

January 21, 2010 - Portugal – Meeting of the Project Europe Commission



(ANS – Fatima) – The Commission for Project Europe (PE) met at Fatima, Portugal, between January 15 and 18. The commission examined three areas: re-vitalization from within; re-location and re-organization; Europe as mission territory. In particular the implementation of the program for the two-year period 2009-2010 was considered.

Taking part in the work were Fr. Francesco Cereda, councilor for formation and coordinator of the commission; the three councilors for the Salesian mission, Fr. Fabio Attard, Fr. Vaclav Klement, and Fr. Filiberto Gonzalez; the three regional councilors for Europe, Fr. Pierfausto Frisoli, Fr. José Miguel Nuñez, and Fr. Stefano Turansky; and the three provincials appointed as members, Fr. Juan Bosco Sancho, Fr. Stefano Martoglio, and Fr. Marek Chrzan.

The commission listened to and subsequently offered suggestions regarding the reports which the councilors for various sectors and the regional councilors gave regarding what has been done and what was planned for 2010. It spent time examining the situation regarding re-vitalization from within; it drew up the criteria for determining the effective significance of the Salesian presences in Europe. It considered the list of those presented by the various European provinces as the representatives for PE and reflected on their roles. It noted the need to encourage greater communication with and the involvement of the confreres in the provinces and the whole Congregation, possibly by means of the PE site at GHQ.

The commission then studied the individuals and the discernment criteria for the candidates to be missionaries in Europe. It also began to discuss how best to draw up plans for requesting missionaries, to be sent to the Rector Major, and the criteria for assessing these requests on the part of the commission itself. It prepared an assessment form for the Rector Major and the general council regarding the 13 plans requesting missionaries so far submitted. It also reflected on the ways of welcoming and formation for the new missionaries for Europe.

The meeting was held at the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, a significant place for the history and the future of Europe; the spiritual atmosphere aided the spiritual depth of the meeting itself and of the experience. The provincial of Portugal spoke to the commission about the challenges and the future prospects of his province.

The commission took part in a Mass for the Salesian Family gathered together on January 16 for the presentation of the 2010 Strenna.

In July the commission will meet in Czestochowa, Poland, to continue its work and above all to prepare for the meeting of the provincials of Europe to be held in Rome, November 26-28.