

THIRD ECUMENICAL EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY (EEA3) IN SIBIU (ROMANIA) SEPTEMBER 2007

CLC Euroteam participated through Monika Sander in the

Preparation meeting in Rome January 2006

The EEA3 (www.eea3.org) builds on two other assemblies, which took place in Basel (Switzerland) in 1989 and in Graz (Austria) in 1997. It roots in the **Charta Oecumenica** signed in Strasbourg in 2001. Please find information on: (www.ccee.ch and www.ccek.org).

The chosen theme for this meeting is: **The light of Christ shines upon all – hope for renewal and unity in Europe.** This put the emphasis on Christ (John 8;12) and refer to the symbol of light so important in the eastern and western Christian tradition. The subtitle has for object to emphasize the part that Christianity could play in Europe actually.

Four stages are planed until Sibiu - one of them takes place in Stuttgart May 10-13, 2007, **Euroteam** will be present.

The fourth stage will be the Sibiu's meeting from the 4th to the 9th of September 2007 gathering 3000 Churches and Catholics Episcopalians delegates of Europe. This will be connected with the meeting between Christians in all Europeans cities able to welcome them by video and audio connexions with Sibiu.

Why Sibiu? This city will be, as Luxembourg, European capital in 2007; localised in Transylvania its 170000 inhabitants are Romanian, Hungarian, German, Jewish, and Gipsy. The majority belongs to the Romanian Orthodox Church.

In Rome, Bishop Murphy-O'Connor said:

“The target of this meeting is not to discuss of dogmatic differences but to find out that, what unit us as Christians is more important than what still disunite us, that what we assert as Christians is a lot of more important than what we contest about ones an others. Ecumenism is not to be considered by the obstacles, as important they may be, but instead in the gifts to be share. And he insists on the three enemies of ecumenism: **suspicion, inertia and impatience.**”

What about CVX in that context? CLC is open-minded to others religions and wherever it is possible as in England, Germany and France, we welcome members of the other religions. Facing new communities and movements, questioning the CLC's position is necessary. Those movements have social commitments that make them to be known in the common weal. In CLC, our commitments are often individual and discreet, we are present everywhere with a solid education and inner freedom – but we hide our belonging to CLC. So CLC has a place to stand in that kind of encounters – as the other movements and associations which where present in Rome.

But there is another point; CLC is an ignatian community; the **Jesuits Company** was created by Ignatius of Loyola in the XVI ° century in the difficult time of separation between Catholics and Protestants. One of the first companions of Ignatius, Pierre Favre, is well-known – as many other Jesuits – for the respectful way he took contacts with the protestants.

And in the spiritual Exercises, n° 22, you can read a fundamental attitude: be ready whenever this is possible, to save the proposal of our next. This spiritual attitude is a basis in the actual situation of ecumenism, helpful for us Catholics to meet the other Christians. The last general congregations of the Company underline the importance to work for the reconciliation of the separated churches – the Company is present in many countries and so in ecumenical dialogue with all the different Christian churches. But they consider as well that ecumenism is not only a specific work for some of the members; it should be a fundamental attitude for each Christian concerned by truth who tries to understand and to respect as well as possible the point of view of the others.

Monika Sander, Euroteam member