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essage

FINAL MESSAGE OF THE V INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE LAY CANOSSIAN FAMILY

"I RECOMMEND TO YOU MY BELOVED POOR"

* Let us express our thanks together with St. Paul

"Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of Heaven in Christ. Before the world was made He chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless and to live **through love** in His presence, determining that we should become His adopted children, through Jesus Christ for His own kind purposes." Eph 1:3-5

* Let us answer the invitation and follow in Jesus' footsteps

"Then He summoned the Twelve and began to send them in pairs." Mk 6:7

"I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Mt 25:1-40

"A Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him ... Next day he took out two denarii and handed them to the inn keeper, saying: **"Look after him ..."** Lk 10:29-37

* Let us quote from our Charter of Communion

"Attentive to the problems of our time, let us look for new ways of bringing Christ's message of love to our surrounding realities. We commit ourselves to serve our neighbour according to the various circumstances of life, making available the gifts we have received according to each one's possibilities." Charter of Communion n. 5

* Let us express our style of charity as Lay Canossians

1. UNIVERSALITY

- The Lay Canossian wishes to have a great heart open to everybody, so as to be always a charitable person, especially there, where the need is greatest.

2. HOPE

- "You just can't imagine how much it pleases the Lord when we serve Him, hoping against all hope." (Memoirs IV, 5) The Lay Canossian is a person of hope, able to spread and foster an attitude of trust in life and the future.

3. SIMPLICITY, DEVOTION and RESPECT

- **Simplicity** means being present so that we may recognise the value of every human being, regardless of roles and accomplishments.

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- **Devotion** means welcoming, taking care, protecting. It defines the ties of fraternity and solidarity.
 - **Respect** seems an insignificant thing if compared to the great themes of Christian ethics, but it is the foundation of our relations, because we recognise the dignity of every human person. This is especially true when we help others who are in a weaker position.
4. **ATTENTION**
- The Lay Canossian lives a constant “ascesis”, as he/she must gradually grow in knowledge and awareness of the problems of society, trying to understand the causes of poverty evermore deeply; he/she is attentive to the signs of the times and is able to discern and live concrete charity: “INSPICE ET FAC”. He/she must not have a conflictual character, but rather be critical.
5. **SOBRIETY**
- The Lay Canossian lives soberly, avoiding superfluous things and aiming at the essential.
6. **GRATUITOUSNESS**
- The Lay Canossian takes up a new challenge by contemplating the Crucified One who does not breathe anything but total gratuitousness. He lives in self-giving, especially in his personal and social relations.
7. **FAITH AND LIFE**
- He chooses solidarity as his criterion of faith “proving the sincerity of his love by his care for others.” 2 Cor 8:8

*** Let us continue to walk with Magdalene**

“Charity is a fire that keeps spreading and tries to embrace everything.”

“In God’s house every ministry and task are always important.”

“If the members of the Canossian Family live mutual charity among themselves, the Lord will be in their midst and will dwell among them with His Grace and will make them bear abundant fruit in their mission.”

*“Let us once more take up Magdalene’s invitation
to love our beloved poor with a big, big heart,
in imitation of Mary’s big Heart who,
on Calvary, offered the life of
Her Only Son.”*





The Word of God

Praise the Lord, it is good to sing
in honour of our God, sweet is His praise.
The Lord, Restorer of Jerusalem!

He brought back Israel's exiles,
healing their broken hearts and binding up their wounds.
He decides the number of the stars and gives each of them a name;
our Lord is great, all-powerful, of infinite understanding.

The Lord who lifts up the humble, humbles the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the Lord in gratitude, play the lyre for our God:
he covers the heavens with clouds, provides the earth with rain,
to produce fresh grass on the hillsides and plants that are needed by man,
he gives food to the cattle and to the young ravens when they cry.

**The Lord is interested only in those who fear Him,
in those who rely on His love.**
Praise the Lord, Jerusalem, Zion, praise your God:

**for strengthening the bars of your gates, for blessing your citizens,
for granting you peace on your frontiers, for feeding you with the finest wheat.**

He gives an order: his word flashes to earth;
to spread snow like a blanket, to strew hoarfrost like ashes,

to drop ice like breadcrumbs, and when the cold is unbearable,
he sends his word to bring the thaw and warm wind to melt the snow.

He reveals his word to Jacob, his statutes and rulings to Israel:
He never does this for other nations, he never reveals his rulings to them.

Psalm 147

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Chronicle

The journey day by day

گ 31st July 2011

Today, XVII Sunday of Ordinary Time, in the **Casa di S. Fidenzio, Verona**, there is an atmosphere of festivity: arrivals, embraces, greetings and memories ... There is great joy in meeting old and new friends One can see on the faces of everyone the wish to live an intense and meaningful experience that may give new thrust to one's personal life and that of the whole Canossian Family, represented by the Canossian Fathers, Canossian Sisters, Lay Canossian Brothers and Sisters, Secular Missionaries of Magdalene of Canossa and the Lay Canossian Association, coming from all Canossian Provinces in the five continents.

After arrival and settling in, the 93 Delegates gather together at 4 p.m. in the grand and very beautiful Chapel of the Centre to carry out the official opening of the meeting.

The Congress opens with a meaningful prayer animated by the Delegates of Europe.

Placed beside the altar are a great Cross, a picture of St. Magdalene and an enormous map of the world around which is written: ***"I recommend to you my beloved poor"***.

During the prayer, articulated in the languages of Italian and English, two significant actions are performed that involve all those present:

پس on the map of the world, symbolic pictures of each place of origin of the Lay Delegates are placed, pictures that show the service that is carried out in the Church, especially in favour of many poor people helped by numerous groups of Lay Canossians of every nation

پس the gospel passage of Matthew 26:3-13 that presents the gratuitous action of Mary Magdalene towards Jesus, the woman who ***"wastes" this precious ointment*** so as to honour the Lord, involves the Delegates not only in meditating on the meeting of Jesus with the woman, but receiving a small jar of ointment which indicates the gratuity of the gift of our life towards those who are "the poorest". In fact, Jesus says, ***"You always have the poor with you ..."***.

The initial atmosphere of the Congress becomes always more vibrant and participative, thanks to the messages of welcome and greeting from:

- Superior General of the Canossian Daughters of Charity, M. Margaret Peter
- Superior General of the Canossian Sons of Charity, Fr. Antonio Papa
- Adele Cremonesi, International President-Coordinator ALC

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M. Margaret underlines the preciousness of the gift of St. Magdalene, given by the Holy Spirit to the Church and the whole world. “Magdalene takes her first steps among the “least” of San Zeno district, the poor of her time, searching for the appropriate way to share with them the **merciful and compassionate love** of God the Father, promoting the dignity of every person, especially of the poorest, the least, the lonely, the last ...” The same compelling appeal that poured out of Magdalene’s heart, is addressed to all those present who are called to live **the Charism of the Greatest Love**.

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Fr. Antonio illustrates the importance of journeying along the same path, that which is most fruitful for building communion within our great Canossian Family. The expression of Magdalene, “I recommend to you my beloved poor” calls us more and more to discover, in faith, the face of the Father in the resemblance of his Crucified Son, so as to discover, in the “scandal and failure of the cross”, the passion, the depth and the fullness of God’s love. Together with Christ Crucified one cannot but meet the poor, all the poor of the world since He made Himself small, a neighbour, a servant, a good Samaritan, a friend of the least and the poor to show us the way to salvation.

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Adele Cremonesi summarises briefly the itinerary followed by the International Commission of the Lay Canossian Family.

She highlights the value that we must always seek together: “**unity of the Spirit**” that leads to general commitment, a particular good and a common good.”

She pauses on the work to be carried out during the present week, assuring that the richness of content and sharing will bring about renewed hope and even more enthusiasm in the service of the “**beloved poor**” of Magdalene and ours today.

The Lord is with us: we are never alone in this journey ...

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At 6 p.m. the Eucharist is celebrated, presided over by the Superior General. The book of the Word is solemnly enthroned. The symbol of common bread, presented at the offertory by 5 representatives of the 5 continents, becomes an expression of that communion which is at one and the same time the goal to be reached and also the path to be trodden, to be lived with passion, day after day, in every situation of life and in every cultural context.

The Delegates are given a **folder to collect** each day's material of the Congress.

Every morning, throughout the Congress and Convention, a moment of meaningful prayer begins each day. The proposal of **Lectio Divina** on passages of the Gospel that are particularly incisive, together with suggested questions, and of **other Biblical texts and the writings of St. Magdalene**, offer each participant the chance to reflect, pray and share with others what the Holy Spirit arouses in the heart. The itinerary of each day is contained in the booklet given to each one according to **language**.

گ 1st August 2011

پش After a moment of prayer in chapel, and after breakfast, the day opens with: **“A gaze on the world”**, a DVD presentation prepared by various Delegates.

A series of DVDs present Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo and Argentina. The theme of each video presents *poverties existing in one's own country and the service to the poor* which the Lay Canossians express.

پش After the vision of these presentations the first talk follows, entitled **“Changing the world starting from the poor”**. Riccardo Mauri, a member of the Community of St. Egidio of Milan is introduced to the Assembly.

The speaker begins his talk pointing out that he will not give a series of numbers and statistics but his intention is to point out the objectives that motivate the different interventions in favour of the poor. He underlines the following:

the importance of being the **“friends of the poor”**,
the meaning and the method of **“being with those who are poor”**,
why we should **“defend the poor and dedicate our lives to them”**,
why we must **“find again the reasons for proclaiming the human beauty of friendship with the poor so as to put them at the centre of society ...**

He concludes his talk saying that **“the poor cannot be on the margins of Christian life”** and even less – we can add – Canossian life. In reality, this means **“changing the world starting from the poor.”**



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Questions of clarification and sharing of experiences follow the talk.



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The Eucharistic celebration is presided over by **Fr. Adolfo Antonelli** and the Canossian Fathers present celebrate with him.

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Work resumes in the afternoon with the vision of **Italy's video** created by the 5 Territories of the Province "St. Magdalene of Canossa".

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The talk of **Cristina Simonelli** follows. She is a **Professor of Theology** and is **involved in the situation of the poor**. She delivers her talk on the theme: **"I recommend to**

you my beloved poor ... with simplicity, with devotion, with respect".

This talk is rich in contents and highlights, in particular, the precise ways that Magdalene herself used with the poor: that means **approaching the poor "with simplicity, devotion and respect"**, almost as if reminding us of that place of "sacred history" which is the life and person of each individual.

The Speaker underlines the mystery of the presence of Christ in the life and history of every poor person. Every poor person must be approached with **justice, protection, gratuity, respect**. In fact, **"care and protection"** underline especially the practical aspect of a relationship with every poor person.

The Delegates greatly appreciate the term "encounter-communion" with the poor, rediscovering in depth the invitation of Magdalene and her dream, that of the "integral promotion of each person", so that everyone may meet and know Jesus.

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After a few votes of thanks and recalling some aspects that caught the attention of the listeners, there is a break. Then the participants gather together again in language groups, according to the programme established by the International Commission.

7 groups work on the themes dealt with during the preparation for the Congress. The topics to be deepened and shared in each group, are:

1. **family:** fragility and poverty in the family, acceptance of new-born babies and children, care of the sick, help for the poor, hospitality for those abandoned, assistance of terminally sick people, care of the elderly ... Italian group 2
2. **education: children and young people** ... Spanish group
3. **visiting the sick in hospital and at home, voluntary service,** sick—solitude of the elderly—care givers ... English group 1
4. **evangelization and our presence in the local Church** ... Portuguese group
5. **immigration and integration** ... Italian group 1
6. **war and violence:** grave problems of childhood: orphans, street children, child soldiers ... French group
7. **hunger** ... English group 2

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Each group concludes its sharing with Evening Prayer.

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The Eucharistic Liturgy, each day, is proposed and enriched by the different cultural groups who make use of symbols and external signs that express the creativity of each nation and the original way of honouring the Lord Jesus.



Even the small gifts that each participant finds at table express the great value of fraternity and the sense of family with which one desires to share and walk together. For all this we **“give thanks”**!

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The day ends with a moment of recreation **“under the stars”**; the African Delegates showed themselves off in sketches and cultural presentations .



گ *2nd August 2011*

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The new day which we are given by the Lord together with morning prayer, invites the Delegates to view other DVDs; it is the turn of the Philippines to show their video of the Lay Canossians and that of the Canossian Fathers.

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A new talk follows on a Biblical theme; the speaker is Fr. Gianattilio Bonifacio, a **Priest of the Diocese of Verona**, who develops the topic: **“The poor person and poverty in the Bible”**.

Referring to different Biblical passages, especially in the Old Testament, he invites the Assembly to consider poverty as a despicable situation and at the same time he makes us recognise a poverty that is dignified and not excluded from God’s will.

According to the Bible the categories of the poorest people are: widows, orphans and foreigners, categories which enjoyed particular attention in the society of the time.



In the New Testament, the poor person for Jesus is particularly near the Kingdom of God and thus poverty is not to be understood only in a material sense but rather as simplicity, humility, awareness of being little ones; **Jesus proclaims blessed** the “poor person” in this way.

The enthusiastic sharing of the talk and requests for further clarifications on some aspects, makes this intervention more enriching.

پیش The **Eucharistic Celebration** follows presided over by Fr. Fernando Pescarolo, a Missionary in Brazil and is animated by the Delegates of Australia, Indonesia and Timor Leste.



پیش During the afternoon the Assembly is shown videos on the situation of poverty in North America and Mexico, Europe, Singapore and a video regarding the Lay Canossian Brothers and Sisters.

Using different expressive techniques and modalities, **all the videos** demonstrate **the richness of the gift that each group of the Lay Canossians** represents for the Local Church of that country and the entire Canossian Family. The charitable work seen in the videos provokes wonder, emotion and at the same time makes us aware that every minimal action, joined together with many others, may give new vitality to the building up of communion and solidarity that are able to “leave a mark” in the world, that mark that Magdalene wanted personally to impress through her Charitable Work.

There is no form of poverty in today’s world which is ignored or forgotten in the service that Lay Canossians carry out throughout the world.

پیش After this **the group work of the previous day** is taken up again so as to elaborate a summary to present to the Assembly the following day.

پیش **Evening prayer** is again organised by each **linguistic group** who praises the Lord for the rich contents and mutual exchange experienced.

پیش An evening **“under the stars”** is for all a real moment of relaxation and fraternity, so desired by everyone.

The Poor often Live
in Conditions much worse than Ours

Magdalene of Canossa



گ 3rd August 2011

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On this day a pilgrimage “**in the footsteps of Magdalene**” is on the programme. The Delegates leave in two coaches to encounter our Holy Foundress in the places where she lived and they enjoy together reliving the remembrance of their Baptismal vocation. The pilgrimage is led by Fr. Adolfo Antonelli and is divided into **four stages**, four meaningful moments of prayer and the giving of eloquent signs that express the preciousness of the existence of each person who has been re-born to new life in Christ Jesus.

- Ω 1 stage - **Canossa Palace: the gift of life** – a flower is given to each person
- Ω 2 stage - **Church of S. Lorenzo: born into Christian life** - sign of regenerating water and the white robe of grace
- Ω 3 stage - **Basilica of S. Zeno: witness, the gift of love** - sign of light
- Ω 4 stage – **Casa Madre: love that has no boundaries** - sign of bread which signifies sharing, celebrating, passion for the lives of the poorest.
For everyone, this “**Canossian morning**” is truly a great gift that made our hearts vibrate.



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After lunch at S. Fidenzio and a short interval, at 3 p.m. the Assembly gathers together for the vision of other DVDs of Central India, South India and Timor Leste.



An enriching talk of Fr. Gianluigi Andolfo, Canossian Father, entitled: **“I recommend to you my beloved poor” in St. Magdalene’s charism.**

The deep knowledge of the speaker regarding the documents and writings of Magdalene help the Assembly to re-visit and re-live Magdalene’s itinerary in the exercise of **universal charity** towards the poor of her time.

The main points of this enriching speech are:

- **loving to the point of serving and serving with love**
- **our charism at the service of the poor**
- **the 5 Branches of Charity or Ministries** wanted and realised by the Foundress.

Magdalene accepts the gift of the Spirit and understands fully the demands of involving everyone, so that Jesus may be known and loved. She is aware that the charism given to her can be lived, witnessed and extended to the lives of lay people who are the direct witnesses of the Gospel.

Fr. Gianluigi concludes his talk by affirming that we too are called to rediscover, like Magdalene, that we must gain **“a place in the midst of the poor in the heavenly Kingdom”**.

Coming into contact with the writings and works of Magdalene by those who feel themselves involved in the charism of the Greatest Love, is always an experience which makes life vibrate and arouses new desires of self-giving with greater passion to the cause of the poor.

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The day ended with the **Eucharistic Celebration**, presided over by Fr. Fabio Franchini and animated by the Japanese group.

Summarising the homily, Fr. Fabio said that the certainty of Jesus’ presence frees us from all fear and He brings us to the **“promised land”** just as he did for the ancient people of Israel.



During the evening Giancarlo Urbani, a member of the **Canossian Foundation**, presents the work of the Foundation which is carried out at international level and illustrates its specific aims which are to realise interventions of support and promotion of various projects designed to benefit the poorest.

The realisation of various projects and finding the necessary funds is carried out in direct collaboration with the General Council, in dialogue with the respective Provincial Superiors who present the needs of the poor in their country.

Giancarlo concludes his sharing by pointing out repeatedly the value of a **“tiny drop of water”** which, together with many other drops, may bring life to many needy and poor brothers and sisters.

From day to day we receive from various Provinces their **best wishes for a positive result of the Congress**. The Lay Canossians of São Tomé have written assuring us of their remembrance in prayer and the Provincial Superior of Italy, in the name of all the Sisters of the Province “S. Maddalena di Canossa”, hopes that the Congress will bring a breathe of fresh air that will renew the promotion of the Lay Canossian Association. Messages from Brazil, Australia, Argentina and Paraguay are read. We all hope that after this Congress new vocations to the Lay Canossians may be plentiful.



گی 4th August 2011

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Final Day of the Congress of the Canossian Family

Videos on North East Africa, Australia and Hong Kong are shown.

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We continue to listen to the **reports of the working groups** relative to the seven above-mentioned topics. The richness of the work presented allows us to see a vast area in which we, as Lay Canossians, can intervene since, being part of the Canossian Family, we are called to work so as to bring everywhere our help, aid and hope ...

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At the conclusion of our listening it is possible to notice precious convergences which can be summarised in “**Magdalene’s great dream**”: that of assuring those who are the poorest, opportunities of life which are more human and evangelical.

It is possible to identify small steps that can be taken at all levels: personal, local groups, Provinces or Territories.

The various spheres of life in which the poor are present are highlighted by all the groups and reflect the situations of each nation.

The attention of the Lay Canossians is not focused only on material needs; from the reports it can be clearly seen what Magdalene desires: **the promotion of life in all its dimensions**, so that every person may encounter, love and follow Jesus, the Greatest Love.

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In the afternoon, before the Eucharistic celebration, Adele Cremonesi reads the **final message** of the Congress. This message is articulated around a few important points:

- **Let us express our thanks to the Lord** with the same sentiments of St. Paul who affirms to have been called by Christ and to be irreprehensible in charity since we are predestined to be children of the Father.
- **Let us welcome the invitation and example of Jesus** who calls to Himself his disciples so as to send them to evangelize all nations.

- **Let us share together the Chart of Communion** so as to find in every context new ways of bringing the message of God's love to all those who do not yet know it.
- **Let us demonstrate the style of charity of the Lay Canossian** by showing the characteristics of universality and hope, with simplicity, devotion, respect and attention for the needs of people, in a life of sobriety and gratuity by witnessing our solid faith.

پیش We are all invited to continue our journey with Magdalene always ready to love the poor with great and grateful hearts.

پیش Gratitude for the richness of the gift of life which each one of us has received is truly great. A few Delegates intervene in the name of everyone to express heartfelt thanks to the International Coordinating Team and to the Formation Commission for the hard work they have done.

پیش Here we record some expressions that emerge:

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- The person of **St. Bakhita** is an “evangelical sign” of immense hope for the whole Canossian Family.
- Sharing the **charism** means mutually enriching each other and making the charism always richer and able to be lived.
- The **vision** of the various videos involved all of us, stirring up impelling questions in each one of us: what can we do to alleviate the poor and the least? How can we share our daily lives with them?
- The **richness** of our Family is a great gift to the Church and to the whole world.
- **Gratitude** to everyone for the abundance of spiritual nourishment received during these days
- The **poor** are necessary to us, to the Church and they are the root of our Christian identity
- **We are proud** to belong to this great Canossian Family
- **Magdalene** is still alive, today, in our midst; it is important to live this great communion.



پیش This first stage of the Congress concludes with the solemn Eucharistic Celebration, presided over by the Bishop of Verona, **Mgr. Giuseppe Zenti**, together with the Canossian Fathers present.

Bishop Zenti focuses attention on the passage of the Gospel (Mt 16:13-23) in which Jesus addressed compelling questions to his disciples: “You, who do you say I am?” Peter’s answer is seen as the heart of the Master’s life: “You are the Christ, Son of the living God.” The passage ends with the rebuke of Jesus to Peter who still does not accept the mystery of the cross: “You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God’s way but man’s.”



The journey of following Christ – the Bishop points out – is always a journey through trials; we are always disciples never fully realised ...

Jesus comes towards us to provoke in us a faith that must become evermore mature and strong.

Today, we ask ourselves: “What do the world and people say about Christ?”

Today we are witnesses of a world which discards God and thus the greatest poverty of today’s society is precisely this: the absence of God in daily life.

St. Magdalene – continues the Bishop – has borne witness of Christ Crucified to the people of her time leaving an “**indelible sign**” in history; she believed in alleviating the poor of San Zeno and shares with us her passion through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

At the end of the celebration, Fr. Antonio Papa thanks Bishop Zenti for his presence and for his enlightening word and also thanks him for the hospitality in this Spirituality Centre of the Diocese which has made us feel at home ...



**Praise,
Glory,
Blessing,
to You,
O God, Most High!**

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Programme

“I RECOMMEND TO YOU MY BELOVED POOR” INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS PROGRAMME

SUNDAY, 31 JULY
Animation of the day: EUROPE

Arrivals and accommodation

16.00 Official Opening of the Congress
17.00 Welcome
18.00 Eucharistic Celebration
19.30 Supper
21.00 Meeting of Group Leaders



MONDAY, 1 AUGUST 2011
Animation of the day: AFRICA

7.30 Lectio divina – altogether in chapel: texts and meditation available in 5 languages
8.00 Breakfast
8.30-9.30 “A Glance at the World”: viewing DVDs prepared by the Delegates
9.30 **Sociological Input:** **Riccardo Mauri**
10.45-11.15 Break
11.15-11.45 Personal reflection
11.45 Eucharistic Celebration
12.30 Lunch
Free time
14.45-15.30 “A Glance at the World” viewing DVDs
15.30 **Theological input:** **Cristina Simonelli**
17.00-17.30 Break
17.30 Group Work (1st meeting)
19.00 Evening prayer in language groups
19.30 Supper
21.00 “Under the stars”: conversation and night prayer (Africa)



TUESDAY, 2 AUGUST 2011
Animation: Australia/Timor/Indonesia

7.30	Lectio divina – in chapel together: texts and meditations available in 5 languages
8.00	Breakfast
8.30-9.30	“A Glance at the World”: viewing DVDs
9.30	Biblical input: Fr. Gianattilio Bonifacio
10.45-11.15	Break
11.15-11.45	Personal reflection
11.45	Eucharistic Celebration
12.30	Lunch
	Free time
14.45-15.30	“A Glance at the World” viewing DVDs
15.30	Group work (2nd meeting)
17-17.30	Break
17.30	“A Glance at the World” viewing DVDs
19.00	Evening prayer in language groups
19.30	Supper
21.00	“Under the Stars”: evening get-together (Australia/Timor/Indonesia)



WEDNESDAY, 3 AUGUST 2011
Animation: Asia

7.30	Breakfast (personal Lectio divina on the coach)
8.00	In the footsteps of Magdalene (prayer in each place):
8.30	Canossa Palace – 9.30 on foot to the Church of San Lorenzo – 10.15 by coach to San Zeno – 11.30 on foot to Casa Madre
12.30	by coach to San Fidenzio
13.00	Lunch in San Fidenzio . Free time
15.00	“A Glance at the World”: viewing DVDs
16.00	Charismatic input: Fr. Gianluigi Andolfo
17.00-17.30	Break
17.30	Personal reflection - meeting for those responsible for the final message
18.30	Eucharistic Celebration
19.30	Supper
20.30	Presentation of the Canossian Foundation
21.15	“Under the Stars”: (Asia) An evening with Mary



THURSDAY, 4 AUGUST 2011

Animation: America

7.30	Lectio divina – in chapel together: texts and meditations available in 5 languages
8.00	Breakfast
8.30-9.30	“A Glance at the World”: viewing DVDs
9.30	Concluding reports of working groups (15 minutes each)
12.30	Lunch . Free time
15.00	Final message of the Congress to the Lay Canossians
16.00	Eucharistic Celebration, Mgr. Giuseppe Zenti, Bishop of Verona
	Closure of the International Congress

GROUP WORK

7 GROUPS IN FIVE LANGUAGES :

- ITALIAN (2 GROUPS)
- ENGLISH: N° 2 GROUPS (GROUP 1: USA – AUSTRALIA – JAPAN - SINGAPORE – HONG KONG // GROUP 2: PHILIPPINES – INDIA – MALAYSIA – INDONESIA – EAST AFRICA)
- FRENCH (CONGO – TOGO)
- SPANISH (MEXICO – ARGENTINA)
- PORTUGUESE (BRAZIL – PORTUGAL – ANGOLA – SAO TOME’- TIMOR)

Every group has a **group leader and a secretary**. It has two afternoons with a total of four hours to carry out its work.

The composition of the group is determined by language.

It will present to the Congress, in 15 minutes, the work elaborated on the last day.

TOPICS OF GROUP WORK

(we chose to deepen the Branches of Charity of Magdalene of Canossa)

FAMILY	Italian Group 2
EDUCATION	Spanish Group
VISITING THE SICK IN HOSPITAL AND AT HOME; VOLUNTARY SERVICE	English Group 1
EVANGELIZATION AND OUR PRESENCE IN THE LOCAL CHURCH	Portuguese Group
IMMIGRATION AND INTEGRATION	Italian Group 1
WAR AND VIOLENCE	French Group
HUNGER	English Group 2

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