



CONFERENCE INTERNATIONALE CATHOLIQUE DU SCOUTISME
INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF SCOUTING
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The Year gone by.../

2008 was a very busy year for our Region. It was a year of change and a year in which much progress was made. The activities for members ranged from the Pastoral Seminar in Central Europe, the Way of Peace in the middle-east to the Camp of the Living stones in Poland. We were also involved in the Faith and Belief zone in Ireland and the Ecumenical Seminar in the UK.

Meeting of the Committee

During the year the committee met on three occasions:

January – Warsaw

In January on the invitation from the Polish Scout Association (Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego – ZHP) we assembled in Warsaw to hold our committee meeting.

We met in ZHP's headquarters at ul. Konopnickiej 6. As this was the first meeting of the new committee we had a very interesting and spirited discussion - during the meeting we were joined by Pere Jean Luc, Chaplain to ICCG who participated in the discussions on the arrangements proposed for the Camp of the Living

Stones, which on this occasion was being organised by ICCG to be held in Silesia, Poland.

On Saturday we had the pleasure of meeting Chief Scout Malgorzata Sinica and Rafal Bednarczyk, (International Commissioner) who joined us for lunch. We had a very frank and open exchange of ideas on the development on Scouting in Poland, its relationship with the Church and local community and what we ICCS have to offer.

On Saturday evening we visited a training course for young leaders, organised by the Warszawa-Mokotów Scout and Guide District of Warsaw at their Regional Scout and Guide Centre in Stara Dabrowa - a village 40 km to the north west of Warsaw.

The course leader Agnieszka Siluszek gave us a very warm welcome and arranged the opportunity to meet and speak with the young leaders present - later we were invited to join the patrols in their evening meal, which was even less formal and much more fun! We were highly impressed with the standards of training being provided, and with the level of enthusiasm evident among the young participants.

The end of the evening we returned to Warsaw re-infected with the spirit of

Scouting that radiated from the dark woods of Stara Dabrowa.

We would like to thank the PZH for their hospitality in hosting our committee meeting and a special thank you to Ewa Lachiewicz for her kind and efficient assistance in organising our visit to Warsaw.

May – Rome

Our meeting in May was held in the offices of AGESCI at Piazza Pasquale Paoli, Rome. We completed a full agenda discussing such issues as: the proposed Pastoral Seminar in Hungary, the Camp of the Living Stones in Poland, possible new members of the Region, Relationships with the ICCG, candidates for the Brotherhood of St George etc.,

On Friday evening we had dinner in Trastevere with members of the ICCS Secretariat who were also meeting in Rome on that weekend.

On the Saturday evening we were invited to join with the new Executive Board of AGESCI at the Mass at Via Aurelia and have dinner with them at a restaurant near the Coliseum.

We are very grateful to the Board of AGESCI for their hospitality, for

facilitating our meeting and for their continued generosity in supporting the work of ICCS.

September – Munich

The third meeting of the committee was held in Kirchliches Zentrum, Preysingstraße in Munich and was hosted by the DPSG. On Friday the members of the committee who arrived early visited the site of Dachau Concentration. Dachau was the first internment camp opened by the Nazi regime and served as a blueprint for all such camps operated during the Second World War. It is a place where many Catholic priests and members of other religious denominations were incarcerated, tortured and murdered for their opposition to the forces of evil.

We held our meeting on Saturday and in addition to the normal agenda items the primary matter for consideration was the review and evaluation of the 5 year Plan of Action, agreed by EM Regional Council in Jordan. We spent time examining the various elements of the Plan and agreed a set of priorities for the coming year. These priorities were presented for approval at this year's Council meeting in Rome.

On Friday evening we met with the members of the Bavarian Leadership team of the DPSG and joined them on Saturday evening for a typical evening meal in a Munich Beer Keller.

We are extremely grateful to the DPSG for their generous hospitality and the continuous support they provide to ICCS in general and the EM Region in particular.

Activities in 2008

The Ecumenical Seminar – Aylesford UK:

The first Ecumenical encounter of Christian Scout Associations and other entities was held in the Carmelite Priory, Aylesford UK from the 7th to the 9th March, 2008.



Aylesford was chosen because of its proximity to Canterbury which has a long and famous ecumenical tradition. The 21 participants came from the member organizations of ICCS, the Orthodox entities organized in DESMOS and from Protestant Associations and groups. The key note speaker was Fr. Jonathan How, Professor of Philosophy, St Johns Seminary, Womersley, Surrey, UK.

In addition to the discussion about better cooperation between ICCS, DESMOS and the Christian Conference, the Seminar critically reviewed the Christian roots of Scouting and considered the challenges that face the movement in the future.



Thanks to Margaret McDowall, Fr. John and the National Catholic Scout Fellowship UK for facilitating this event.

Camp of the Living Stones:



The Camp of the Living Stones is a joint event organised by ICCS and ICCG. The 2008 Camp held on the 31st July to the 5th August was led by ICCG. As ZHP was the host association it was planned as part of the Central European Jamboree 2008 held in Chorzeew, Silesia, Poland.

The theme for the 2008 Living Stones was: Salt of the Earth – Light of the World. There were 25 participants with a joint team of ICCG and ICCS members.

The six day programme consisted of the following elements: Meeting, Sharing, Enculturation, Confrontation, Desert, and Festival and Sending.

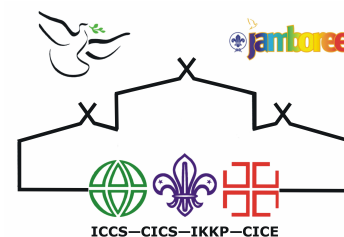
The programme also included a visit to an old castle in Krackow and a trip down the Salt Mines of Wieliczka. During the week there was the celebration of the Mass, meditation and an ecumenical service for Peace.

The EM committee has agreed to review / re-evaluate the Camp of the Living Stones when we receive the final report on the 2008 event from the planning team.

The EM Region of ICCS will have the responsibility of producing the Camp of the Living Stones in 2009 / 2010.

However, if the Camp of the Living Stones is to continue - we (ICCS) believe the traditional time of year December 2009 to January 2010 is the optimum time for participants from our member associations to attend this event.

Faith and Belief Zone: Irish Jamboree 2008 -



Jamboree 2008 celebrated 100 years of Scouting in Ireland and was held from the 2nd to 10th August at Punchestown, Naas, Co Kildare, Ireland.

The Daily Programme was based on principal of 'Learning by Doing' and was designed around the natural elements: Spirit, Earth, Wind, and Fire & Water with each day being devoted to the exploration of one of these themes.



One important feature of Jamboree 2008 was the religious programme which was provided from three platforms:

1. Faith and Belief Zone
2. Liturgical Activities
3. Chaplaincy service.

A number of very busy Chaplains willingly formed the Chaplaincy Service. I would like to thank: Fr. David Kenneally (National Catholic Chaplain Scouting Ireland), Fr. John Seddon (EM Regional Chaplain, and National Chaplain SAUK), and Fr. Pat Mernagh, (Chaplain – Irish Defence Forces) for their patience and commitment in the service of young people and leaders during the camp.

The success of this activity was due to the strong commitment of large number of people far too numerous to mention by name – however, a special thanks is due to the DPSG / ICCS 'Cathedral Construction Team' for their building of the Abbey Church, the team (20) of the ICCS faith area and the Leaders and teams of the Jewish, Muslim, Baha'i and Buddhist faith areas.

Way of Peace in the Middle Eastern sub-region

Following our successful Seminar Council meeting in Jordan last year, the planning group for that event formed themselves into middle-eastern working group and began planning a training course for Rovers and Rangers from each of the following Middle East countries: Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Palestine and Israel.

The training course was held in Amman from the 16th to 22nd of August. There were 25 participants with a planning team of 5. The theme of the training course was "Way of Peace - Une Route de Paix – Tarik Isallam"

The program consisted of the participants renewing their Scout Promise at Madaba, reflecting on how to be more like our Lord Jesus Christ and how best to imitate his life.

The programme was designed to provide the participants with the opportunity of visiting Petra and experiencing the solitude and silence of the of the desert environment.

From there they moved north to the site of St John the Baptist on the banks of the river Jordan where they evaluated their experiences and reflected upon their role in Scouting, the Church and how they can best fulfil the needs of the young people whom they lead.

From feedback received from both the participants and staff it would seem that

this initiative was a worthwhile and successful Camp.

The working group are to be complimented for their hard work and perseverance on this, their first of many initiatives in the future.

Pastoral Seminar for Central Europe

The Pastoral Seminar for Central Europe was held from the 2nd to the 5th October, 2008 at Kismaros, Hungary, the participating countries were, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Germany and Hungary. The aim of the seminar was to create a handbook for Cub Scout religious education. This will be done in the form of a handbook for Cub Scout leaders. The handbook will contain spiritual programs in 5 chapters (Introduction, Duty to Myself, Duty to Others, Duty to God and, specialties).

It is planned to collect copies of existing spiritual programs on national level and a main coordinator will edit the handbook. We nominate and decide on the coordinators till Rome Conference. We decided on deadlines regarding to collecting the material, if the deadline are kept, it is planned to have the Handbook completed before the holding of the 2009 Pastoral Seminar, planned from 1st to the 4th October.

We would like to thank Orsi (Orsolya Gresz) for taking the leadership in coordinating this year's seminar and to Alexander, Dom Guido and the DPSG for their continued support of this initiative.

Regional Council Rome 2008



The finale of the year was our Annual Council (sans seminar) meeting in Casa LaSalle in Rome. As our meeting formed part of the World Council which is held on a triennial basis we did not have our customary Seminar and so we sadly missed out on the opportunity of

discussing core issues of concern to the members of our Region.

Membership:

According to our records the EM Region currently has a membership of 24 full and 8 observer members.

There are 46 Associations in the WOSM European Scout Region many of which in the past, were members of ICCS but have since left the fold. There are many reasons for the fall off in membership: on the one hand we have the abolition of 'Federations' by the World Scout Committee and the drive towards having only one association per country and on the other: the advent of 'multi-denominational' associations brought about by the cultural shifts towards pluralism within the members states of the EU.

This has had a dramatic effect on the practice of religious activities within Scouting, with for example: a 'Scouts Own' or morning meditation being offered as a substitute for Mass – so as avoid offending 'non-believers'! – this trend is increasing even within traditional Catholic associations. However, we are pleased to report that there are still a majority of associations (both Catholic and multi-denominational) who believe the ICCS has something of value to offer.

Welcome to New Members

We are pleased to welcome into the European - Mediterranean Region Slovak Scouting - (Slovensky skauting) who were granted full membership status of ICCS.

In 2008 the Swiss association AEEC reformed into a new association under the title of 'Scoutismo Ticino' and we welcome Gruppo Sezioni Scout Cattoliche (GSC) in their continuance of the tradition of Catholic Scouting within their new association.

To the African Region we welcome the Scouts of Tanzania and to the Inter-American Region the Dutch Antilles.

Activities in 2009

We did however agree on a Programme of Activities for the coming year and you will be hearing about each of these as the year progresses. The activities agreed upon are as follows:

- Taize Scout Week - (date to be agreed with Taize)

- Middle–Eastern workshop - August
- Pastoral Seminar - October
- Living Stones Camp - December

As there are a number of major World events planned to be held within our region in the next few years and we agreed that we should become actively involved.

These events range from:

- World Jamboree in Sweden in 2011
The World ICCS will be involved in a number of areas such as the faith and belief zone, liturgical activities, chaplaincy service, etc. and we the EM Region will be involved in the planning process.
- World Youth Day in 2011 the Scout presence at WYD is being co-ordinated by MSC - we will work closely with MSC
- Ecumenical Dialog 2009 shall be held in Greece and is being organised by DESMOS

Taize Scout Week

A new addition to our programme for 2009 is the Taize Scout Week – this is a joint initiative between the Taize community and the ICCS EM Region. and is open to all young leaders.

What is this activity about?

A stay at Taizé is an opportunity to experience a simple life shared with others, reminding all that daily life, as it stands, is the place where Christ is waiting.

Scout Week at Taize has been designed to help young leaders in the Scouting view their daily life in the light of the Gospel: praying together three times a day, reflecting on the wellsprings of the faith, exploring the Scout Principles, the Law and the Promise.

Each day will start for the participants with a Biblical reflection, followed by a time of silence and reflection upon their role in Scouting, the Church, and how they can best fulfil the needs of the young people whom they lead.

The afternoon, workshops will focus on the exploration of the relationship between faith and Scouting.

Who is the target group?

Young leaders aged between 17 to 29 year olds

Where will they stay?

Living conditions are simple. Participants will bring a tent, a sleeping bag, towel, and camping mat.

In the colder months heated dormitory accommodation is available for all.

What about the costs?

A basic contribution in Taize per day and per person is 7.50 Euro. (52.50 euro per week) Taize receives no external subsidy, but depends on participants' contributions and on contributions made by those who are able to do so to a solidarity fund.

What is given for the stay covers meals, accommodation and other expenses of the meetings. The suggested level of contribution takes into account participants' country of origin. Within the range given, each person chooses what contribution to make.

How long does the Scout Week in Taize last?

One week, from Sunday to Sunday - dates to be agreed.

We hope to be able to let you have further details on this event in the very near future.

Committee Meetings 2009

It is proposed to hold 3 meetings of the committee during the coming year:

Prague **16th - 17th** January: (hosted by JUNAK committee)

Dublin **15th - 17th** May (hosted by Forum for Catholics in Scouting Ireland)

Luxembourg **11th - 13th** September
(Hosted by Lëtzeburger Guiden A Scouten)

Seminar Council 2009

The **2009 Seminar Council** meeting will be held from the 19th – 22nd November in Slovenia and will be hosted by Združenje slovenskih katoliških skavtinj in skavtov (ZSKSS)

Chaplains Seminar 2010:

The joint Chaplains Seminar (ICCS/ICCG) proposed in our Action Plan for 2009 will not now go ahead as scheduled. This is due to the planned Pilgrimage for Chaplains in Rome in November and the proposed inter-religious seminar for 2010 being hosted by DESMOS.

Fr. Imad Twal representing World ICCS is a member of the planning team and will keep us informed of developments.

Cooperation with the International Catholic Conference of Guiding:

The next combined meeting of the two committees is planned to be held in Dublin on the 16th of May 2009 - The World ICCG plan on holding their Council meeting in Ireland in 2009.

The ICCS EM committee

While the Council meeting in Rome provided us with the opportunity to meet old friends, it was also a sad occasion in that Jackine Abounayan, having served a double mandate stepped down from the committee -

A huge dept of gratitude is owing to Jackine for her energy, vision and determination in putting the middle-east on a firm footing.

However we are pleased to welcome Antoine Maksoud who was elected to take the place vacated by Jackine.

And so, the following are the members of your 2009 European Mediterranean committee:

Gerry Glynn – Regional Secretary
Fr. John Seddon – Regional Chaplain
Alexander Fischhold – Treasurer
Helene Lacroix
Filippo Guiglia
Pedro Duarte Silva
Antoine Maksoud

Euro-Med News

The next edition of Euro-Med News will be published in the Summer 2009. If you have any information or news about your association which you would like published please send it to the Regional Office at::

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or: gga@eircom.net

The address of the Regional Office is:

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St Columban's Navan,
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And Finally.../

Please contribute to the circulation of this news letter by forwarding it by e-mail to you friends and colleagues, or by posting it for downloading on Scouting websites.

GG / January 2009.