



IACM

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF CATHOLIC MISSIOLOGISTS

The President
Fr Gianni Criveller PIME

Treviso, 16 July 2022

Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Dear Friends of the International Association of Catholic Missiologists,

Warm greetings from Treviso (Italy), my hometown.

Fr Rocco Viviano, our outgoing excellent Executive Secretary, informed you that the seventh Plenary Assembly of our Association, held at the Gregorian University in Rome last June 25, elected the new Board.

I was chosen as new president. I thank the participants for their trust and support. I am a missionary of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (PIME) and I have been serving in Greater China for nearly thirty years. I am currently Dean of Studies at the PIME Missionary Theological Institute in Monza (Milan), and I teach in Monza, Milan and Hong Kong.

The Assembly elected Sr Mary Joan Iwenofu IHM as Vice-president, Mr Roberto Catalano as Executive Secretary, and Ms Suzette Patosa as Treasurer. I would like to thank my fellow Board members for accepting this task. It might not have much public recognition, but I believe this is an important service to the mission of evangelization. I very much hope and trust that we can work well together and meet the expectations of the members of our Association, and the challenges of missionary theological reflection in the years ahead.

As I mentioned when I accepted the election, I am glad to see that our Board is inclusive and represent the richness of the people of God: two women and two men, a religious woman, two lay persons and a presbyter. This is already, in itself, an excellent beginning. Geographically Africa, Asia and Europe are represented. I very much hope that in future, members of the American continents and Oceania will be more involved in the life of the Association.

As none of us expected to be elected, and already have a summer full of previous scheduled appointments, we will start to work on our important task in early autumn.

I believe our Association has great potential for development in the field of missionary studies and reflection. We also would like to have members that are really conscious of participating in the Association, and willing to actively contribute to it.

We will also promote communication and exchange among ourselves, with ecclesial institutions and the general public. The webpage and other social communications will be vital for an International Association like ours.

As we, Board members are quite busy with other full-time occupations, it might take some time for us to get into the business of running the Association, and learn the related skills, but we will get there.

I would like wholeheartedly thank the outgoing Board: the President Fr Wojciech Kluj OMI, Fr Markus Luber SJ, Fr Rocco Viviano SX and Fr Kevin Hanlon MM. I believe that, under difficult circumstances, they have done an excellent job. It is now our task to continue and develop on their good work.

May God bless you all, with my best wishes for a serene summer and good work in the field of mission

Yours

Fr Gianni Criveller PIME