



Dear colleagues,

At the start of 2020 I send you warm greetings. I hope Christmas was a feast of warm welcome to all you care about, and that 2020 may bring you and your loved ones peace and joy! Here some news from several meetings and what to expect in 2020, completed with some interesting attachments.

Rome meeting

As mentioned in the Newsletter no. 4 there was last November a meeting organized by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. Present were representatives from all continents; from Europe were invited Fr. Florencio Rosello (Spain), Fr Raffaele Grimaldi (Italy) and Jonathan Werner (Austria), and the whole ICCPPC board (from Europe Fr. Brian Gowans (President ICCPPC), Patrick Bastings (Treasurer ICCPPC, Netherlands) and Ryan van Eijk (Europe representative/Secretary a.i., Netherlands). Next to a short summary and evaluation I attached to this Newsletter my presentation regarding Europe (att. 1), a short impression of the meeting (in German) by Jonathan Werner (att. 2), our colleague from Austria, and the Pope's speech in French (att. 3) and Spanish (att. 4). Attached (5) a recent publication on community sanctions.

The Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development is a result of the Curia reorganization initiated by Pope Francis. In the new structure, this ministry is a continuation of the former Papal Councils for Justice and Peace, for Development & Charity (Cor Unum), Migrants and Travelers, and Healthcare. The main purpose of this specific meeting was to provide the new dicastery with information and to make it more familiar with the reality of detention and people in detention. For two days representatives from around the world gathered under the leadership of Cardinal Turkson with the Dicastery's staff to share information about detention reality. Representatives from the field were prison chaplains from various countries and all continents, the ICCPPC board and some charity board members. Moreover there were observers from the religious orders and congregations present.

The presentations were very diverse but made it very clear that the position of prisoners is very vulnerable in all respects and that the detention conditions in many countries are very poor. Presentations covered the degrading situations in many southern countries, but also the harrowing criminal culture with the death penalty in the US where detention is simply also a business model, the legal walls that



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Attachments:

1. Europe presentation Dicastery
2. Impression
3. Pope's speech (Fr)
4. Pope's speech (Es)
5. Community sanctions - CoE





Australia has set up for migrants, as well as the fact that justice pastoral care is also often used by local churches. a forgotten or even conscious niche is being church.

Related topics such as poverty, addiction problems and human trafficking were also on the agenda. It may be clear: actually too much to take actual steps. However, a first important step has been taken to anchor justice ministry more strongly in the practice and attention of the church organization.

That attention to our field has Pope Francis certainly for who granted us his a special audience, in which he during his speech clearly drew on his personal experiences as a pastor and repeatedly deviated from his text. His simplicity was pointed out to us at the outset by explicitly pointing out that Francis is not keen on kneeling for him or kissing his ring. The whole meeting a warm and inspiring affair that gave the meeting extra shine. After the papal speech, everyone had the opportunity to personally exchange a few words with the pope.

After the meeting the participants who had the opportunity met and **evaluated**. They concluded:

- The meeting was a first step in the right direction. The Dicastery is not specialized in prison chaplaincy and it has an enormous focus and task range with limited staff. Prison chaplaincy is just one amongst many issues for them.
- We are challenged all for this meeting should be followed up by structuring contacts and sharing of relevant information in developments, concerns and best practices. We are all responsible for this follow up.
- This meeting was good to inspire and network. It was encouraging and showed a uniqueness in oneness. However, the female presence was small; women's position in our ministry (as subject and object) needs extra attention because of their vulnerability and children.
- We need more theological reflection on prison chaplaincy to develop a good pastoral vision and engagement for this chaplaincy. Financial resources are also needed.
- Sharing of information can be done with the Dicastery and our own website. We need information and communication sharing in vertical and horizontal direction. So everybody is invited to react to the Vatican document in dot points, no long essays. Share it also on our website.





Next Europe meeting

The members of the preparation group present in Rome (Raffaele Grimaldi (Italy), Jonathan Werner (Austria) and I) agreed that a European meeting will be held in **Rome in September 2020**. Exact dates and more details will follow as soon as possible.

If you have issues or themes to be put on the agenda, please do not hesitate to send them and let me know!

ICCPC Board meeting

The ICCPC Board combined the Dicastery meeting with a board meeting. Main topics and decisions of this meeting were:

The Actual situation in the regions. Fr. Luis Roblero s.j. (Chile) takes over from Fr. Valdir (Brasil). We lost contact with the representative from Asia. The **draft minutes** of the former Board meeting in Sao Paolo were **approved**. Regarding the **Finances** the Board concluded that funding is everybody's responsibility. Everybody can make the treasurer's work as easy as possible by suggesting/ providing the fee amount, current addresses of conferences etc., possibilities of funding). In **Statutes' matters** the oath of our new treasurer Bastings was taken in presence of the ecclesiastical advisor and executive board. The **next world congress** is planned in 2021. Cape Town in South Africa has been accepted as first option. As to **UN internal communication & representation** we need to share more what we are doing there. It creates more influence and involvement, and shows our relevance in a concrete way. More information/transparency on cooperation with the Vatican delegation to UN. Projects were further:

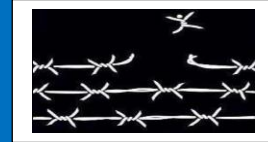
To promote an **annual prisoners' day** in every country (2nd Sunday in November?)

Reflection on Paul VI's works and teachings regarding prison chaplaincy and their current meaning/influence. (Jorge, Ryan, Brian and Edgardo)

A **booklet** with testimonies (written stories and pictures) **on successful restorative justice experiences**. Every language is acceptable. (Brian, Patrick, Ryan)

The next board meeting will be 26-28 May 2020, Miami, USA.





Literature

Attached (no. 5) is finally also a recent report published by the Council of Europe on community sanctions and measures.

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

Again, I wish you all the best for 2020, and God's blessings!

Warm greetings to all of you!

