

# NEWSLETTER no 4

August 2018



Dear friends,

With this newsletter, I hope to come into the rhythm of sending out a letter four times a year, and with joy I am writing to you today about what has happened in recent times from or in the Secretariat.

The latest news was about this year's General Assembly in the beautiful Snagov/Romania. You can read about it on our website.

During the General Assembly, I was invited to go to Ukraine to attend the fusion of the four Ukrainian Conferences in one association on 4 May 2018; the presentation of their "Declaration of cooperation" aimed to show that the religious of Ukraine are open to cooperate. Unanimously Fr. Roman Lagish was elected secretary and Sr. Anna Zainchkovska his deputy. The Declaration has a trial period of six months.

At the beginning of the session, using our website, I explained the nature and the purpose of UCESM.

On 25-28 September 2018, a project/symposium about "The consecrated life in the era of digital culture" will be organised; it is intended for 200 consecrated people of both rites. Let us accompany them with our prayers!

If you want to learn more about the members of religious orders in the Ukraine, please go to our website (still very worth reading!).



*From left to right – standing: Sr. Anna Zainchkovska fma, Councillor and Secretary of CORU, Fr. Justin Mischenko osppe, Secretary of the Roman-Catholic Conference, Sr. Natalia Melnyk zspr, President of UGCC, Bishop Edward Kava ofm, President of the Roman-Catholic Commission for Consecrated Life, Fr. Roman Lagish cssr, Secretary of the Greek-Catholic Council, Sr. Marjolein Bruinen op, Secretary General of UCESM, Sr. Valentyna Ryabushko smsv, Vice-President of the Patriarchal Commission for Religious (GreekCatholic), Fr. Stanislav Kava ofm, Counselor of the Roman-Catholic Conference*

*From left to right – sitting: Sr. Elena Byscsa, President of CORU, Fr. Blazey Souska ofm cap, President of the Roman-Catholic Conference, Fr. Andrew Rak cssr, President of the Greek-Catholic Council*

The conclusion of this particular visit was a beautiful "tourist day" (too many photos to show here).

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At our first meeting as the new Executive Committee, we had promised to stay in contact regularly. And indeed, Fr. Zsolt, Nicole and I have seen and spoken to each other every 14 days through Skype, where we were connected from many different places. With the whole Committee we meet a little less.



On May 27, Nicole and I went to the monastery of Roggenburg in Bavaria/Germany, where we are invited to hold our next General Assembly (9-14 March 2020). Nicole's train was delayed (as a courtesy she was even given 5,00 [!] euros by the Belgian Railways!) and therefore I could collect her only from the train station near Roggenburg. We were warmly and hospitably received by Abbot Hermann Josef Kugler, Fr. Roman Löschinger, Director, and their Premonstratensian brothers. The next day,

we got a more than one-hour sightseeing tour of the various buildings of the monastery. Then, we discussed many practical points.

It is a huge, beautiful complex with several buildings. They are in very good state as they have gone through a major renovation over the last years. We will definitely feel at home there! You will hear more about this when the date gets closer.

At the invitation of COMECE, Nicole and I participated in a reflection day on "sustainable finance". More than 70 representatives of European Bishops' Conferences, Catholic organizations and movements were present. They jointly expressed their support for a sustainable financial system in Europe and the Church. As Pope Francis writes in his Encyclical *Laudato si'*: "We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature"(LS 139). As a concrete way "to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor", the participants suggested that more Catholic organizations and movements should commit themselves to start an internal process regarding fossil fuels. Thus, other Catholic institutions should join and take a strong prophetic stance for "our common home" worldwide.



On 10-13 June, I was a guest at the General Assembly of the DOK (German Conference of Major Superiors). In addition to the execution of many practical questions and proposals, they also had elections to the Executive Committee. You will find names and pictures on our website.

And then Fr. Zsolt, Fr. Nicolay, Sr. Hedvig and I (unfortunately Sr. Danièle could not come because of acute back pain) met in Ophain-Bois-Seigneur-Isaac (B), where we were hosted by Fr. Charbel Eid, superior of the monastery of Saint-Charbel of the Lebanese Maronite Order, for the second meeting of the Executive Committee. It was a good decision to meet in the vicinity of Brussels as this gave us the opportunity to celebrate Holy Mass with the Secretary General of COMECE, Fr. Olivier Poquillon OP, and to enjoy a festive meal with him.



*P. Charbel invited us too*



Chaired by Fr. Zsolt, we looked back at our General Assembly in Snagov and examined the good and less good experiences of the participants. We will take several points over into the organization of the next General Assembly. There is for example the question of the languages: will an Eastern European language have to be added? Would we have to abandon a "Western European" language for that purpose? About this too you will learn more later on.

In addition, we meditated and talked about the role of UCESM in relation to the national Conferences. So we took the decision to organize two days of study on the question "What role has UCESM regarding cooperation between national Conferences, and with other organizations in Europe?". These days will be held on 16-18 January 2019 in Rome and will be put under the direction of Fr. Mariano Sedano Sierra, who has been member of the Executive Committee of UCESM for many years. All Conferences have been invited to send a delegate and at the moment we are still waiting for the last registrations.

In December 2017, I attended the meeting of the Forum of Catholic-inspired Organizations in Rome. This forum has the aim to facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences between the various Catholic-inspired associations and movements. It consists of representatives of Episcopal institutions as well as of permanent representatives of the Holy See in the international organisations and the dicasteries of the Roman Curia. Now, the Forum has designed a step-by-step plan for a (more) intensive cooperation. I am a member of the "Human dignity"-Committee. I will keep you informed!

Once again I want to draw your attention to the "**Marketplace**" initiative where one side can offer things for church and home (or suggest persons who have something to offer in the "sacred area") and the other side can respond or ask by himself, especially because during the General Assembly the explicit desire for more contacts (through each other) was expressed. Please be inspired!

This is all for today!

With warm fraternal greetings from the secretariat in Brussels.

Sr. Marjolein Bruinen OP  
General Secretary



# Changes within the UCESM Member conferences

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## USMI from Italy – April 2018

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Election of a new President:

Sr. Yvonne REUNGOAT fma

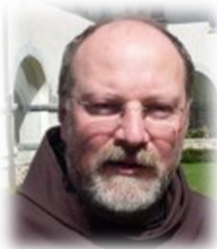


## KORUS from Slovenia – May 2018

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Election of a new

Fr. Marjan ČUDEN ofm



President:

## DOK from Germany – June 2018

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Election of a new President:

Sr. Katharina KLUITMANN osf



and a new Vice-President:

Fr. Bruno ROBECK ocist



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