

December 3, 2009 - Italy – Special recognition for commitment to Human Rights for VIS



(ANS – Rome) – The International Volunteer Movement for Development (VIS) received a special mark of recognition on November 30 at the Arches Congress Center for its efforts in recent years to contribute to the fight against poverty and for the promotion of human rights through various initiatives and programs.

The award was presented by the undersecretary of the Presidency of the Council, Gianni Letta, to the president of VIS, Massimo Zortea. The award coincides with the National Prize for Human Rights – promoted by the St. Pius V Institute of Political Studies under the patronage of the European Parliament, the Senate of the Italian Republic, and the Chamber of Deputies – for the best doctoral thesis on the subject of Human Rights.

This prestigious award, which is an original work by the sculptor Gennaro Sguro, follows a few months after the accreditation of VIS at the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as a consultative body in the field of human rights and brings to an end a year which began with the international congress on “The Preventive System and Human Rights,” promoted by the Youth Ministry Department of the Salesian Congregation.

Explaining the aims of the initiative, the president of the St. Pius V Institute, Antonio Iodice, said, “It is intended, in particular, to promote and encourage young people in their studies in the field of economics, law, and sociology following the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, celebrated in 2008.”

VIS, drawing inspiration from the charism of Don Bosco, is committed to making young people the protagonists in and the promoters of human rights, which are often denied in many parts of the world.

“We consider this award a privilege that rewards the work already undertaken, but also a great responsibility, to which we are responding with a specific plan of action aimed at putting it to good use. For our organization this is also a mark of appreciation for the daily dedication of our volunteers and a stimulus to continue our efforts on behalf of millions of youngsters on the fringes of the world,” was the comment of Mr. Zortea.