



ICCS - CICS - CICE - IKKP

CIRCULAR Letter

May 2008

Facing a year of big events

The year 2008 is a big challenge for ICCS and its members. From the first Ecumenical Encounter in Canterbury in March till the World Council of ICCS, in November in Rome, we are kept actively in a rich program. This second *Circular Letter* of 2008 will give you an overview. For the future we also would like to include feed-backs and news from the readers.

Congratulations

Alvaro Soares, from 2002 to 2005 Deputy Secretary General of ICCS, has been elected as new President of Movimiento Scout del Uruguay. We send our congratulations and are looking forward for a good cooperation.

Sarolta Gresz, many of us know her as Charlotte, has celebrated her 80th birthday on 7th April 2008. She was together with Dr. Ferenc Orosz the first representative of the Hungarian Scout Association that looked for relationship with ICCS after the communist regime in Hungary. She has done in the field of pastoral and spiritual development an outstanding service to the Catholic scouts in her Association. Congratulation and best wishes for the future.

Card. **Stanislaw Rylko**, President of Pontifical Council for the Laity, got highly decoration by the German government for his outstanding involvement at the World Youth Day 2005 in Cologne and his engagement for young people. Congratulation.

Philippe Da Costa, former General Commissioner of Scouts de France and already member of the World Committee of WOSM, has been elected for the time up to the next World Conference in Korea as Chairman of the World Committee of WOSM. He is succeeding Mr. Herman Hui who resigned. Congratulations to Philippe.

Interest for Membership in ICCS

Some more countries have shown the interest of becoming members of ICCS. The Cyprus Scout Association has expressed interest because of the fact that 10% of their members are Catholics. This we did not know. We are looking forward ...

Syria has asked for official membership to WOSM. That is a chance to find out the way of relationship between the Catholic Groups and ICCS.

Strip Pocket badges available



As already announced ICCS offers a strip pocket badge for the uniform. A list of all products of ICCS with prices is available on the web-site. It includes badges, pins, medals, flags, crosses for Chaplains, Stoles for priests and deacons, our brochures and the book on the History of ICCS.

Please remind that our products are under Copyright.

Publications

The booklet on the *Inter-religious Dialogue* has been sent out to all our Member Organizations. This booklet that contents in English, French, Spanish and German an article by Mario Sica on "BP and Religion", an intervention by Mons. Georges Scandar on "To learn how to live together: Tolerance and Solidarity" and of Mons. Fitzgerald the intervention on "Thy Kingdome come - The contribution of Inter-religious Dialogue". It can be bought contacting the Headquarters in Rome.

In proceeding work are a documentation of the Seminar "Ways of Justice for Peace" 2007 in Santiago de Compostela (Spain) and the documentation of the 1st ICCS Ecumenical Event 2008 in Canterbury (England).

Mother Madeleine Borcereau, Prior of the Congregation of Sainte Croix de Jerusalem in

Boran-sur-Oise (France) has written and published a new biography on Father Jacques Sevin, founder of this Congregation and of the first International Office of Catholic Scouting in Paris. This excellent book can be bought through booksellers or through the Catalogue "La boutique du Scoutisme" of Scouts et Guides de France in Paris.

Meeting of our Foundation (FICS)

On the 23rd of February the members of the Foundation of International Catholic Scouting have met in Paris. Beside the legal duties there was a proposal to establish a Fellowship to involve people in the work of ICCS by supporting the work financially. Further on, the Conference decided to look actively after new members for the Foundation in different countries.

1st Ecumenical Encounter in Canterbury

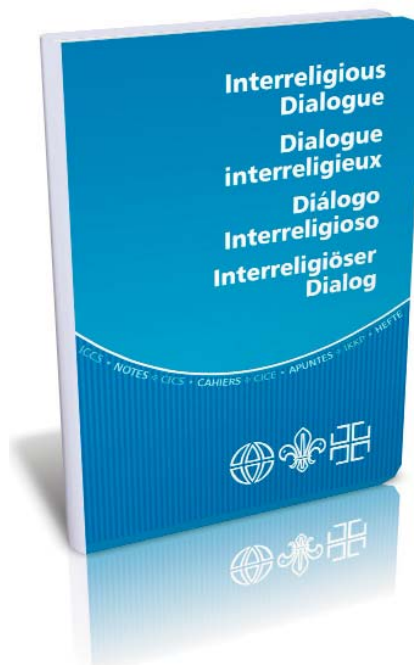
(Aylesford, 07 – 09 March 2008)



It was the first time that on invitation by ICCS representatives of five Christian Church Communities met for a special Ecumenical encounter in the Convent of the Carmelite monks in Aylesford. The majority of the participants were Catholic but this will not be the concept in future because all had the interest to have a good participation of all Christian communities. The Orthodox Christian scouts invited already for a second Ecumenical Encounter next time to Greece.

Key speaker of the encounter was Fr. Jonathan How, known to many of us, by his activities at the World Scout Jamboree 2007 in England.

The Encounter happened in a very fraternal



atmosphere and with a real participation of everybody. The work covered the Christian roots of Scouting by its founder, the exchange of practical experiences with young people in the field of faith and religion and finally the common liturgical activities. The highlight of all was our participation in the Evensong in the Cathedral of Canterbury which was a deep spiritual and cultural experience.

The results of this first Ecumenical Encounter will be published in a brochure of our Series: *Notes/Cahiers/Apunte/Hefte*, in 4 languages.

Scandinavia and ICCS

The General Secretary Baldur Hermans and the Regional Secretary of the European-Mediterranean Region Gerry Glynn visited Sweden in May. Up to the nineties of the last century Scandinavia took part in the activities of ICCS although there were only a few catholic groups in scouting and mostly catholic individuals in the national scout associations of the Scandinavian countries Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland. These countries are Diaspora countries that means a catholic minority is living there between other Christian churches. But it has to remind us that the Hertog Knud Division, a small catholic scout association, belonged to the very early members of ICCS, that the Norwegian Don Bosco Spijders in Oslo helped us efficiently to run the World Council of ICCS 1996 in Granavolden and that the Swedish catholic scout groups in Stockholm and Göteborg were big and very active entities in ICCS.

In Stockholm Baldur and Gerry met the former National Chaplain for the catholic scouts P. Klaus Dietz SJ, Göran Hagerdael, Deputy Secretary General from the Swedish Guide and Scout Council and representatives from the National Catholic Youth Council in Sweden. The target of this encounters was to speak and to think about reactivating Catholics in scouting in the Nordic countries –starting in Sweden – and to create scout groups for young catholic Iraq refugees living in Sweden in a remarkable number.

Finally it was also a meeting with Göran Hagerdael to speak about the next World Scout Jamboree 2011 in Sweden and about the involvement of ICCS.



Africa Region

From 6 to 10 August in Yamoussoukro (Ivory Coast) the Africa Region will run a Regional Seminar for Chief Commissioners, National Chaplains and National Commissioners of the French speaking countries in West-Africa. The Seminar will be hosted in the Centre des Soeurs Notre Dame de l'Incarnation, quite near the famous Basilica Notre Dame de la Paix. The Seminar will be concentrated on practical and religious issues. The participants have to work on the functioning of ICCS, on communication and on the role and mission of the Scout Chaplains.

The Workshop for the Portuguese speaking

countries on the religious and spiritual fundaments of ICCS, the pastoral and educational work in Catholic scouting and the communication of ICCS in Angola, has been postponed. The new dates will be announced soon.

Inter-America Region



The Regional Chaplain of the Inter-America Region visited the Scout Association in Haiti, after a long period of difficult in communications. Les Scouts d' Haiti belong to the early members of ICCS outside Europe. The difficult political and social situation of Haiti has been a hard burden for Scouting. This is the Report from his visit:

Visit to Haiti

Feb. 21-25, 2008

This visit was instigated by my encounter with the Haiti delegation to the Inter-American Scout Conference in November 2007 in Quito Ecuador.

M. Gerard Tardieu, President of the Association National du Scoutisme au Haiti, and Renide Mathieu, International Commissioner, who invited me to their closing of the 100th Anniversary of Scouting Year.

I was warmly welcomed and had the opportunity to meet many people who can not only aid the ANSH to gather momentum but also to strengthen the links between the Catholic Church and Scouting. Additionally there is a great interest in having ANSH rejoin the ICCS.

We met with Fr. Max Delamou, who is head of the Departement du Renforcement de l'Education et de Jeunesse for the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince.

While he heads up the CHIRHO movement, he is sympathetic to Scouting. Fr. Max, also mentioned how the scouts lacked visibility. He suggested a good place to begin building up the program would be in the schools.

We also met with the Minister of National Education and Professional Formation, M. Jimmy Albert. He too gives support to the push to restore scouting.

That evening we met at M. Tardieu's house with the National Committee. They were unanimous in their desire to give Scouting as a Church program a new beginning.

They recognized the need to obtain the support of the bishops, to have a national chaplain. I also recommended that they organize on diocesan levels with a chaplain and a chairman (responsable). I also offered CICS to do some training there when the time arrived.

On Friday February 22 the National Commissioner, Nicholas Clervil, Renide, Frederique Amiel, benevole des Scouts de France, two others, and I were part of a live program on Radio

Soleil, voice of the Archdiocese. We spoke about the significance of the Scouting anniversary and the potential of Scouting for the Church and youth. I also mentioned that in addition to it being the birthday of Scouting's founder, BP, it was also the Feast of the Chair of Peter.

That evening we were part of a Mass at the St. Louis de France Church's scouting observance of the Centenary. We were five priests, Fr. Boniface, a former chaplain, Fr. Espinas, seminary professor, Fr. Eddy Louis, cssp, my host, myself and the pastor of the parish. About 600 people were in attendance. The liturgy was embellished by a 20 voice scout choir accompanied by a tomtom only.

On Saturday I met with a small group of local leaders at St. Gerard Parish where I was hosted. That afternoon the Executive Committee and national and regional commissioners met with me. Again we had a fruitful dialogue about the possibilities and value of developing a stronger and greater partnership between the Catholic Church (and other churches too) and the National Scouting program.

Sunday morning was the time for St. Gerard Parish to celebrate its scout Mass at 7 AM. We had a vibrant coed scout choir which led a really delightful celebration. There was a good deal of singing and participation. I would estimate that about 1,500 people, many of whom were scouts, were in attendance. Again we had five priests including Fr. Eddy Louis, and I. I was recognized as representative of CICS.

That night we had a closing banquet for the anniversary year in the courtyard of St. Louis Church. It was time of fellowship, poetry, song, recognitions, and a delicious buffet.

On Monday morning before heading for the airport, Fr. Eddy, Nicholas Clervil, and I met with the Archbishop, Msgr. Miot. He was most gracious and eager to offer his support to advancing the Scouting program in the Church.

Conclusion

There is a wonderful spirit in Haiti. There are good leaders and faithful Catholics.

The place abounds with youth. While facing many economic problems, they are spiritually rich. They have hope for the future and look forward to a closer association with CICS. They were very pleased that we were reaching out to them.

We have a good opportunity here which we must pursue. The Haitians are sincere and see the potential for a revitalized Catholic scouting program. There are many obstacles

such as transportation, finances and communications. But with ICCS and other Catholic organizations' help, good results can occur to the benefit of all involved

*Rev. Leo LeBlanc
9 March 2008*



Report of Rolando Rocha, Regional Secretary of ICCS-InterAmerica

News from CICE America.

An imminent visit from our Secretary General is being prepared to possibly visit the new associations who have joined CICE, and to participate in sub-regional seminars.

I visited UEB, the Union of Scouts of Brazil. We met the person responsible for the organization of the national spirituality María Izabel Tongo, and with Marco Aurelio, president of Sao Paulo region. I personally informed them of the new leadership and procedures of CICE. I explained fully our position concerning some of the communication difficulties in the past, which are now in full process of being solved. I agreed to continuing working for the good of our children and youngster scouts, and explained that there is a great desire and resolution among the officers of the UEB to continuing contributing to CICE with its extensive experience.



I delivered material and had ample conversations with the president of the association of Paraguay scouts, José María Britos who visited Cochabamba. During his visit we had a fraternal conversation that was very useful for the work of CICE. I also delivered a kit of materials for the work of the Catholic Pastoral Commission strengthening the new Pastoral Commission under the responsibility of Arnaldo Espinosa, a man who is fully committed to the community of his country's Catholic Church.

The new member of CICE is organizing a Sub-Regional Seminary for the Caribbean under the coordination of the Regional Secretariat and Daniel Corsen, the President of this Association, for the 29th to the 31st of August in Curaçao.

The CICE America's team is already in full process of organization. They will work in the Pan American MOOT. A permanent chapel is being prepared and a permanent exposition stand, ten workshops, a team of priests and lay people which will join the different units and teams for the prayer moments and reflection to evaluate and informally chat about the importance of the spiritual dimension within the educational process of the scouts movement, and without doubts, an extraordinary Mass which will be presided by Monsignor Tito Solari, Cochabamba's Archbishop. Monsignor Solari together with other ten priests has been preparing a memorable celebration. Thirty five hundred youngsters from 22 countries have already confirmed their participation.

Maria Isabel Tongo, gave us a very interesting publication in regards to the work with the Lobatos branch that is very interesting.

We will soon begin its distribution amongst the CICE Association members. This material, although is not of recent publication we consider it very useful.

Rolando Rocha – Reg. Secr. ICCS America



European Region

The European Region has published a very useful Directory which will be sent out to the members of the Region.

The Camp of the **Living Stones 2008** – «*You are the Salt of the Earth, You are the Light of the World*» Mt 5: 13-14 – What is the Salt of My life? How can I be the Light for the others in our groups? – Chorzów (Poland), 31st July-6th August 2008.

From 02nd to 10th August 2008 at Punchestown, Naas, Co Kildare, Ireland, Scouting Ireland will run a Jamboree with international participation. ICCS will be present through activities in a Faith and Believe Zone and by liturgical activities.

From 05 to 07 May 2008 the Regional Secretary, Gerry Glynn, and the General Secretary of ICCS, Baldur Hermans, will have a visit to Stockholm (Sweden): Matters of discussion will be the presence of Catholics in the Nordic countries, relations with ICCS and the next World Jamboree 2011 in Sweden.

Scout et Guide de France are organising a special event in Lourdes this summer (July 15th-20th) and they are looking for volunteers. This event is for young adults between the ages of 16 and 35 and will coincide with the World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia.

ICCS World Seminar in Korea

(Jeju Island, Korea – 10-13 July 2008)



The first document has been sent out with the formal announcement of the event with the Registration Form.

Please send your application soon, we hope a good participation as a sign of solidarity with our members and friends in the Asia/Pacific Region.

The second document with all details will be sent out nearby.



World Youth Days 2008

15 - 20 July 2008 in Sydney – Australia

The registration has to be done through your national or diocesan registration office.

The World Chaplain of ICCS will be present during the World Youth Days. The Meeting Point of ICCS will be in cooperation together with other International Catholic Youth Organizations.

If you will participate in the World Youth Days and are interested to get more information about the presence of ICCS please contact our office in Rome: we are waiting for detailed information that we will give you immediately when they will arrive.

Reflections from the Regions

The World Secretariat of ICCS has asked the Regional Secretaries and Chaplains to give their opinion about the situation and the challenges of ICCS in their Regions. We want to give you the first answers we got on request. The next Circular Letter will continue on this subject.

The questions given to the Regions were:

1. What part plays ICCS in the view of the scout associations in your Region?
2. How do you qualify the relationship between the episcopate and the scout associations in your region?
3. What do you consider as the most important challenge of catholic scout groups and scout associations today?

The answers are as following:

Hubert Douampo - ICCS Regional Secretary - Africa Region.

For first question, I would like to reformulate it. I would rather say "Which role should ICCS play for the scout Association in your Region?" For me this role must be seen at two levels.

1. At the level of scout associations: the CICS should be a support in the implementation and the practice of the scout Movement at the level of the spirituality. See whether it exist an education program for youngsters and especially what is the place of the Christian faith in this program in the member Associations of ICCS. We also have to bring help in the production of pedagogical equipments for those

youngsters' programs. The life of the Christian faith in our scout Associations is our charge.

2. Next to youngsters who constitute the key of our commitment, we adults, the ICCS should be able to act also for chaplains and Scout officials. What Scout chaplain for today Scout group. A lot of chaplains from the Seminary are appointed to oversee the Scout Movement without knowing it actually our ICCS Regional role is to help the national scout Associations train them. Then also help them get means to support youngsters better. Here in Africa, a lot of Scout chaplains can't afford means of transport to go and visit camping scouts, go and oversee youngsters at their activities places neither. Our Regional ICCS role is to help solve these problems of documentations and locomotions.

At the church level

The ICCS should help the Scout Associations to contribute to the Christian faith development, to the development of the pastoral (Production of manuals for the scout activities about spirituality, of manuals for chaplain, offer some means of transport etc...). If through our Organization, we can help complete a chapel construction help build a church, help some nuns of a Congregation in a help program to poorest people and most destitute ones, help some chaplains to get a second-hand car to keep wear from the youngsters, that would be equal to contribute to the Christian faith spreading.

Inside our conference, the solidarity should allow to get access to the best opportunities to help and act. Our Circular should have a partnership insert in which the needs of the ICCS regions will be expressed and also the offers and the opportunities to answer these expectations. It's for this reason that I proposed in the Seminar of Yamoussoukro a workshop about partnership. During this workshop, we will list the needs and expectations of the Associations and especially the Chaplain's ones. To answer these expectations, we are not asking our in-



ternational ICCS Organization to, take money out of its coffers to act but especially to create the information conditions, to make a plea before some NGO, some charity organizations, before the western countries' dioceses that are well-off in order to allow the access to financial and to material supports.

The relationship between Scout associations and the episcopate is acceptable in most cases. A lot of bishops and priest swear by scouting; because they have been witnesses of positive actions of the Scout Movement. The Scouts have been for them some real ac-

tors for the Christian faith spreading and for the pastoral development through some concrete actions.

On the contrary others, not having a good knowledge of the Scout Movement and not having had the possibility to really know it, reject it. Some don't even accept it as a good Movement of education for youngsters. We find these cases in countries where the Catholic scouting is subjugated in a national scout movement without a real place for Christian faith. The religion appears as a figurative element in the educational program. Concerning the Association, we need to act by going to meet to meet them and propose to make them know our ICCS Conference and role in the involvement for the spreading of Christian faith.

We will try involving the bishops deeper and especially the presidents of Episcopal conferences of ICCS member countries. In the action of plea and communication, I invite our General Secretary Baldur Hermans to send a friendly and solicitude letter to the Episcopal Conferences Presidents of our ICCS-Africa member countries.

3) In my opinion, the most important challenge for the scout Associations and theirs group is to live the movement as it is conceived and adopted by the principles and methods. The true practice of the Scout groups and the Scouts themselves should allow them "To be the leaven in the pastry". The scout groups and the scouts themselves should be some role-models of life, some examples in their community. The religion, said BADEN POWELL, is not an outfit that we put on only on Sunday... It's necessary for scouts to live their Christian faith according to the gospel.

Fr. Leo LeBlanc - ICCS Regional Chaplain - Inter America Region

1. About Associations' view of ICCS in the Region (Inter America),

I think many of them are aware of ICCS, both members and non-members. This is due in large measure, to our presence at the Inter-america Region Conference where we present workshops and are present to the delegates. Also at other times we conduct programs for assessores religiosos, animadores de la fe, and chaplains. Finally we have a newsletter that many receive.

We also work on being known at the World Jamborees and Conferences.

Whether they are members or not, they see ICCS as a positive force but probably not essential for some of them.

NCCS(USA) sees ICCS as a very important entity in maintaining the religious dimension of Scouting.

2. The relationship between the Episcopate and the scout associations in our Region is



mixed. Some Bishops' conferences are very supportive. (e.g. USA, Bolivia, Uruguay)

I think a strong relationship between the episcopate and scout associations is dependent in large part, to the vitality of the Scout Association and Pastoral Commission. Both parties must cultivate the relationship. Frequent communication between Scouting and the bishops is important to maintain the link and make it productive. We must also guarantee the Catholic content of our programs and activities. Rolando Rocha is in a better position to discuss this point.

3. I think the greatest challenge of Catholic Scout groups and Scout Associations consists of two things: a) attracting young people to join and persevere in Scouting, and b) maintaining, even emphasizing, the religious dimension of Scouting. Scouting provides a meeting place to become acquainted with different faith traditions and to show respect. Some Associations in South America do an excellent at integrating the Catholic faith and Scouting.

As the world becomes more secular, materialistic, and individualistic, (and in some cases, anti-religious) Scouting with trained leaders and chaplains can make religious knowledge and practice a part of the program and a scout's life.

Anthony Thng – ICCS Regional Secretary - Asia/Pacific Region

1. There are 23 member countries in the Asia-Pacific Region, including three countries that are Associate Members. The are seven member countries of ICCS: Japan, Korea, Philippines, Thailand, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Singapore. Other countries that are non member countries but participate in Regional activities include Taiwan, Indonesia, Macau and Malaysia.

Only the Korean and Philippines Catholic Scout groups in ICCS are part of the structure of the National Associations. The other groups are not part of these national structures.

Except for the Philippines where 90% of the population is Catholics, the people in the other countries in Asia-Pacific are multi-religious. They embrace Buddhism, Hinduism or Islam religion, Christianity or other faiths.

Generally, religion is not discussed at regional

or national level, although many NSO's formed their own inter-religious ad hoc groups for their own objectives. Also, there is no ICCS world events such as World Scout Jamboree and World Moot to attract young people. These activities attract participants and create publicity worldwide. As such, ICCS does not play a significant role in the region. In most countries if not all, it is difficult to get Catholic Scout Leaders to start Catholic Scouting as it is generally not Church-based. Even in Catholic Schools, the population of Catholics is very small.

2. Except for Korea and Philippines where the membership of the Catholic Scout groups are majority Catholics. They have their own infrastructure that includes the priests as their group of national chaplains. Catholic Schools run by the Catholic Church in Thailand enjoy support from the Church. They have priests who were Scouts in their school days, and they formed the Rattanakosin Catholic Scout Association whose memberships are from the Catholic schools. Many of their members may not be Catholics.



The other countries do not have the involvement of the priests in the Catholic Scout groups. It could be due to the shortage of priests or lack of Catholic laymen to run the Scout groups. The episcopates generally are confined to the churches whereas most Scout groups in the Region are not Church-based. There may be priests who were Scouts before but Scouting is not even a uniform youth group in the Youth Ministry in most Catholic Churches.

Except for Korea, Philippines and Thailand, there is hardly any relationship between the episcopate and the Scout Associations in the Region.

3. There are few challenges. But the most important challenge of the Catholic Scout groups is to have committed Catholic Scout Leaders and strong support of the Catholic Church. These two bodies should convince the Scout Associations or the Government to recognise the Catholic Scout groups and endorse its membership with WOSM.

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