

February 27, 2008 – Salesian GHQ – A World Congress on the Preventive System and Human Rights



(ANS – Rome) – During the Good Night at GC26 on the evening of Feb. 26, Fr. Ferdinando Colombo, vice-president of VIS (International Development Volunteers) and missions animator for Italy, outlined plans for a world congress on the Preventive System and Human Rights to be held from January 2 to 6, 2009.

This initiative springs from the Rector Major's stenna on the theme of education. It will be led by the Youth Ministry Department with the cooperation of VIS.

The project will not end with the congress. It is part of a journey, already begun and continuing in 2008, involving Salesians and lay people all over the world in formation, reflection, study, animation, and experimentation in the field of education and human rights.

The first stage of preparation and formation is being organized by a committee which is researching the people, study centers, and publications already existing in the Congregation. Through the Internet it is possible for all the people concerned to network and share their publications and experiences. On the website, available to all, it will be possible to attend training courses or to dialog on specific items, insert contributions, or download materials, particularly to make known the good educational practices already followed.

The second stage will be the congress itself, planned for January 2–6, 2009, at the Salesianum in Rome. This will examine good Salesian practice in order to present it to the entire world as a practical way to educate the citizens of today's world in an age of globalization. Analysis of themes will alternate with practical workshops in educational methods.

The third stage, following the congress, will involve regions and provinces, inviting them to set up initiatives and develop objectives and educational methods that promote and protect human rights as an effective way of implementing the Preventive System.

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