

Dear colleagues,

I hope you are doing well in private and in your prison chaplaincy! In this Newsletter you will find a summary of the meeting in Prague in April 2019 (with many thanks to our Austrian colleague Jonathan Werner), and news about the next meeting, next to human resource news.

### Prague meeting

In Prague a group of catholic prison chaplain colleagues from several European countries met in the Trappist monastery at Policany following the kind invitation of our colleague Rev. Frantisek Prevratil.

Present were: Phillipe and Genevieve Alloing (France), Rev. Raffaele Grimaldi (Italy) (with his interpreter Tomas), Christian Kuhn (Austria), Martin Krukalis (Latvia), Rev. Igor Plevschi (Moldavia), Rev. Frantisek Prevratil (Czech Rep.), Rev. Placido Rebelo (Switzerland), Doris Schäfer (Germany), Peter Takacs (Hungary), and Jonathan Werner (Austria).

Excused were: Brian Gowans (president world board), Ryan van Eijk (ICC PPC representative Europe (NL), Peter de Witte (B), Stefan Nordstrom (Swe), Dought White (England/Wales) and Constantine Panteley (Ukraine)

As guests were present Fr. Günther Ecklbauer and Rev. Pavel Kocnar (Protestant colleague and Head Prison Chaplain of the Czech Prison Services).

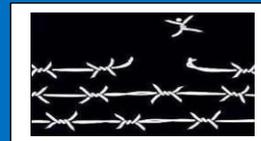
### Issues addressed at the meeting:

- Specific problems and solutions concerning the cooperation with evangelical (especially PFI) and Islamic groups in prison pastoral ministry were identified and discussed.
- The need for a clear vision and support for the Catholic prison ministry from the part of the bishops responsible for the prison ministry and also from the Vatican dicastery dealing with the prison apostolate was clearly pointed out.
- An overall need was expressed to boosting and strengthening an active, systematic and structured cooperation by annual fellowship encounters of European-ICC PPC



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## Concrete **outcomes** / **ideas**

1. The group present agreed to revitalize the ICCPPC Europe chaplaincy. The idea is to hold the next meeting in Rome following an invitation by Rev Grimaldi, Catholic head prison chaplain in Italy.
2. Inmates all around Europe are invited to contribute art pieces (drawings, collages etc.) which would be exhibited in San Francisco (2019) and at the UN Kyoto Crime Congress (2020); more info from Christian Kuhn (Christian.kuhn@justiz.gv.at).
3. In keeping with the aim of providing mutual assistance to European prison chaplains proposals were generously offered
  - a) **social enterprise from Latvia** [www.saints.lv](http://www.saints.lv) and b) **publications from France:** [www.prison.ccf.fr](http://www.prison.ccf.fr)
4. In 2020 the Eucharistic Congress will be held in Budapest (Hungary). The Hungarian prison chaplaincy kindly invites ICCPPC Europe to hold a next meeting probably close to that event in Hungary. Whether this generous invitation can be answered with a yes will become clear later in 2019.
5. Before the Prague-meeting it has become clear that Brian Gowans, the present ICCPPC-president, is serving his last term. This started the thoughts about a successor. Rev. Raffaele Grimaldi, the Italian Catholic Head Prison Chaplain, is willing to be candidate for the next ICCPPC world Presidency. Other candidates from Europe are welcome. This will be further discussed and decided at the next official European ICCPPC meeting.

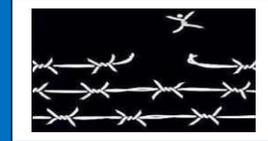
## **Conclusion**

The participants expressed their deep appreciation to Frantisek Prevratil and Christian Kuhn for initiating and organizing this meeting in Policany. The meeting ended on 28<sup>th</sup> April, Sunday after the successful visit to a woman prison and meeting inmates studying theology in prison.

## **Next meeting: November in Rome?**

In the meanwhile I contacted the Dicastery regarding their meeting on 7-8 November 2019. They informed me that it is a very limited meeting and therefore only a small group of prison chaplaincy in Europe is invited: several national head chaplains and the president and secretary of ICCPPC (next to representatives of Caritas, Regional conferences of Bishops, religious congregations and other dicasteries).





The idea which came up in Prague to organize a next meeting in Rome in November is a logical one. However, the ICCPPC world board is planning its meeting around that Dicastery's meeting too. So it is too early to say whether November will be good moment for a next meeting. But to prepare a next ICCPPC Europe meeting I suggest a small working group with Fr. Grimaldi (who is willing to be our host), Doris Schaefer (Germany, speaking Italian and travelling regularly to Italy), me, and a fourth person. **If you are interested to join in preparing this meeting or if you have agenda suggestions, please let me know!**

## Human resource matters

### 1- Candidacy for ICCPPC Presidency

It has become clear that our current President, Fr. Brian Gowans, is serving his last term. That means that at the next world congress a new President will be elected. Fr. Grimaldi, head chaplain of Italy, is willing to be candidate. However, if there is another European colleague who wants to be candidate: don't hesitate and present yourself.

### 2- New Treasurer



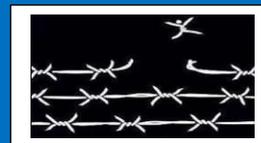
We are very pleased to announce that we have found a capable new ICCPPC-treasurer in deacon Patrick Bastings. Patrick is working at the finance office at the diocese of Roermond (Netherlands). So he has the necessary professional know how and network and we hope and believe that he can help us to improve the financial structures and incomes of ICCPPC.

Working group next Europe meeting



Candidacy for ICCPPC Presidency

New ICCPPC Treasurer



### 3- New Ecclesiastical Advisor

In the former Newsletter (no. 2) we informed you about the ordination of our vice-president, Jorge Garcia Cuerva, to auxiliary-bishop. Now we are happy and proud to announce that mgr. Jorge Garcia Cuerva has been appointed as the new bishop of Rio Gallegos (Argentina) and as the ICCPPC ecclesiastical advisor.



### Latvian initiative: Social enterprise

On behalf of our Latvian colleague Martin Krukalis I like to invite you to visit [www.saints.lv/en](http://www.saints.lv/en). Martin introduces with this initiative a creative, social enterprise, in which professional artists and ex-convicts join their talents. In this way they want to support the Latvian prison chaplaincy; they also want to donate to ICCPPC 10% of their incomes to help ICCPPC to get incomes. This project is not only to earn money, but also to show the public the positive potential of ex-convicts.

### 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.

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

### New Ecclesiastical Advisor

### Latvian initiative

