

Statutory Approvals and Recognitions

By decree dated 22 February, the Pontifical Council for the Laity recognized the association *Araldi del Vangelo* as an international lay association of pontifical right, and approved its statutes “ad experimentum”.

By decree dated 16 March, the Pontifical Council for the Laity approved the amendments made to the statutes of the association *Immaculate Heart of Mary* (Tuus Totus).

By decree dated 19 March, the Pontifical Council for the Laity granted final approval of the statutes of the association *Obra de Santa Teresa*.

By decree dated 14 May, the Pontifical Council for the Laity granted final approval of the statutes of the association *Vie Montante Internationale*.

By decree dated 17 May, the Pontifical Council for the Laity recognized the association *Silenziosi Operai della Croce* as an international lay association of pontifical right.

By decree dated 29 June, the Pontifical Council for the Laity granted final approval of the statutes of the association *Encuentros de Promoción Juvenil*.

By decree dated 8 December, the Pontifical Council for the Laity recognized the movement of spirituality *Vivere In* as an international lay association of pontifical right, and approved its statutes “ad experimentum”.

By decree dated 8 December, the Pontifical Council for the Laity granted final approval of the statutes of the international association *Missionaries of Political Charity*.

The Pontifical Council for the Laity is currently in the process of examining the requests for canonical recognition submitted by the following lay groups: *International Catholic Programme of Evangelization*, *Apostolato della Sofferenza*, *World Apostolate of Fatima*, *Ordre Militaire de Saint-Lazare de Jérusalem*, *Apostolate for Family Consecration*, *Communauté des Béatitudes*, *Comunità Missionaria di Villaregia*.

The 4th Meeting of the Churches of Sicily was held at Acireale from 22 to 24 March 2001, on the theme: “The laity for the mission of the Church in Sicily in the third millennium”. The Holy Father sent a message to the participants. The Pontifical Council for the Laity was represented at the meeting by Cardinal James Francis Stafford, who presided over one of the eucharistic celebrations on the programme, and by Prof. Guzmán Carriquiry, who gave a lecture on the lay associations and movements in the communion and mission of the Church today.

Fr. Francis Kohn participated in the 3th Forum of Lebanese youth from 15 to 19 August. Syrian and Egyptian youth also attended the Forum. Fr. Kohn presented the Message of the Holy Father to the Youth of the World for World Youth Day 2002 and met the young delegates of dioceses and movements. On 24 and 25 August he also took part in the 9th National Day of Lebanese youth. During his trip to Lebanon Fr. Kohn was received by Cardinal Pierre Nasrallah Sfeir, patriarch of Antioch of the Maronites.