



## **IYCS GLOBAL CHAPLAINS AND ANIMATORS SESSION**

4 to 8 June 2010, in Park Hotel, Domus Pacis, 94, rue Torre Rossa, Rome

*Theme: "Called to Be Ambassadors of Christ (2 Cor. 5:20): Students' Education in the Hour of Interculturality and Religious Pluralism".*

### **FINAL STATEMENT**

At the end of the Priesthood Year requested by His Holiness the Pope Benedict XVI, the International Young Catholic Student (IYCS), faithful to its mission Prophetic and Evangelizer, held in Rome from 4 to 8 June 2010 a training session for Chaplains and Animators of the movement under the theme "*Called to Be Ambassadors of Christ (2 Cor. 5:20): Students' Education in the Hour of Interculturality and Religious Pluralism.*". The session whose purpose was to strengthen the capacities of participants in education and accompaniment of young people, was attended by Chaplains and Animators YCS from 15 countries of five continents.

IYCS being a movement of Catholic Action specialized in the apostolate of students values the essential role of Chaplains and Animators in its mission. The gathering specifically allowed chaplains and animators present to share the experiences and to analyze the needs as well as the challenges encountered in accompanying young students in a new globalized world, by applying the YCS well known traditional methodology of "See - Judge - Act". It is in this context that IYCS, through its experiences in the world, promotes a contextualized spirituality of action and reflection that aims at promoting maturity of its members and sympathizers and to build their Christian faith in order to help them to transform their own communities by being a force for liberation in promoting love, social justice, solidarity and peace in short, the Church's presence and service within students (IYCS Identity Declaration, from the XIII<sup>th</sup> World Council of IYCS, Kampala, Uganda).

At this, we have observed that the new context in which students live is changing very quickly and exponentially, creating more than in the past, more situations of poverty, oppression, exclusion and misery that cannot let Christians be indifferent. In this regard, despite the fact that currently in this new world of globalization, we face new emergencies which are more dramatic and increasingly complex, we find that IYCS methodology and traditional spirituality in its four dimensions Christological; Pneumatological; and Prophetic and Missionary (cf New Forms of Evangelism at the

School and the University: The Spirituality of IYCS" X<sup>th</sup> World Council IYCS Leuven) is still actual now more than ever.

We praise and thank the Almighty God for this opportunity that was given to us to live this international experience as chaplains and animators of YCS coming from various backgrounds. As Ambassadors of Jesus Christ we are convinced that we are sent into an exciting and yet challenging evangelization territory, the world of youth, the world of religious pluralism and multiculturalism. Despite the challenges that are posed by these realities, we need to enter into this new world with a spirit of dialogue without which the hope for the future of peace for humanity is bleak.

Aware of the problems young people are facing in this world of great changes, using our own personal experiences and guided by the grace of the Holy Spirit, we prayed together and exchanged ideas about the role of chaplains in accompanying the youth in their journey of encountering God and humanity.

Our experiences on this youth ministry differ from one country to another and from one continent to another. However, we concur that young people face challenges of losing fast the sense of values while searching for genuine meaning and truth.

Without addressing aspects of this identity crisis and enhancing dialogue with different cultures and religions, young people can easily be victims of confusion and confrontation. For us Christians, the search for truth is not a mere idea; it implies making an encounter with a person, Jesus Christ. Young people are invited to make personal encounters with Jesus Christ. Following the example of Christ with the disciples of Emmaus, the chaplain's mission is to indicate the direction and path that leads to embracing more meaningful lives.

Facing new situations of interculturality, religious pluralism, sects and new religious movements, we realize the importance of knowing better our own faith tradition with view of instructing and guiding young people to face challenges of living their faith. Indeed, this is the precondition for fruitful interreligious dialogue and interculturality living within current global settings.

We are fully aware there are some regions of YCS which need more help and support in responding to all these challenges.

We commit ourselves:

1. To develop guidelines for chaplains and animators
2. To step up efforts of networking and communicating at international, regional and national levels
3. To learn from best practices through mutual exposures and visits
4. To build capacities of chaplains and animators through on going formation
5. To network with chaplains and animators of other youth groups in the Church.

We are grateful to the Church leaders for commitment and support to youth apostolate. We are aware of the difficulties to get chaplains for this mission and we appeal to the Church leadership to prioritize provision of competent and committed chaplains to accompany the youth.

We thank and appreciate the efforts of our host, MSAC, IYCS and their partners for the good organization and the success of this international meeting and we hope that such training sessions are organized as regularly as possible to strengthen the capacity of the chaplains and animators and facilitate their exchange of experiences to better cope with increasingly complex challenges.

Ambassadors of Christ for students and in the spirit of Saint Paul Apostles of the nations, we are committed to proclaiming the Good News by encouraging young people through all patience and teaching (2 Tim. 4:1-5) so that they can find more meaning in life through our long standing spirituality which aims at promoting human maturity and to train the youth in their personal faith through the Revision of Life with the “See-Judge-Act” methodology.

Rome, June 08, 2010 in the Year of Priest  
The participants