

CENTESIMUS ANNUS PRO PONTIFICE FOUNDATION

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MEMBERS

Report by Secretary General Dr. Massimo Gattamelata

VATICAN CITY, MAY 25, 2015



This annual meeting, mandated by our By-Laws, gets together all the founding and ordinary members who are in Rome to attend the International Conference due to begin shortly.

There is no specific agenda: except for the year in which this assembly is called upon to elect its representative at the Board of Directors the meeting schedules a briefing by the Secretary General on the Foundation's activity during the previous year, a speech by the Chairman and a debate in which you are all invited to participate, asking questions and submitting ideas.

As regards my role here, I will try to be synthetic:

1. Over the past twelve months the Board of Directors met four times (three times in the Vatican and once in New York). Dr. Thomas Rusche, our coordinator in Germany, has been coopted to serve on the Board, replacing Mr. Robert Nalewajek whose ten year mandate had expired. Let me take this opportunity to thank him for the personal trust he has always shown to me.
2. At December 31, 2014 CAPP had 598 Ordinary members. They have now become 617, thanks to the applications approved by the last two Board meetings (13 + 7) and one resignation.
3. On our website, which I invite you again to visit regularly, you will find the 2014 Annual Report. It provides all the data on our activities. I would like to bring to your attention only the good financial result we achieved: a €301,654.51 profit. This allowed us to present the Holy Father with our annual donation which the Board moved to keep the same as last year, i.e. €250,000.00. What was left of the annual profit, together with a previous allocation of €41,304.97, went to a new "Fund for the support of the Apostolic See's activity" which therefore has a balance of €92,959.48. Membership fees paid in 2014 totaled €209,162.00. As of April 30, 2015 (i.e. for the first four months of the year) membership fees received were €97,950.00. So I take this opportunity to invite all of you to fulfill this obligation, if they have not yet done so. It can be done even here, today and tomorrow, at the reception desk.
4. Yesterday, May 24, the Board appointed Mr. Eutimio Tiliacos Secretary General of the Foundation. Many of you have already met him. The Chairman will give you more details

about him. Personally I take the liberty of addressing all of you a heartfelt invitation to support and help Mr. Tiliacos in his role. I am sure he will fulfill all your expectations and those of the Foundation. He has my personal warmest good wishes.

5. The Scientific Committee is still chaired by Prof. Alberto Quadrio Curzio, whom I would like to thank again for the consideration and friendship he has always shown me. The Committee's membership has undergone some changes: to ensure rotation some of the old members have been replaced by new ones, namely Adrian Pabst, Fabio Pammolli and Joseph Bonnici.
6. The Advisory Board too has some new members. The Board wished to give it more scope and a wider field of experience, believing it can provide new input to the Foundation. Today the Committee counts 20 members, including the Chairman and Vice President of the Foundation. The new recruits are Lord Daniel Brennan, Mrs. Linda Orsola Gilli, Mr. Antonio Guicciardini Salini, Mr. Robert Leblanc, Mrs. Anna Maria Tarantola, Mr. Cesare Trevisani, Mr. Flavio Valeri, Mr. Francesco Vanni d'Archirafi and Mr. Stephen Young. Prof. Ulrich Schroeder has accepted with some reservations.
7. Expansion: much has been done in this respect, beginning with our efforts to establish a chapter in the UK, where we have been helped by one of our members, Mr. Marco Gubitosi, who recently moved to London. We could count also on the personal contacts that some of our Directors, Mr. Sugranyes and Mr. Zahra in particular, had in British economic and financial circles. Hopefully our efforts will prove successful. The same promotional activity has gone on in France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Italy. On the domestic front I wish to underline the recent event, organized with the help of Prof. Quadrio Curzio and some of our Directors, to revitalize the Veneto area that lately had been somewhat neglected.
8. In view of the fact that many non Catholics are nonetheless very familiar with and supportive of SDC tenets, and in the ecumenical spirit SDC fosters, our Board approved the creation of a "Group of Friends of the Foundation" open to non Catholics, who will be able to exchange ideas and provide input which the Foundation will certainly appreciate. A short set of regulations has been drafted and is posted on our website.
9. The major events since last September are the New York Conference and the Consultation held in Dublin, a prosecution of our May International Conference and of the first consultation held in 2013. These events resulted in some important documents, all posted on the website, which our Chairman will present in detail shortly.
10. At a local level there have been numerous events: in the US, Spain, Malta and Italy. All information made available to us has been posted on the website in the section reserved for local activities.

11. The meeting of Italian members was held in San Giovanni Rotondo last October and was attended by over a hundred members. A big thank you to the local coordinator for all the arrangements he made.
12. SDC courses. Last fall saw the beginning of the third year reserved to those who have completed the two year course and obtained the Lateran University diploma. 21 students have enrolled. We are planning a fourth year for them, with two weeks of full immersion, that will qualify them for a master degree. It has taken us years of work to be able to offer this advanced qualification and much is due to the precious assistance of Prof. Felice, to whom go the Foundation's and my personal thanks. At present the first year and the second year of the two year course are under way. Regrettably we have not been able to offer the course for priests and religious, held in past years. We will have to approach the Italian Episcopal Conference again and urge it to contact all the Italian bishops stressing the importance of enrolling their diocesan priests engaged in social services.
13. Our International Conference will begin immediately after the end of our meeting. You all know the program. At a local level many of you, responding to our invitations, have been working on one of the themes and I know many of you are ready to report on their efforts. Thank you again for this new demonstration of your commitment and your contribution to the debate that will be part of the Conference.
14. This evening we are having our social dinner at the Comunità di S. Egidio. As you know before the dinner there will be a communal prayer in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere. The Pastor has asked us to be in the church no later than 8.15 pm, so that all participants may receive the ear phones for the simultaneous translation of the prayers.
15. I ask you again to be punctual tomorrow morning for the meditation offered by Archbishop Celli. It starts at 8.30 am in the New Synod Hall. Tomorrow afternoon we will transfer to the Palazzo della Cancelleria to attend the International Award ceremony that will be honored by the presence of the Vatican Secretary of State, Pietro Cardinal Parolin. The bus will leave at 4.30 pm. On Wednesday we will be meeting at 8.00 am in front of the Palazzo del Sant'Uffizio (looking at the Petriano gate it's on the left). Since Wednesday is the day of the General Audience and there will be a large crowd we have been told to get together in front of the Sant'Uffizio, from where we will be guided to the Governatorato Chapel for the Eucharistic celebration.

Finally let me greet you affectionately at the end of my term as Secretary General. I began to work for the Foundation in October 1994 (almost 21 years ago); I had great mentors beginning with the three Chairmen who have successively held the helm: Roberto Mazzotta, Lorenzo Rossi di Montelera and Domingo Sugranyes. And Andrea Gibellini, who at the beginning was the Foundation's CEO. I wish to thank them for the cordiality and courtesy they have always shown

me. I should remember the many Directors who have served on the Board but time is short. I thank all of them, and the Auditors, starting with my dear friend Pasquale Marino.

I have always been well received and well guided by the successive Presidents of APSA, Cardinal Castillo Lara, Cardinal Antonetti, Cardinal Cacciavillan, Cardinal Nicora and Cardinal Calcagno. I am deeply grateful to them. And I take the liberty of including Cardinal Parolin with whom we have been in close touch when we tried to open a chapter in Caracas in memory of Cardinal Castillo Lara. We did not succeed at the time but we will try again.

And let me thank the central ecclesiastic assistants (Msgr. Pavoni, Msgr. Rota, Msgr. Magagnin and Fr. Fusco) and the local ones.

And finally all the founding and ordinary members. You have been a source of growth, formation, sensibility and brotherly affection. The mutual bond that was created contributed to the growth of the Foundation. To you all my heartfelt thanks for the trust, affection, friendship and cooperation you have unfailingly offered.

I cannot fail to mention all those who have worked with me in these years, beginning with Mavi Marigonda: Mr Rignani Lolli, Mr. De Angelis, Irene Calvo Crespo, dxn Nicolosa Lostia and my present collaborators and guardian angels: Paola D'Onofrio and Giulia Mibelli.

I ask your indulgence for any faults I may inadvertently have been guilty of. Thank you again and all the best to you all.

Massimo Gattamelata