



IACM BULLETIN

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC MISSIOLOGISTS



THE PRESIDENT'S VISION

Gianni Criveller

Greetings from Hongkong!

I am writing these lines from the much-loved city of Hong Kong, where I served as a missionary for nearly three decades. Now, I am back in the academe to teach Theology of Mission to 18 Holy Spirit Seminary College of Philosophy and Theology students.

By the grace of God, we are pleased to share with you the maiden issue of our IACM newsletter which is envisioned to be an instrument of better acquaintance, communication, and dialogue among the members. As the voice of the Association, everyone is encouraged to contribute to this quarterly bulletin and share news of the significant happenings in our mission areas. I hope you all received the letters I wrote early this month. It is available on our website for those who missed it.

With excitement, I wish to remind all Rome-based members to be present at our meeting and fellowship on the morning of May 6. Whoever can make it should come, as this is an avenue to regroup and reconnect after the pandemic has kept us holed up.

The four of us on the Executive Board, whom you have elected to lead the Association, are eager to do what we can to make IACM relevant in today's field of Mission studies and lead vibrantly towards achieving our goals and objectives.

We wish to inform you of the International Association of Mission Studies (IAMS) Europe Conference. This will be on September 8-12, 2023 in Cluj, Romania. This is a wonderful way to collaborate with our Ecumenical association's colleagues. Roberto Catalano and I will be there to represent the Association.



THE IACM CONFERENCE 2022: From a Latin American's Lens

Fernando Luis Barreto Mercado, sj

The 2022 IACM Conference was the first time I attended an IACM event, which happened immediately after becoming an Associate Member of the Association. It was a great opportunity to meet other missiologists and missionaries outside of the classroom setting, though still within the realm of academia. It was also a privileged moment to enlighten myself about the current status of the mission in different parts of the world, through listening to the various presentations and engaging with other participants.

The presentations were rich and instructive. However, my Puerto Rican context won me over to the reflections from Latin America. The presentation highlighted the mission of the Church in Latin America and the challenge of new religious developments. Clearly, in the decades following the Second Vatican Council, the inculturation of the faith and the rise of new indigenous theologies have jumped to the top of the conversation and have been the subject of theological reflection.



Subsequently, it was clear that although we face many of the same challenges of the Universal Church--the Church that gave us Medellín and Puebla, that began the dialogue among the different schools of Liberation theology, that bore Leonardo Boff and John Sobrino, comes to us today a significant, thought-provoking reflection (through the later developments of Santo Domingo and Aparecida, and especially through the reflections of the more recent Amazon Synod). The reflection brought about by the Latin American Church can aid the Church's mission today, especially so that the contents are so enriched with various thoughts, views, and opinions from other local Churches.

It was a great experience to be able to attend the conference and interact with such great evangelizers. It was also great to know the campus of the Pontifical Urbaniana University, where the conference was hosted, since it houses the other only Faculty of Missiology, along with that of the Gregorian University. I look forward to future conferences and to continued collaboration with others through the International Association of Catholic Missiologists (IACM).



Fernando Luis Barreto Mercado is a Jesuit from Puerto Rico. He is a Licentiate student from Pontifical Gregorian University whose thesis is on the Missiological thought of P. Mariasusai Dhavamony, S.J..





IACM in ASIA: Animating the local Church with its missionary commitment

Antonio Gilberto Marqueses, SVD

In the spirit of the IACM leadership on a continental level, a greater emphasis is made on animating the local Church with its missionary commitment to a “delicate work of developing an inculturated theology, carried out with courage, in faithfulness to the Church’s tradition and in full ecclesial communion (Ecclesia in Asia 22, IACM Art. II).

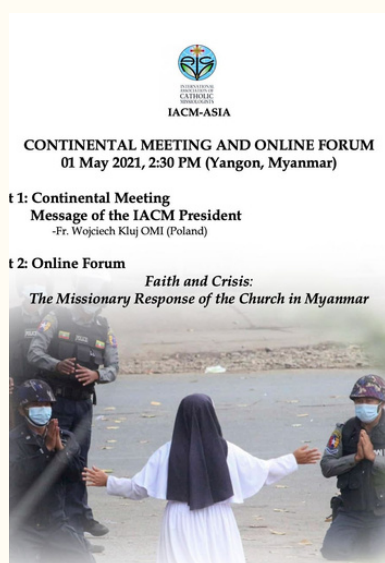


Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle delivering his
Keynote Address

A notable profile of the IACM members in Asia would be an increasing interest among the priests and religious and the growing number of lay missionaries engaged in mission studies and other related fields. It is even projected that with the rise of mission institutes in Asia, a stronger network and collaboration may be further explored on a local level.



In fact, the continental conferences were focused on very specific missionary themes on the unique features of the Asian landscape-the local cultures, the homegrown world religions, and even the varying social locations. The first continental conference was held on 3-5 July 2019 at the Divine Word Institute of Mission Studies in the Philippines with the theme “Mission and Asia: 100 Years of Maximum Illud and 20 years of Ecclesia in Asia.”



The second one was held in the middle of two heartbreaking adversities- the rise of a global pandemic and the breaking out of a civil war in Myanmar. Through an online forum and some recorded footage direct from Myanmar, the conference was held on 1 May 2021 with the theme “Faith and Crisis: The Missionary Response of the Church in Myanmar.” Compiling all the papers read during these plenary sessions and workshops, the latest project of IACM-Asia in June 2022 is the publication of the “Mission and Asia: Proceedings of the Continental Conferences of the International Association of Catholic Missiologists (IACM)-Asia.”



Antonio Gilberto Marqueses, SVD currently doing a research on the indigenous peoples of Mindoro as part of the Mangyan Mission. He has also served as the IACM Representative in Asia since 2017 and was Dean of Studies of Divine Word School of Theology.



IACM-Europe: Conversations and Fellowship

Bryan Lobo, sj



IACM members in Rome with his Eminence Luis Cardinal Tagle during the first meeting.

The members of IACM in Europe have gathered several times to discuss the prevailing concerns in the region. The first meeting was on 8 May 2018 with a group discussion on the topic: “Locating the European Missions in a Wounded World in Deep Transformation.” The discussions were focused on the Church’s response to the different crises confronting Europe and society at large.

Almost a year after the successful meeting in May 2018, the members met again on February 1, 2019, to deliberate on the topic of the “75 years of the book, *La France: Pays de Mission*.” Here, the question raised decades ago continues to clarify some of the emerging paradigms and the issues affecting European missions.

Just almost three months onward, a meeting was again called on May 31, 2019, to discuss another important topic which is the “Intercultural Mission.” This is in recognition of the complex realities of multi-cultural Europe, the necessity of adapting the mode of missions cognisant to the current realities, and the task of proclaiming the joy of the Gospel.





The members gathered at the Casa Generalizia of the Divine Word Missionaries

Two years after on May 18, 2021, the last meeting was held highlighting the theme: “Mission in Covid and Post-Covid Times.” The pandemic caught everyone off guard. So, when Europe was in a state of recovery, the IACM members, together with students and professors of the Faculty of Missiology gathered once again to embrace the new normal. The online conference was one of the unique ways of the pandemic of continuing to reflect on the varied ways the Church can serve the missions.



Fr. Stanislaus Lazar, SVD introduced the members of the Association to the members of Collegio del Verbo Divino.



Bryan Lobo is a member of the Society of Jesus. He is currently the Dean of Studies of the Faculty of Missiology of the Pontifical Gregorian University. He served as the IACM Continental Representative for Europe since 2017.



IACM-Africa: Synodality: For a Synodal Church-- Communion, Participation, and Mission

Sr. Mary Joan Iwenofu, IHM

A meaningful missiological encounter happened on September 5, 2022, between the students of Tangaza College University in Kenya and the Institute of Weltkirche und Mission in Germany. The IACM members in Africa who are lecturers at the African University-Sr. Joan Iwenofu, IHM, Fr. Innocent Maganya, Mafr, and Fr. Patrick Mwaia, CSSp met with Fr. Markus Lubber, SJ from Germany and organized a debate and reflection for their students on the theme: "Synodality: For a Synodal Church—Communion, participation, and mission". This encounter allowed the students from both academic institutions to interact and have a fruitful interaction on Synodality in the African context.

Students of Tangaza University College, Faculty of Theology, shared their various experiences from our local African Church as far as Synodality is concerned in the African context. Our sharing of experiences reflected the realities of our local Parishes where we encounter people in their daily lives. We discovered that the expectations of people are so many from this Synodality launched by Pope Francis. Among Christians, especially the laity we discover feelings of joy and consolation given the fact that they are being listened to. After the exchange with our guests from Germany, this same feeling was expressed from their reality. From the various interactions with them, we concluded that Synodality which includes communion, participation, and mission, was a long-awaited event in the Universal Church.

Our students gradually expanded their extensive reflection on Synodality in an African context, basing their reflection on the ten themes that capture the reality of most of the African Local Churches. The themes include being companions in the journey, listening and speaking out, walking together towards the Celebration of the Eucharist, sharing responsibility for our common mission, dialogue in the Church and in the society, ecumenism, authority, and participation, and discernment and decision-making, and forming ourselves in synodality.





The students of Tangaza University College, Karen-Kenya and Students of Institute of Weltkirche und Mission during the meeting together with IACM members.

To sum up, the subject of this synod is Synodality: For a synodal Church, communion, participation, and mission, are turning points in the history of the Roman Catholic Church in the 21st century. It is an advent in the Church that is neither alien to the Church nor does it contradict her mission. In fact, the synodality launched by Pope Francis fits well with the expression of Karl Barth in 1947 “*Ecclesia semper reformanda est*” (The Church needs always to be reformed) which was also adopted by the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (LG, 8).

This, therefore, is the motivation of our Tangaza University Students in the Faculty of Theology, to reflect and debate upon this topic of actuality in the Church, with particular attention to the African Church. The advent of synodality in the Church is therefore neither alien nor does it contradict her. Above all, it was a great day for both our own students and the students from Germany.



Sr. Mary Joan Iwenofu, IHM is the current Vice President of the Association and a lecturer of Missiology at the Tangaza University, Kenya.



IACM Executive Board



P. GIANNI CRIVELLER, PIME
President



**SR. MARY JOAN
IWENOFU, IHM**
Vice- President



SUZETTE NELLAS
Treasurer



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UPCOMING EVENTS AND REMINDERS

- **IACM APPLICATION AND RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP (until 30 April 2023)**

Membership/Renewal Document can be accessed through this link:

<https://iacm-catholic.org/membership/how-to-become-a-member/>

Dollar Payment: \$30.00/year or \$75.00 for 3 years

Bank name: M and T Bank

Routing Transit Number, ABA: 022000046

Bank Address, City & State: M and T Bank,

One M and T Plaza, Buffalo, NY 14203

SWIFT/BIC: MANTUS33BUF

Euro payment: € 27.00/year or €70.00 for 3 years

Account Name: Missionari Oblati di Maria Immacolata

Bank name: Crédit Agricole – Cariparma

Ag. Di Roma 34 – Via della Giuliana 41

Roma 00192 Italia

Iban: IT34B 062300 504900 004346 1494

BIC: CRPPIT2P235

Notation: Credit 00-23120-001 IACM

- **MEETING AND FELLOWSHIP
for IACM members in Rome**

May 6, 2023, 10:00-13:00

Address: Focolare Point

via del Carmine 4, Rome

- **2023 IAMS EUROPEAN CONFERENCE**

September 8-12, 2023

Cluj, Romania

Registration will start on March 15, 2023

