

XIII G. A.

Final Message

We, the members of MIAMSI from 22 countries and 4 continents, met from 30 October to 4 November in Fortaleza, Brazil to celebrate the 13th MIAMSI General Assembly. It was the opportunity to create the 4th continental board: Africa has joined Europe, the Indian Ocean Islands and South America. Huenusu from Benin and GRAC from Niger are now members of MIAMSI, and the ACI from the Congo Democratic Republic is again taking part in our community of movements.

Within the dynamics of the anniversary of the Second Vatican Council which emphasized lay responsibility in the Church's apostolate, we joined with the synod for new evangelisation by sharing the theme: "Committed in this world, concerned by its future: hope, dare, act. Our challenge!"

Encouraged by the message of the Holy Father Benedict XVI, nourished by the words of the Gospel and the bread of the Eucharist, here is what the Spirit evoked in us to energize our MIAMSI.

What we see:

Sharing wealth and environment:

- Natural resources are exploited indiscriminately, as if they were inexhaustible, by nations, governments, businesses and also individuals, to the detriment of present and future generations.
- Corruption appears to be a ballooning phenomenon, at all levels and in all cultures.

And yet social forums awaken people's consciences, rational farming methods are spreading, corruption trials are taking place...

Family / education :

New family realities (broken families, domestic violence, challenges to parental authority, new forms of marriage...) are shaking Christian tradition strongly.

And yet many families live in love and faithfulness, concern for children's upbringing and education is developing, many groups and charities are working for family harmony, and concern for maintaining family and church links leads us to invent new attitudes marked by the respect that Jesus practised.

Human rights and citizenship

We note with satisfaction that the issue of implementing human rights is a criterion for reflection underpinning all our discussions.

However, they are still too often scorned (prisoners, children's labour, women's rights, religious minorities, migrants, working conditions in mines both in Peru and DR Congo).

A difficult debate on their universality too often delays their implementation. The theme of human rights is also often made an instrument, not without hypocrisy, in international relations.

But for all that, we rejoice that they are one of the basic sources of the Church's Social Doctrine in the service of promoting the Common Good, and we note the joy of many in finding effective reference points in this social doctrine.

Our beliefs

Nourished by the inputs of all our movements and the rich reflection of the 3 theologian lecturers, we are leaving with the conviction that the best service we can give the world, and particularly the independent milieus, is to *inspire hope*, fed by the Gospel. We have to help *rebuild a world energized by hope*.

1. This is our responsibility as the laity, we are all God's people called to serve evangelisation to order temporal reality according to God's plan.
2. Faced with the enemies of hope which are everyday pleasures, hyperactivity, individualism, commercialism and fatalism, we receive the call to life from Jesus : "I am with you all days until the end of time" (Mt 28,20). The seeds of God's Reign are already there: it is up to us to detect them, so that this Kingdom is built little by little until the end of time. The common good of peoples and the planet must prevail over that of individuals or each nation.
3. "I have come so that men may have life and in abundance" (Jn 10,10): offering hope, that means feeding the hungry, giving water to the thirsty, opening the eyes of the blind, releasing prisoners. Many "signs of the times" nourish our confidence. The basic challenges entrusted to us concern human rights, the environment and ethics.

Our lines of action

Bolstered by these convictions, we call on all members of MIAMSI to:

- look at difficult realities in a serene way, accept them lucidly with faith in Jesus Christ,;
- adhere to existing initiatives in our respective countries;
- use the networks and media to spread information that is more accurate and educate the young
- get involved in intercultural and interfaith exchanges of views;
- dare to venture into politics, one possible path to in-depth change;
- discern our margins of freedom and bear witness to our experience of consistency between faith and life;
- support the burgeoning hope that we find in projects and initiatives around us;
- find out, communicate, share and implement "best practices";

– take decisions based on the concern: “what person are we helping to become?”

Determined to take our full place in the Church and society, we want to be signs that God’s promise is already in motion: “I shall create a new heaven and a new earth” (Isaiah 65, 17)

Fortaleza, 3 November 2012