

Elections to the new Executive Committee

Communiqué to the 13th General Assembly of UCESM

Torhout, Belgium, 11-17 February 2008



The Union of the European Conferences of Major Superiors, UCESM, held its General Assembly in Torhout, Belgium, from 11 till 17 February 2008. Representatives of the 38 Conferences of women and men religious of 26 European countries came together for this meeting which takes place every two years. They represent 400.000 men and women religious from all over Europe. Amongst the guests coming from various bodies, the meeting welcomed Cardinal Franc Rodé, Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, Cardinal Godfried Danneels, Archbishop of Mechlin-Brussels and President of the Belgian Bishops' Conference, Mgr Karl-Josef Rauber, Apostolic Nuncio of Belgium and Luxembourg, Mgr Roger Vangheluwe, Bishop of Bruges, and Mgr Noel Treanor, Secretary General of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community.



Monseigneur Roger Vangheluwe,
Bishop of Bruges

Cardinal Franc Rodé,
Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated
Life
and Societies of Apostolic Life

Monseigneur Noel Treanor,
Secretary General of COMECE

Monseigneur Karl-Josef Rauber,
Apostolic Nuncio of Belgium and Luxembourg

Cardinal Godfried Danneels,
Archbishop of Mechlin-Brussels,
President of the Belgian Bishops' Conference

This assembly is a place to share ideas and activities in view of a mutual knowledge and a better collaboration. «Passion for Christ, Passion for humanity, lived in community. What contribution does our community life make to Europe?» was the theme which gathered the participants. With the help of experts like the Dominican Father Jean-Claude Lavigne, the members of the Assembly reflected upon the sense of religious life lived in community. As a place of fraternity and communion within faith and solidarity, it is one of the signs, within society, which show that reconciliation and hope are possible. The assembly adopted a final message which expresses their convictions on the importance of the value of religious life for the Church and for the world.

The assembly elected the new Executive Committee for 2008-2012:

Sr Lutgardis Craeynest sdb, Salesian, Belgium, President
Father Manuel Joaquim Gomes Barbosa scj, Dehonian Father of the Sacred Heart, Portugal, Vice-President
Sr Danuta Wrobel snmpn, Little Handmaids of the Immaculate Mary, Poland, Counsellor
Father Mariano Sedano Sierra cmf, Claretian Missionaries, Russia, Counsellor



Outgoing Executive Committee

***Sr Lutgardis Craeynest sdb,
Salesian, Belgium, President***

***Father August Hülsmann scj,
Dehonian Father of the Sacred
Heart, Germany,
outgoing President***

New Executive Committee