

# **ICLDF-report for the European Assembly Fatima, October 2017**

by Mr. Klaus Bornewasser OP

Dear sisters and brothers,

I am very grateful to have the opportunity to make a short report as European member of the „International Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities“, short ICLDF. I will do it in two steps.

## **1. The work of ICLDF**

As you know there are five members – one from each Continent – belonging to the ICLDF. This team is, as the former General Promotor fr. David Kammler OP remarked, the „Managing Board“ of Lay Dominican affairs worldwide between the International Assemblies, which take place every ten years.

Our team is in contact by E-mail over the year and meets personally once a year. Than one of the members is host in his country or in a country of his continent. These meetings are important for different reasons:

- The reports from the different regions from all over the world make clear, where we have common ground but also differences in the way of collaboration in the Dominican Family or in the society, where we live in. It also becomes clear during our discussions, how wise the decision of Montreal has been long years ago, to have a short and precise rule with the possibility for each Province to create a Directory for the needs of a Province in the context of its special Dominican life.
- Another point is important, too. Each one of us has its own and personal experiences of faith. But these experiences are characterized by the circumstances, in which we live: culture, climate, importance of family, society, politics, economies and much more. In this context it turns out, how important it is that we belong as Dominicans to the universal Catholic Church and come together as Christians and not as functionaries.
- That makes sure the richness of everybody's experiences in working and preaching.

Beside our annual short reports from each region we represent, of course we have a lot of other themes to reflect and to discuss. And beside our discussions we have the good chance, to see different Dominican Projects in the countries, we visit. If you are interested, I can give you examples,

when we sit together this evening. Let me come to the second step, although I could tell you so much more.

## **2. Finances**

I know very well that it is hard to get the money of other people, but this is my job as a treasurer! And as Treasurer of the ICLDF I have to stick a word of Benjamin Franklin (1706 – 1790), who once said: “There are three faithful friends: an old wife, an old dog and liquid money!”

My dear sisters and brothers, I have a wonderful wife, who sometimes looks old, but only because she is married to me for nearly 43 years. I have a ten years old dog, too. The only thing I have not as ICLDF-Treasurer is liquid money! That makes sleepless nights and that is not healthy for me. Because I know, that you as my sisters and brothers want to keep me healthy I please you here and today:

### **Don't forget the annual contribution for the ICLDF-account!**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Provinces or Vicariates, which pay regularly the decided contribution of 1,50 € per person and year. But unfortunately there are not a few Provinces/Vicariates, which pay only from time to time or never.

You all can imagine, that this is not helpful to plan and to organize the International Congress next year. Actual we are missing more than 60.000 €, otherwise we can't hold the Congress! Our whole ICLDF-team tries to get money through fundraising during these weeks and of course we do not miss only European money. But my duty as European ICLDF-member is to ask you all here and now, to pay the annual contribution, if not yet done, for the last, the current and for the coming year at least till March 2018. In addition, we are grateful for any small or large donation! And perhaps you know people outside the Order, who would support us.

Perhaps you remember my letter from last autumn – sent by e-mail. I must regret to tell you that it had not the expected resonance in Europe. It is not my intention to blame or accuse any participant or Province here. That is the reason, why I will not tell here in public, who pays or who does not. Therefore I propose, that I will make a kind of “consultation hour” during the next days at certain times, that everybody of you can check with me the actual situation of his Province and will get from me all needed informations concerning the ICLDF-account, which is managed in the Curia of our Order in Rome. I cordially ask you to use this time for a conversation with me!

I will come to the end. I remember with great thanks the last European Assembly in Bologna. There you have nominated me for the service in the ICLDF a second time although the statutes do not allow this. So I am also grateful to our Master Bruno Cadore for his dispensation. All the years of my service in the ICLDF have been years of work and years of joy, for I had the good luck to get to know our Order in its global dimension. This has sharpened my consciousness on the one hand, and on the other hand it has opened my heart for the needs and sorrows of so many people. I can promise to my follower, who will be elected at this meeting: you will make a lot of new experiences which will change your view of the world and will give you marvelous encounters with people. It's a wonderful gift! And in this connection I would like to thank our General Promoter Rui for his well-grounded advice, great fraternity, cordial human kindness and friendship!

A final personal word: When I will leave my service in the ICLDF at the end of next year then I can look back on exactly 40 years of various senior services in our Order – National, European and worldwide. This was not only work, sometimes associated with a little bit of hassles – mostly it was joy and a real gift.

I thank God for a wonderful time – and I thank you for your patience!