

## Meeting of the General Committee of the International Community of the Divine Savior (ICDS) October 5-7, 2009

The meeting of the General Committee of the International Community of the Divine Savior took place October 5-7, 2009 in the Mother-house of the Society of the Divine Savior in Rome. Those present for the meeting were Judy Davis, Sabin Ormaza, Christian Patzl, and Fr. Mario Agudelo. Ermes Luparia was with us for the first morning session only. Idovino Baldissera was unable to attend the meeting; he sent a very warm greeting. Christian Patzl led us in a prayer centered on the idea that we are indeed a candle which needs to burn brightly to give light to others, all the while consuming ourselves in the process. Reflecting we realized how Fr. Jordan had done this with the example of his life.

To open the meeting we shared many significant things that have taken place since we last met in 2007. All agreed that the most frustrating issue is communications; the language barrier, the balance needed in our lives regarding family, our day to day work, and our commitments in many areas continue to keep the communication weak. Some of those present also expressed a sense of failing at their responsibilities and the inability to give the time and attention the commitment deserves. We also agreed that the greatest hope is the continued growth; knowing the vision is indeed taking shape even if the steps are ever so small.

Ermes presented the financial report; some units are up to date concerning their annual contribution and others are not. In addition, Ermes presented his resignation to the General Committee (GC) due to his limited time and personal health issues. His apostolate, which involves working with Priests in difficulty, requires much of his time and energy. The decision was made together with the leadership of the Italian members for Mariella D'Angelica to replace Ermes in his duties as a member of the GC, serving as treasurer and researching and recommending ways to develop collaboration with Scientists & Benefactors. Based on our discussions around communication, our continuing work and looking forward to the General Assembly in 2012 we made the following decisions:

- To animate and communicate with all members of the International Community, we (the General Committee) organized ourselves into 6 language groups. Since our Committee does not have a Polish speaking member we will invite someone to help us in this area.

English, Judy Davis

German, Christian Patzl

Spanish, Sabin Ormaza

Italian, Mariella D'Angelica

Portuguese, Idovino Baldissera

Polish (to be determined)

- We will develop a document to all countries, to be received early in 2010, which will contain the 2nd draft of the ICDS statutes and other material to be studied by all countries. This document will be the basis of a 2 day meeting in 2011 in each country in preparation for the General Assembly in 2012
- Based on the language groups a representative of the General Committee will visit each country in 2011 to lead a 2 day meeting that will prepare each country for the General Assembly. This will be an opportunity for members to have direct contact with the General Committee and likewise for the GC to meet members and understand the realities of each country where there are Lay Salvatorians. This is an opportunity for all members to have input into the planning of the General Assembly. Please be thinking of the dates in 2011 for your country that will enable as many members as possible to participate. Based on information you will give us we will develop a specific plan for each planned visit.

- We have developed a financial plan to review our needs over the next 3 years (2010 – 2012). Recognizing the current contributions will not cover the needs we are looking at alternatives of how the monies can be obtained to meet the requirements

Finally, we have chosen the dates and place for the **2012 General Assembly. We will meet in Rome from October 10 – 17, 2012.** We encourage you to reserve these dates on your countries calendars!

On Tuesday, October 6th Judy began our morning with prayer and we spent the day editing and working with the draft of our statutes. Wednesday, October 7th, Sabin led us in prayer and we are very pleased to say that Mariella D'Angelica joined us as we continued plan-ning and working on the statutes, financial plan and preparing for a meeting on October 9-10, 2009 with the International Joint Leadership Group (the leadership of the three branches of the Salvatorian Family) and our General Assembly in 2012. Our meeting was closed with Fr. Mario celebrating with us a very meaningful Mass celebrating the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.