe were probably disappointing. A lot of time took the reorganization of the Dutch prison chaplaincy. On ICCPPC-Europe level there was just one Newsletter, a survey (with a little disappointing response), a visit by me to Germany and the Ukraine (see later).

I was not able to attend the world board meeting in Brasil. On global level the post of secretary-general is still vacant after the death of Paddy, so I am taking care for that where possible and needed. I had recently a meeting with our ICCPPC president Brian Gowans concerning secretary and treasury issues on global level, and I am happy that the search for a new treasurer was successful and that I can transfer the accounts to him!

The response to the first Newsletter, and especially to the survey, was a little disappointing. I know, and noticed from mail-correspondence, that there are several expectations regarding the representative, like that the representative organizes and initiates activities on the European level. However, my position and possibilities are limited, as are time and finances. There is no job description for the representative and I see my role in the first place as linking people, information and activities etc. However, this depends on info I receive. For me as a single person it is impossible to oversee the current (prison) developments in your/every country and the many good things happening in and by your work. Reporting and informing is in my opinion a condition to make it possible to share internationally. At the same I noticed very clearly that there are extra difficulties to overcome:

1-Expectations and needs differ; some prefer a clear programme with relevant topics and academic input by experts to discuss, others prefer a meeting to exchange experiences and inspire each other etc.

2- Financial positions and possibilities are not equal and limit some in the chance to travel and participate on an international level.



Report 2018	1
Visit to Germany & Ukraine	3
Publications	4
Bishop's ordination	
ICCPC Vice-Pres.	5

Attachments:

- 1- Announcement Vatican Meeting
- 2- Survey
- 3- Report Italy
- 6- Report Spain





3- And then there is also the practical problem of the different languages.

A thought is to see whether it is useful to think about creating a kind of sub regions with countries sharing a common background and interests, and which are of a language family? For it seems easier to organize an event in such a sub region. However, these sub regions would not be exclusive: so, everybody would be welcome to join if able to and interested in the meeting in the sub region. This is possible next to a meeting for the whole of Europe once in the two or three years.

Unfortunately the meeting in Rome which was announced has been cancelled (Attachment 1) with vague reasons. However, our colleague Frantisek Prevratil took the initiative for a **meeting near Prague in April 25-28**, (arrival in afternoon (according times of your arrivals there will be organized transport from Prague, departure possibly after morning Mass, to some interesting place(s) in Prague, to be specified later). Place of meeting is the Trappist Sisters in Poličany (web pages <https://www.trappistevitorchiano.it/storia-fondazioni-nasi-pani-cz.asp>)

I think the region should take this great opportunity to meet. Unfortunately, these dates are for me impossible but my presence is not really necessary as long as there is a kind of report and results are communicated.

There is not really a programme yet. Though I cannot be present it

My proposal now would be that those who have expressed their wish to attend (Péter Takács, Martin Krukli, and Frantisek Prevratil, and maybe Jonathan Werner?) could be the working group and take the lead in this meeting?

Another question would be: what are your suggestions for the agenda? Please let it know.

I think crucial issues are:

- Is it possible to start working groups on particular fields?
- Can we make an agenda for the next three years in what we want to achieve on European or sub regional level, and how?
- How can we improve (communication)structures despite all the differences in issues, possibilities, needs, languages etc.?



Visit to Germany

In September I had the opportunity to attend a part of the annual meeting of our German colleagues, which was held in Ludwigshafen. I was impressed by the input and discussion they had regarding their future. For it was clear that inter-religious developments in society and prison as well as the current position of Christianity/churches in the German society will change prison chaplaincy also. The colleagues looked at the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats regarding their work. My contribution focused on the experiences in the Netherlands regarding organizing a multi-religious prison chaplaincy. Of course we discussed also what could be the contribution of ICCPPc in this process.

Conference in Ukraine

In December our Ukrainian colleague Constantin Panteley organized in Kiev a meeting with the Ukrainian National Council regarding the prison chaplaincy in the Ukraine. Many participants from the Ministry and representatives of the different religions were present, as were several media to report about this important meeting. One is looking how to implement and realize the new Ukrainian prison legislation and one wanted to know how others are doing this in their country. There were contributions from Poland (our colleague dr. Jan Dezyderiusz Pol ofm), Austria (our colleague dr. Jonathan Werner) and the Netherlands (myself). The lectures and results will be published in a book.





Free copy of ICCPPC publication *For Justice and Mercy*

If you or a colleague are interested in a free copy of the publication *For Justice and Mercy. International Reflections on Prison Chaplaincy* (2016), please let me know by sending your postal address. The book has 21 chapters written by experts (in English or Spanish) on different issues regarding our ministry.

Survey reminder

In Newsletter no. 1 - January 2018 I sent a survey to update the information we need as ICCPPC Europe and to make an inventory of wishes, suggestions etc. If you have not done it yet, please send your survey back by e-mail. Thanks a lot. It would help to communicate and organize things, especially regarding **the meeting in Prague it would be very to respond as soon as possible, but at last before February 7!** Thanks again.

Religious Assistance Public Institutions (including prisons)

Interesting for some could be a recent publication by the European Consortium State-Church Relations which includes how prison chaplaincy in several European countries has been organized. The book is published in English and French Attached is its contents.

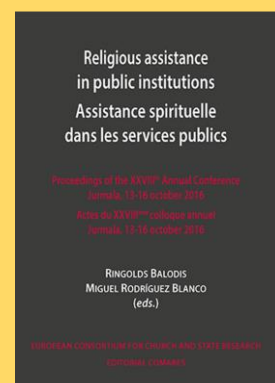
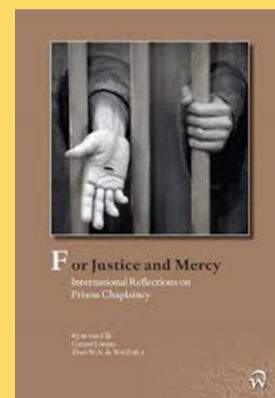
Added as attachment you will find further:

The Report 2018 from Italy;

The Report 2017 from Spain

An interesting new international initiative on **Life Imprisonment**

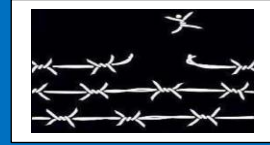
If you have reports, publications, activities, experiences or ideas you want to share: please send them!!





ICCPC Vice-President ordained bishop in Argentina

As announced in the former Newsletter our vice-president Jorge Garcia de la Cuerva has been ordained bishop on March 3 2018. Many of us know Jorge, so a little photo report on the next pages.



Ryan van Eijk - phone: +31 6 5543 8187 - mail: europa.iccpc@gmail.com