

**MEMBER COUNTRIES**(after ordinary Assembly  
in Iasi 2012)**Europe:** Albania, Austria, Spain, Italy, Luxembourg,  
Malta, Poland, Romania, Switzerland, Italian Lugano**America:** Ecuador, Argentina, Colombia, Mexico,  
Paraguay, Perù, Venezuela**Africa:** Burundi, Cameroon (Yaoundé), Ivory Coast  
(Korhogo), Kenya (Murang'a, Maralal, Nyahururu),  
Democratic Rep. of Congo (Bukavu), Rwanda,  
Senegal, Tanzania (Kigoma), Uganda (Lugazi)**Asia:** Birmania Myanmar**OBSERVER COUNTRIES**

(with different contacts)

**Europe:** Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia,  
France, Lithuania, Portugal, Czech Rep. Moldavia,  
Slovakia, Ukraine, Hungary**Africa:** Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Egypt, Gabon,  
Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Togo, Zambia**America:** Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Costa rica, Guatemala,  
El Salvador, Nicaragua, Uruguay, USA**Asia-Pacific:** Korea, Phillippines, India, Laos,  
Thailand

Holy Land (CA Bethlehem and CA Nazareth)

**Oceania:** Papua New Guinea Vanimo**SECRETARIAT 2012-2016****ARGENTINA, BURUNDI, ITALY, ROMANIA, SPAIN**

Eccl. Assistant: H.E. Mgr Mansueto BIANCHI

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Emilio INZAURRAGA (CA Argentina)

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Administrator: Gianni ROTONDO (CA Italy)

Secretary in Rome: Maria Grazia TIBALDI (CA Italy)

**D**ear friends, I appeal to you to renew your yes and I entrust you with three commitments.

The first one is “contemplation” committing yourself to follow the way to sanctity, focusing your gaze on Jesus, the only Teacher and Saviour of all.

The second commitment is “communion”. Promote always a spirituality of unity with the Church’s Pastors, with all your brethren in faith and with the other ecclesial organisations. May you be the leaven of dialogue with all men of good will.

The third commitment is “mission”. May lay people be the leaven of the Gospel in homes, schools, places of work and entertainment. The Gospel is a Word of hope and salvation for all the world.

JOHN PAUL II *Loreto, 5 September 2004*

**C**o-responsibility calls for a change in mentality especially as regards lay people’s role in the Church as these should not be considered as «collaborators» of the clergy, but as people who are truly «co-responsible» for the Church and its doing (...)

May your life be «transparent», guided by the Gospel and enlightened by your encounter with Christ, whom you love and follow fearlessly. Take on and share the pastoral options of your dioceses and parishes, and create occasions where you can meet and collaborate with the other components of the ecclesial community fostering respect and communion with the clergy thus promoting an active, ministerial and missionary community. Cultivate authentic personal relations with all, starting with the family and be always ready to participate in all levels of social, cultural and political spheres always aiming at the common good.

BENEDICT XVI *Message to IFCA, 10 August 2012*

**I** thought of passing on to you three verbs which could guide your life’s journey ...

The first is: remain. *Remain* in Jesus, remain with Jesus. But do not remain closed within yourselves.

Second verb: *go*. Never a static Catholic Action please! Never stop: go! Go out into the streets of your Countries and announce that God is a Father and that Jesus Christ has made Him known to you and that this has changed your life ...

And finally, *rejoice* and exult in the Lord always! Be people who sing life, who sing faith ...

Let us ask the Lord to give each one of us: eyes which can see beyond appearances; ears which can hear screams, whispers and silences; hands that know how to support, embrace and heal. We ask especially for a big and merciful heart which desires the good and the salvation of all.

FRANCIS *Speech to CA, 3 May 2014*

*“In today’s social and ecclesial context, you, lay Catholic Action members are called to renew your missionary option, open to the horizons which the Holy Spirit indicates to the Church and to be the expression of a new youthful lay apostolate.*

*This missionary option: everything from a missionary point of view, everything.*

*It is Catholic Action’s paradigm: the missionary paradigm”*

**Pope Francis to CA - Rome, 3 May 2014**



*IFCA Secretariat with Pope Francis during the General Audience on 5 February 2014*

**INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF CATHOLIC ACTION**

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## Identity

The International Forum of Catholic Action Associations and Federations of Movements is made up of those associations of lay apostolate constituted at national level, which correspond to the four notes, taken all together, that are set out in the decree of Vatican Ecumenical Council II *Apostolicam Actuositatem* no. 20, 2-3, and in the Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles Laici* no.31,3.

## Goals

- to be a place where concern for and solidarity with Catholic Action groups in different countries, regions and continents can be expressed;
- to analyse the worldwide dimension of the great problems that contemporary society poses to the Church and to Catholic Action;
- to animate and promote the “new evangelisation” keeping in mind the different pastoral contexts and the structure of every CA group.

## Aims

- a) encourage and promote reciprocal understanding;
- b) promote initiatives aimed at supporting and developing the specific service which they are expected to give in keeping with their identity and in diverse ways and forms called for by the different cultural, social and ecclesial cultures wherein they operate;
- c) promote initiatives aimed at a deeper understanding of the problems which affect the life and the mission of the Church at universal, continental or regional level;
- d) establish dialogue and cooperation with all organisations for lay apostolate at international level;
- e) represent members with the Pontifical Council of the Laity and other organs of the Holy See;
- f) and with civil International Organisations respecting the ecclesial nature of the Forum and its goals.

*from Normative Document*

**since 1987** IFCA is an organism, born in 1987 inspired by the Bishops’ Synod on the “Vocation and Mission of the Laity in the Church and in the World”.

The **founder countries** are: Argentina, Austria, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Paraguay, Romania (Greek rite) and Spain.

The Pontifical Council for the Laity recognised IFCA in 1995 and gave its definite approval to its Normative Document in 2000.

The first International Congress organised about Catholic Action in collaboration with the Pontifical Council for the Laity, on the theme: “Catholic Action *Duc in altum*. Take courage for the future” was held in 2004.

The Congress culminated with a meeting with John Paul II, in Loreto, on the 5th September.

In 2008, on the 4th May, on the occasion of the 140th anniversary of the Italian Catholic Action, the participants at the V IFCA Assembly, had a meeting with Benedict XVI in Saint Peter’s Square.

In 2014, on the 3rd May, IFCA Secretariat participated in Pope Francis’s Audience, with some delegations of countries, on the occasion of ICA XV National Assembly.

### **Constitutive Assembly Rome 1991**

#### **Ordinary Assemblies**

Austria 1994, Argentina 1997, Rome 2000, Rome 2004, Rome 2008, Romania 2012

#### **Continental Meetings in America**

Venezuela 1994, Paraguay 1996, Mexico 1999, Perú 2003, Argentina 2006, Mexico 2010

#### **Continental Meetings in Europe-Mediterranean**

Malta 1997, Romania 1998, Bosnia-Hyrssegovina 2003, Spain 2007, Poland 2010

#### **Continental Meetings in Africa**

Kenya 2000, Burundi 2002, Uganda 2006, Rwanda 2010 and Senegal 2011

#### **Continental Meetings in Asia**

Thailand 2012

## Youth Coordination

- WYD Cologne – 25 August 2005
- World Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 28 December 2007 – 6 January 2008
- *United in the heart of the world* Formation Proposals: programmes for young people in the Land of Jesus, 28 November – 13 december 2012
- WYD Madrid – 17 August 2011
- WYD Rio de Janeiro – 24 July 2013
- EU Youth Week, Rome/Grottaferrata 1-7 October 2013
- Black See Agorà - Costanza, 18/20 November 2013; Bucarest-Costanza, 23/27 August 2014

*Franco MIANO was appointed member of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, for five years, on the 6th February 2014.*

## CA EN SALIDA

An outgoing CA (“en salida”) is an answer to the pressing invitation by Pope Francis for a Church “en salida” described in the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*: a programmatic text for all the Church but especially for Catholic Action.

The Secretariat offers a tool “CA en salida” which will help to renew the life of our CA Associations at different levels, in the local churches, with a universal “catholic” vision.

1. An outgoing CA is a community of missionary disciples
2. Personal conversion, pastoral conversion, missionary conversion, which cannot leave things as they are
3. The social dimension of evangelisation
4. Catholic action and the proposed challenges
5. Let us proceed together

### **Information about IFCA and about CA Associations in the different countries**

Website: [www.fiacfca.org](http://www.fiacfca.org)  
Facebook: [fiacyouthcoordination](https://www.facebook.com/fiacyouthcoordination) Twitter: [@catholicactionf](https://twitter.com/catholicactionf)  
Bulletin in 4 languages: *Noticias Notizie News Nouvelles*