

## EUROJESS 2007 MEETING

29 August 2007 – **EuroJess communications** – *Short summary*

Giacomo Costa:

- only official EuroJess activity is the bi-annual congress
- a number of different initiatives
- let's keep each other updated

Tobias Karcher:

- Venice project: "Politics – a calling for faith"
- planning started in 2003, took place in August 2006
- centers from Ireland, France, Malta, Germany, Italy (and Poland)
- invitation to +/- 40 young adults to discern a political engagement using the Ignatian approach
- elements: attractive speakers/witnesses, parliamentarians from different countries; speakers from the Social Apostolate
- the magic of the place: beauty and European history
- exchange on politics and spirituality
- to be continued in 2008, end of August in Venice
- other countries are cordially invited to join!

Michael Reder:

- Scribani network: +/- 19 Jesuit centers
- congress in Munich: "Africa in Europe – Cooperation in a globalised world"
- papers will be published in autumn 2007
- essay published by UCSIA
- october 2007: closed workshop as follow-up
- Frank Turner: difficulty to ensure a consistent follow-up, other initiatives came up
- 2008: congress in Kosice: "Values between East and West"

Andreas Gösele:

- Social Week 2007
- about 60 Jesuits and collaborators, 13 countries
- theme: "Towards a common spirituality in the Social Apostolate"
- empirical approach, sharing, workshops
- theological and sociological input
- a deepened knowledge of the others
- evaluation: common spirituality was a live experience, a "time of consolation"
- the importance of friendship with the poor, a relationship of equality
- link between faith, mission and politics – the old answers are no longer valid
- communities of solidarity and insertion (important way of expressing our Social Apostolate)
- Summaries are to appear in "Promotio Iustitiae"
- Elaine Rudolphi: high amount of creativity to be sensed, a source not yet tapped into

Edmond Grace:

- publication: "Democracy and Public Happiness"

Fernando Franco:

- "The importance of Social Research"
- outcome of the meeting of the Assistancy coordinators; Rome, May 2007
- research in crisis:
  - not enough Jesuits sent to research centers, not enough Jesuits are studying in this area
  - financial resources may be missing
  - stiff global competition (NGOs, think-tanks, foundations)
  - important: quality
- proposal: "Apostolic Contract"
  - many activities today are based on "stakeholders"
  - any future Jesuit intervention will need a "stakeholder approach"
  - at the global level the Society needs to accept a global contract
  - get over the "old" idea of provinces, need to move beyond this
  - otherwise we will become irrelevant
  - structures of government have to change: we cannot have two sets of structures (cura personalis + thematic secretariats)
  - we need concrete examples (good practice) as a stimulus to move forward

Discussion:

- Giacomo Costa: we need a huge amount of conversion
  - Andreas Gösele: a concrete example?
  - Fernando Franco:
    - example Latin America: preparing guidelines for christian political leadership for the whole of Latin America, develop material for different levels (school, secondary and university level); 16 social centers, the network of SJ university faculties, and other actors are involved
    - example 2: JRS and collaboration around the topic of migration, bringing together various actors
    - some difficult experiences in Asia
  - Guido Diericks: for the Society as a body it is highly important to increase the quality of our discourse, not to be below par; more attention to Social Sciences during formation (for all Jesuits, because we all participate to some extent in public debates)
  - Alois Riedlsperger: stress evaluation, we have good input in the decrees of the General Congregations, but no instruments for quality control and evaluation; how to ensure this in the future
  - Fernando Franco: strengthen the capacity of every stakeholder, we need to devote people to this research; Georgetown had a board meeting in Rome: wanting to be a university of universal scope, keeping in mind the justice dimension
  - Fernando Franco: we are extremely medieval about our "priorities" (eg Africa); we are still working under structures which do not encourage evaluation
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EuroJess elections:

- at every meeting, a new member of the steering committee has to be elected
- a new president has to be elected (resignation of Giacomo Costa)
- elections will be on Friday, 31 August
- informal consultation on Thursday, 30 August – please reflect on candidates
- proposal: change on the length of presidency (statutes are far from reality)
- wording: "till the end of the following conference (ie for about two years)"
- Pierre Martinot-Lagarde: first vote on the amendment, second vote on the president,

*summary by Elaine Rudolphi*