



The twelve-pointed star weighing 5.5 tonnes and spanning 7 metres point to point atop the Virgin Mary's Spire.

A HOPE-FILLED GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN BARCELONA

Among the stimulating intellectual, collaborative and cultural moments of the recent General Assembly of FUCE in Barcelona was a guided tour of the city's emblematic basilica, Gaudi's Sagrada Familia. It included a close-up view of the twelve-pointed glass star that was shortly to be hoisted up to crown Mary's tower to illuminate the city skyline on 8 December. A timely symbol of hope in these times: a light shines in the darkness, a light the darkness could not overpower (John 1:5).

After a presentation of the dire situation facing Catholic universities in Lebanon, a concrete proposal of hope and solidarity was that members of the Federation would consider offering some of their own institutional grants, in addition to the FUCE grants, to support students from Lebanese Catholic Universities. Lille Catholic University, Lyon Catholic University and St Patrick's Pontifical University will commit to offering grants or scholarships to Lebanese students to study for a semester or a year in their chosen discipline at their university.

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UKRAINE

Integral human development conference

Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) has launched a comprehensive Integral Human Development (IHD) project which involves funding research projects on the topic and incorporating IHD elements into the curricula of the University's study programs. Nearly 20 research grants have already been awarded to UCU scholars to explore the multidisciplinary issues related to the notion of Integral Human Development. The Annual Integral Human Development in the Digital Age conference is also part of the project. Entitled 'Social Justice, Human Rights, and Common Good: Facing the Danger of Totalitarianism', this year's conference will be held at UCU from 23-25 February 2022. For more information go to ihd.ucu.edu.ua/ihdda2022

FRANCE

Top international accreditation for ESDES Lyon

ESDES Lyon Business School has been accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) for the next five years. AACSB is the longest-serving global accrediting body for business schools, and the largest business education network connecting students, educators, and businesses worldwide. ESDES joins the top 900 (6%) business schools in the world, and just 26 in France, which hold this mark of excellence. Its Grande École Program was accredited by the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD) in 2020.

AACSB evaluates the excellence of the school, the qualifications of its faculty, the quality of the programmes, as well as its capacity for innovation and continuous improvement. The AACSB auditors also highlighted school's commitment to CSR which they said is "inscribed in its very DNA".

Members were encouraged to explore also the use of KA107 funding supported by Erasmus+ programme for this purpose also. These grants can be awarded directly between FUCE members or through the Board of FUCE.

In a further sign of hope, the Board and Barbara Segart, the co-ordinator of the successful summer school programme European Humanism in the Making, are optimistic that it will take place in person this year in Bobbio. This tangible collaboration of many member universities brings together some of the best of our students and an invaluable opportunity of engagement and exchange. To ensure the continued success of the summer school, members of the Federation who wish their students to participate in this programme must partner with LUMSA who will host the summer school. This will enable students to obtain a Blended Intensive Program grant directly from their university. FUCE will award grants to students coming from universities in Ukraine, Albania, Georgia, Lebanon and affiliated to the Holy See.

Another hope-filled decision was the approval that Tirana Catholic University will host the next General Assembly next October and Lille Catholic University in May 2023. The assembly also approved the postponement of the new Board term from May 2022 until next October due to the impact of the pandemic.

A heartfelt word of gratitude to our hosts Fr Armand Puig I Tarrech, the Rector of Ateneu Sant Pacia and Josep Maria Garrell I Guiu, Rector of Ramon Llull. A particular word of appreciation to our guest speakers for their engaging presentations: Prof Rafael Argulol on 'Culture and the University'; Prof Paolo Benanti on 'Information Society or Control Society'; Dr Gerry O'Sullivan on the Joint Erasmus+ Blended Learning Programme; and Barbara Segart for the Summer School Programme.

The Board of Fuce will meet in Rome 7-8 April and I look forward to meeting members of the Federation in Tirana in October.

Rev. Prof. Michael Mullaney
President FUCE





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NEWS IN BRIEF

BELGIUM

Human Development Conference submissions call

Coordinated by UCSIA in conjunction with the Institute for Development Policy at the University of Antwerp, the annual conference of the Human Development and Capability Association (HDCA) brings together people from around the world from different disciplines and fields interested in

human development. USCIA has issued a call for submissions to the 2022 HDCA Conference with a closing date of February 15th. In addition to papers on the conference theme, papers on all core HDCA topics are welcome.

More information about the conference is available on the conference webpage bit.ly/2022-HDCA-Conference.

Questions can be addressed to the conference organizers at hdca2022@uantwerp.be



Human Development & Capability Association
Multi-Disciplinary and People-Centred

2022 HDCA Conference
19-22 September 2022, Antwerp, Belgium

NEWS IN BRIEF



LEBANON

Christmas Novena continues at Antonine University

Antonine University (UA) has continued one of its long-running traditions by holding its Christmas Novena on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at our Lady of the Seeds Monastery, on its main campus in Hadat – Baabda, Lebanon. The prayer was presided over by the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Beirut, Mgr. Boulos Abdel Sater, who was assisted by the Superior General of the Antonine Maronite Order (OAM), Abbot Maroun Abou Jaoude and the UA Rector, Fr. Michel Jalakh. The Novena was sung by the UA Choir under the direction of conductor, Dr. Toufic Maatouk.

To read more about this joyous occasion go to bit.ly/Christmas-Novena



SPAIN

Reflection and reconnection initiative commences in Spain

Promoted by UNIJES, the network of university centres linked to the Society of Jesus, the Kairós Programme is a pioneering new initiative for people in Spain aged between 50 and 75 who want to reflect and discover how to reconnect with their vital purpose and live out their lives with responsibility and meaning. The programme is managed by ICADE Business School at the Pontifical University of Comillas.

The Kairós Programme began in January 2022 and runs until the June 2022. Other leading universities which are creating similar educational programmes to support people at that later stage in their lives include Harvard, Notre Dame, Loyola and Stanford. Learn more at comillas.edu/postgrado/programa-kairos



GEORGIA

Teaching anti-discrimination law in Georgia

The work of the new Centre for Anti-discrimination Law was highlighted at a presentation held at Sulikhan-Saba Orbeliani University Georgia on December 5th last. The aim of the presentation was to promote the teaching of anti-discrimination law at the university and abroad as well as to foster awareness and knowledge of the field of equality and discrimination. The centre will focus on finding new, innovative approaches to the fight against discrimination and developing research activities in this area in collaboration with other universities and organisations. The new centre's activities include conducting public lectures, seminars, workshops and training.

MEET THE RECTORS

In this edition we meet two of the more recently appointed rectors at FUCE member universities.



Annick Castiaux
University of Namur, Belgium

Annick Castiaux took up her duties as rector of the University of Namur and the universities in the Walloon Region of Belgium for a four year term on September 14th, 2021. A professor of teaching innovation and technology management, she will be supported by a team of six vice-presidents and a deputy head during her term. The team's vision is to create a "responsible, different, exciting university".

That vision will be realised under the Universe 2025 strategic plan which has been designed to respond to the various challenges Namur must meet to consolidate its position in the university landscape while also helping provide solutions to the issues facing society. A number of priority actions have been defined to be carried out in 2022 while the key performance indicators which will underpin the achievement of the university's 2025 ambitions have been identified.



Lara Karam Boustany
La Sagesse University, Lebanon

Law professor Lara Karam Boustany became the first woman and the first lay person to head a Catholic university in Lebanon when she took up the post of rector of La Sagesse University in Beirut in July 2020. The university is an institution under the Maronite Archdiocese of Beirut with about 3,500 students and 350 teachers.

Born in 1971, Prof Boustany studied law at the Saint-Joseph University of Beirut and then at the University of Paris 2, Panthéon-Assas, where she obtained her doctorate. Married and has three children, she was a legal and diplomatic adviser at the Ministry of Justice and a member of the National Commission for Lebanese Women for several years. She has also taught at Saint Joseph's University in Beirut and has published numerous articles in the field of constitutional law, administrative law and human rights law.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BELGIUM

Exploring the European value of solidarity

UCSIA, as coordinator of the FUCE summer school on European Humanism in the Making, has developed a webinar lecture series on 'European Values, Citizenship and Belonging', in conjunction with the Chair of European Values at the University of Antwerp. A new publication featuring interviews with the keynote speakers is now available.

In 'Minorities, belonging and values' editor Heleen Touquet talks to three eminent scholars about European values, minorities and belonging in Europe. Lilian Tsourdi (University of Maastricht), Akwugo Emejulu (University of Warwick) and Nuno Ferreira (University of Essex) explore the different meanings of the concept, analysing the non-solidarity between member states in the context of the political discussions and tensions about migration, solidarity among African feminist activists in Europe, and the lack of solidarity with gay and lesbian asylum seekers despite member states' support for LGBT rights.

SLOVAKIA

New arts festival debuts in Slovakia



Music and literary competitions as well as art exhibitions were among the main attractions of the first UNIUM multi-genre arts festival, organised by the Catholic University in Ružomberok from 26 to 28 October 2021. Despite strict Covid-19 safety measures, the university was able to welcome hundreds of guests to the festival.

"UNIUM refers to the university as the heart of the event, but also to different types of art. We want to make this event a forum for the intellectual formation of young people, to which we would also like to welcome the general public," commented Rector Jaroslav Demko.



Dr Rev Mons Géza Kuminetz, Rector, PPKE greets Prof Željko Tanjić, Rector, HKS at the joint Masters programme launch

HUNGARY

Unique joint Masters in software engineering launched

The Pázmány Péter Catholic University (PPKE) of Hungary and the Catholic University of Croatia (HKS) have collaborated to create a joint Masters programme on 'Software Engineering for Modern Society – standards and applications' which reflects the Catholic values of both universities. The curriculum emphasises social responsibility and focuses on developing software which serves society.

Students on the programme spend the first two semesters in Budapest, the third one in Zagreb, and the fourth either at PPKE or at HKS depending on their research topic. Oracle Croatia will also assist in the delivery of the new programme.

FRANCE

Learning in Lille

The Learn In Lille, Live Europe (LILLE) Programmes at the Université Catholique de Lille have for the past 20 years combined a variety of innovative, student centred education tailored to suit different academic needs and schedules. The programmes also provide a welcoming environment with an excellent study/life balance.

A large choice of courses in English and French, providing up to 12 ECTS transfer credits, are taught by highly qualified faculty from the Université Catholique de Lille or visiting professors from partner universities, with the aim of provide both theoretical and practical learning through site visits and hands-on activities. Located at the heart of Europe, in northern France, the LILLE Programmes also allow students to immerse themselves in French culture and lifestyle while being close to many other European countries.

To learn more go to univ-catholille.fr/en/lille-esp



MEMBER PROFILE

THE PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY OF JOHN PAUL II IN KRAKOW



Passionate about educating all age groups, the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow prepares students to meet the challenges of the modern world.

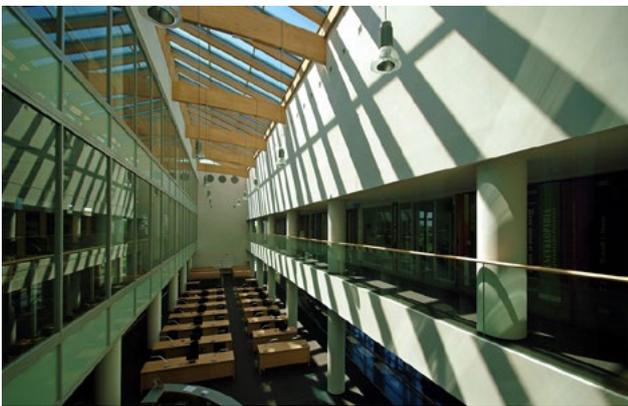
2021 marked the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the Pontifical Academy of Theology, which later went on to become The Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow (Uniwersytet Papieski Jana Pawła II w Krakowie). The mission of the university focuses on a broad scientific reflection on the content of Revelation, using both classical and contemporary research methods.

The research and educational activities of the university are carried out in a wide range of areas including theology, philosophy, history, history of art, communication and media studies, social sciences, and canon law. The overriding ethos is

respect for human dignity expressed in the social teaching of the Church, and shaping attitudes based on Christian principles and values.

Even though the university is deeply rooted in classical arts and traditions, the Pontifical University of John Paul II (UPJPII) authorities are well aware of the fact that it must prepare a person to take up the challenges of modern times and offer an opportunity to experience a variety of cultures along with their own heritage, as well as learn skills that are useful in the current economic and social reality.

One manifestation of this open outlook on science and education is the university's drive towards



Students of journalism and social communication can take advantage of laboratories such as the Educational Social Media Lab, Media Graphics Lab, E-Learning Lab and the Photo Lab, as well as TV and radio studios. The laboratories are also used by academic staff to conduct research using the latest technologies such as biosensors, eye-tracking, VR systems as well as numerous analytical tools.

internationalisation. Besides being a member of various international organizations, including FIUC and FUCE, UPJPII has been involved in numerous international programmes and initiatives such as projects under the Erasmus+ programme, the Visegrad Funds, Fulbright as well as projects funded under national programmes, including ministerial grants and programmes of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange. The International Cooperation Office is responsible for coordinating all activities related to internationalisation and academic exchange programmes.

Apart from acquiring solid academic knowledge, UPJPII students are able to hone their digital and media skills in the Academic Media Centre, which is equipped with the latest media technology and specialised computer software.





UPJPII prides itself on being an institution that is passionate about educating all age groups. In addition to its offering for older adults (University of the Third Age), the university engages younger people and children by organising activities such as museum classes, as well as art and history workshops, at the 'Treasures of the Krakow Chapter' multimedia museum display located at the UPJPII Main Library.

The university has been involved in numerous similar projects aiming at researching and restoring unique and priceless pieces of art not only in Krakow itself but in the surrounding region as well. These initiatives are made possible by the existence of a number of unique laboratories within the university including the Laboratory of Inventory and Digitisation of Monuments and the Laboratory of Research and Conservation of Historical Textiles.

To learn more about the Pontifical University of John Paul II go to upjp2.edu.pl



ITALY

Environmental studies at Lateran

The Pontifical Lateran University has established a Department of Ecology and Environment to award academic degrees at Bachelor, Masters and PhD level in areas of study focused on 'Care of the Common Home and Protection of Creation' (Enc. Letter Laudato Si). The department also enjoys the support of a UNESCO Chair on The Future of Education for Sustainability, which was inaugurated on October 7th last following an agreement signed between UNESCO and the Lateran University, signed in the presence of Pope Francis and Patriarch Bartholomew I. (bit.ly/lateran-ecologia-e-ambiente)



Energy efficiency initiative

The Salesian Pontifical University presented its campus energy efficiency plan on November 22nd last. The university has also officially joined the Laudato Si' Platform of Initiatives, mandated by Pope Francis to advocate for the values of holistic ecology.

Among other measures, the energy efficiency plan will see the university install a system of solar panels for the production of clean energy and replace the current six thermal power plants with new generation, less polluting and more energy efficient equipment. "With the new project, the Salesian University will save the environment 230 tons of CO2 emissions per year, which corresponds to the planting of 580 new trees each year," said Don Renzo Barduca, Campus Administrator.

PUTTING HUMANS AT THE CENTRE OF DIGITAL INNOVATION

In his paper “Information society or control society?”, Fr Paolo Benanti, a professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University, examines the challenges the digital revolution poses to consciousness and freedom and argues for the need to introduce a governing concept of digital sustainability which will put humans and the common good at the centre of future innovation and advances.

This article is a summary of that paper which we do not have space to reproduce here. The full paper is available from Fr Benanti at benanti@unigre.it.



The computer has become the communications medium par excellence of the 21st century. It is a writing tool for everyone including journalists, authors, scientists, engineers, poets and artists. It has transformed traditional writing techniques, as it has done for editing, photocomposition, and printing itself. Global connections made by computer enable stocks to be traded, money and goods to be exchanged, and allow millions of people to exchange messages instantaneously with distance no barrier.

The revolution in science and technology brought about by computers and information technology means we can transform almost any human problem into statistics, graphs, and equations. The advent of digital research, where everything is transformed into numerical data, leads to the ability to study the world according to new paradigms: what counts is the correlation between two quantities of data and a coherent theory that explains this correlation is no longer required.

In practice, today we are witnessing technological developments which do not correspond to any scientific advance in the ability to know and explain what is happening. Correlation is now used to predict with a high degree of accuracy, even though there is no scientific theory to support it, the risk of impact of asteroids, even unknown ones, in various places on Earth, the institutional sites most at risk of terrorist attack, the voting intentions of individual citizens in the US presidential elections, and the short-term performance of the stock market.

The really disturbing thing, however, is that this can create the illusion that all problems are solvable with computers.

The digital revolution had its origins in the decade before World War II when scientists began to design increasingly sophisticated mechanical and electrical systems that allowed their machines to act as if they had a purpose. These efforts intersected with other work on cognition in animals and early work on computer science.

What emerged was a new way of looking at systems, not only mechanical and electrical systems, but also biological and social systems: a unifying theory of systems and their relationship to their environment. This move towards ‘whole systems’ and ‘systems thinking’ became known as cybernetics. Cybernetics frames the world in terms of systems and their goals.

Until then, physicists had described the world in terms of matter and energy. The cybernetic community proposed a new view of the world through the lens of information and communication channels and their organisation. In this way, cybernetics bridges the way humans interact with machines, systems and each other.



We therefore need to look more closely at the effects this can have on human understanding and freedom. Indeed, Heidegger observed that cybernetics could reduce human activity to something functioning and controllable by the machine: “man himself becomes something planned, that is, controllable.”

cybernetics could reduce human activity to something functioning and controllable by the machine: “man himself becomes something planned, that is, controllable.”

This opens up to prospect of the information society putting man in a condition of control by the machine bringing about a dystopian future in which the information society inevitably collapses into a society of control.

This form of cybernetic digitisation risks eliminating the very possibility of positive freedom required for man to exercise free will. In political language, that freedom is the situation in which a subject has the possibility to direct his will towards a goal, to make decisions, without being determined by the will of others. This form of freedom is also called ‘self-determination’ or, even more appropriately, ‘autonomy’.

In this light, the element of control inherent in the development of the digital revolution as a cybernetic information culture means that it is up

to civil society to create a debate for the processes of digital technological innovation to be challenged.

Unfortunately, the current view of technology as an industrial innovation means that we are at risk of failing to perceive its social transformation significance, and thus being unable to direct its effects towards the common good.

In order to direct it towards the common good, we need a qualification that is able to describe how and which characteristics of progress contribute to the good of individuals and society. This is why, with Sebastiano Maffettone, we decided to adopt the concept of digital sustainability.

Digital sustainability is based on a wide-ranging concept that includes the continuing expansion of individuals’ choices and the equitable improvement of their prospects for wellbeing. Digital sustainability means not putting technical capability at the centre of attention but keeping humans and their wellbeing at the centre of thinking and as the end that qualifies progress.

Using digital technology ethically, respecting human ecology, means attempting to turn innovation into a sustainable digital world. It means directing technology towards and for human development, and not simply seeking progress as an end in itself. Although it is not possible to think about and develop technology without specific forms of technical and scientific thinking, putting digital sustainability at the centre of interest means that such thinking alone is not enough.

For there to be freedom, we need conscience and consciousness to question technology and direct its development towards the common good.



STRONG ATTENDANCE AT BARCELONA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Organised at Ateneu Universitari Sant Pacià with the strong support of Ramon LLULL University, the FUCE 2021 General Assembly took place in Barcelona on November 11th to 13th last. The event attracted an exceptionally strong attendance 70 delegates representing more than 45 member universities.

Among the key highlights of the assembly was a speech by the renowned international expert on ethics and AI Father Paolo Benanti on the "Techno-human condition: from cave painting to the GPT-3 AI system".

The assembly also included sessions on a number of topics which have already been featured in previous FUCE newsletters. These included the situation in which Lebanese universities find themselves; feedback on the survey which

asked what the members expect from the Federation; the European Humanism in the Making FUCE Project; and an informative presentation on our new member, the Universitat Abat Oliba CEU, Barcelona.

Delegates appreciated the opportunity to meet one another and share experiences. "The key benefit of attending was learning about very different ways of understanding higher education, its challenges and opportunities. What I would appreciate for the next assembly in Tirana would be a more in-depth examination of European humanism and the role we can play in its construction, as universities," said Arturo Varona, Director of International Relations, Comillas University.

Dr hab. Leszek Gęsiak SJ, Rector's Delegate for International Affairs and Head of the Department of Media and Social Communication at the Akademia Ignatianum w Krakowie (AIK) welcomed the opportunity to conduct personal meetings and interviews with representatives of various universities. He was also glad to receive information on the situation in Lebanon and suggestions on how to help.

"Barcelona was a very happy moment of reunion," said Thérèse Lebrun, Rector Delegate from Lille. "I greatly appreciated the presentations and round table discussions given by our colleagues from Lebanon, Ukraine, Georgia and Croatia at the beginning of the meeting. I was struck by the reference made several times to



The Assembly was indeed very worthwhile in that it focused on the need for the improvement and the awakening of Academic awareness within the European Catholic Universities.

current events and, basically, to the modernity of Christian social thought. The issues of the common good, human dignity and solidarity, and responsibility towards humanity, especially towards the most vulnerable, were mentioned several times.”

“It gives me a very great pleasure to write and congratulate the entire board and members of FUCE who organized the General Assembly,” commented Marcellus Okenwa Udogbor of the Faculty of Civil Law at the Pontifical Lateran University. “The Assembly was indeed very worthwhile in that it focused on the need for the improvement and the awakening of Academic awareness within the European Catholic Universities.”

The concept of collaborating with other Catholic universities in the EU Erasmus framework was the key takeaway for Juan Perez-Miranda, Vice-Rector for Internationalisation at Universidad Francisco De Vittoria Madrid.

The event concluded with the formal General Assembly on Saturday morning followed by a specially arranged private tour of the Basilica of La Sagrada Família which a number of delegates availed of.



NEWS IN BRIEF



BELGIUM

KU Leuven celebrates with honours

KU Leuven will celebrate its Patron Saint's Day on February 2nd 2022 by awarding honorary doctorates to Jean-Laurent Casanova, Philippe Grandjean, Nancy Kanwisher, and Juan Maldacena. In addition, a joint honorary doctorate will be awarded to Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara. The 2021 recipients will be honoured on the same day due to the cancellation of last year's celebration as a result of the pandemic. The event will be held in a hybrid format with both in-person and virtual attendees. It will also be streamed live to give people from both within and outside of the university community the opportunity to view the event.

Successful conference on greener mobility

An online conference on greener international mobility organised by Université Saint-Louis Bruxelles on October 28th last proved a great success with student organisations and more than one hundred participants from around the world joining the conversation. Several FUCE members also attended the conference as a result of its mention in our July newsletter.

Entitled "Towards a greener international mobility: HEIs' best practices", the conference showcased a number of higher education institutes which have implemented actions to decrease the climate impact of their international travel requirements. The best practices shared by the guest speakers were insightful, innovative, and practical.

A recording is available by contacting international@usaintlouis.be

ITALY

Deification through the Cross: An Ecumenical Symposium on Christian Salvation

A two-day free conference on Christian salvation hosted by the Angelicum Thomistic Institute and the University of Notre Dame Gateway program will take place on 25 and 26 February 2022. Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant theologians will offer contributions to our understanding of the Christian doctrine of salvation on the basis of their own work and in dialogue with K. Anatolios's recently published *Deification through the Cross: An Eastern Christian Theology of Salvation* (Eerdmans, 2020).

Day one of the conference, which is open to all, will be held at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas while the second day will be held at the University of Notre Dame's Rome Gateway campus. Attendance is also possible via Zoom. To register go to bit.ly/deification-symposium

Grace and Nature: Contemporary Controversies

The Angelicum Thomistic Institute of the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas held a conference addressing contemporary questions on grace and nature on December 3rd and 4th last. The conference looked at the significance of Christ's own grace for salvation, the openness of human nature to the divine, and the ultimate destiny of humanity. More than 100 people attended in person at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas while over 250 people attended the virtually. Recordings of talks given at the conference can be accessed by visiting bit.ly/Angelicum-YouTube



EUROPEAN HUMANISM THE FOCUS FOR FUCE SUMMER SCHOOL

Barbara Segaeert, academic programme coordinator, looks forward to this year's FUCE Summer School scheduled to take place in Gubbio, Italy from July 4th to 8th 2022.

A meeting of the Summer School coordinators in Antwerp on October 22nd 2021 evaluated last year's online school and defined the programme for the 2022 edition which will hopefully take place in person. The meeting was informed by close contact with students who had participated in the online programme in 2021.

The students were exceptionally motivated, despite general website fatigue. They talked openly about their preoccupations concerning Europe. They took on their role of ambassadors for their home countries by informing their fellow students on the state of affairs in European matters at home.

Group cohesion grew throughout the five-day programme and tangible outcomes were delivered on a personal and collective level. The online format also permitted experimentation



with new teaching methods and tools. The e-text handbook prepared in advance has helped with preparation before the summer school and stores fundamental insights for future reference.

It is now hoped to combine the best of the online and offline worlds in the 2022 Summer School. Applications are now open for students interested in participating in a busy programme which will cover a wide range of topics including The Contribution of History to European Consciousness; Literature, the Arts, Translation and European Identity; European Enlightenment and the Islamic Heritage; European Social Humanism; and Governance, Democracy and Civic Engagement.

The public opening lecture on Global Europe will be presented by Isabel Capeloa Gil, rector UCP and President IFCU. We are happy to be able to count on her support, as well as on the engagement of the member institutes of the FUCE network.



LAS HERIDAS Y ESPERANZAS DE UN MUNDO ENFERMO A LA LUZ DE LA TEOLOGÍA DE LA ENCARNACIÓN

La idea de organizar un congreso en torno a la pandemia del COVID-19 surgió a raíz de la oración que el Papa Francisco realizó en la Plaza de San Pedro el 27 de marzo de 2020, cuando el virus ya había herido el corazón de Europa y del mundo. El Papa, tomando como referencia el texto evangélico de la tormenta que sorprende de forma repentina a Jesús y los discípulos que navegan por el lago de Galilea (Marcos 4,35-41), hizo esta afirmación fundamental: “Todos estamos en la misma barca... Todos estamos llamados a remar juntos”.

Escuchando esta voz profética, el Ateneo Universitario Sant Pacià decidió enfocar el tema de manera académica, organizando un congreso que tituló “Las heridas y las esperanzas de un mundo enfermo a la luz de la teología de la encarnación” y que organizó en dos sesiones, una primera dedicada a visualizar el impacto real de la pandemia, y la segunda en busca de pistas para una solución desde la teología, específicamente desde el misterio de la encarnación.

La primera sesión, en marzo, se tituló: “La crisis global del coronavirus: heridas y esperanzas” y se tuvo que emitir online a causa de las restricciones sanitarias. Ocho expertos, entre ellos el Dr. Guillem López Casasnovas, el Dr. Michel Wieviorka o el Dr. François Mabillet, enfocaron el tema desde diferentes ámbitos humanos y sociales: el sanitario, el económico, el geopolítico, el social, el antropológico, el medioambiental, el tecnológico y el educativo. Además, dos mesas redondas permitieron plantear muchas cuestiones fundamentales. Así, el congreso contó con expertos



de máxima actualidad en sus ámbitos que nos mostraron las cifras y las consecuencias reales de la pandemia y apuntaron a soluciones de futuro, de constatación y de esperanza.

Todos estamos en la misma barca... Todos estamos llamados a remar juntos

La segunda sesión, en octubre, se centró en “El Dios encarnado como generador de cambio en la historia humana”. El objetivo era dar paso a la teología cristiana, que puede y debe realizar una aportación sustantiva en un momento en el que, a pesar de la fatiga, se desarrollan nuevos paradigmas y se vislumbran nuevos instrumentos. Así, de nuevo, expertos de prestigio mundial, como el Dr. Christoph Theobald, el Dr. Massimo Naro o Mons. Jean-Marc Aveline, profundizaron y debatieron sobre cómo el Evangelio debe brillar con luz propia en un mundo en busca de un futuro diverso, un mundo que necesita curación, no con aparentes soluciones de fuga de la realidad, sino con la afirmación de la realidad como espacio y ámbito de Dios entre nosotros

“Es la hora de la fraternidad universal, también entre las religiones, y por eso el modelo de Jesús de Nazaret, Hijo de Dios, hermano de todos y todas, que se encarna en la historia de su tiempo, que se hace compañero de viaje de los pobres, que baja hasta dar la vida, resulta un modelo necesario”, ha concluido el Dr. Armand Puig, rector del Ateneu Universitari Sant Pacià.



EXPLORING THE WOUNDS AND HOPES OF A SICK WORLD

In the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic and hearing the prophetic voice of the Pope asking us to row together, the Ateneu Universitari Sant Pacià decided to approach the subject in an academic way by organising a conference entitled “The wounds and hopes of a sick world in the light of the theology of the incarnation”, which it held over two sessions in 2021.

The first session, in February, was entitled “The global coronavirus crisis: wounds and hopes”. The theme was approached from different human and social spheres: health, economics, geopolitics, social, anthropological, environmental, technological and educational, presenting the figures and the real consequences of the pandemic.

The second session, in October, focused on “God incarnate as a creator of change in human history”. The aim was to lead into Christian theology, especially the mystery of the incarnation, to discover how the Gospel must shine with its own light in a world in search of a diverse future, pointing to universal fraternity as a ray of hope.



NEWS IN BRIEF



UCV Rector, José Manuel Pagán (on the right), and de Dean of the Theology Faculty, José Santiago Pons (on the left), signing the agreement for the integration of the Theology Faculty in the UCV

SPAIN

San Vicente Ferrer joins Catholic University of Valencia

The Theology Faculty of San Vicente Ferrer became part of the Catholic University of Valencia San Vicente Mártir (UCV) on January 1st, 2022, following an agreement approved by the Congregation for Catholic Education.

The integration is “an exciting challenge that will help both institutions to continue thinking about our faith in order to know how to transmit it to the men and women of our time,” said Dean of the Faculty, José Santiago Pons. One of the main objectives is to increase reflection between faith and science, “a field that will be more favourable within the Catholic University of Valencia,” he added.



LEBANON

Volunteering at the Catholic University of the Holy Family

On November 20, 2021, students and teachers from Holy Family University (USF), Lebanon, gathered in a volunteer action to distribute food to needy families in the Batroun region. Staff from all faculties worked to arrange food parcels and hand them over to the applicants. The action was made possible by a donation from members of the Lebanese diaspora in Australia. Sister Rose-Thérèse Tannous, a member of the Congregation of the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family, who founded the Family of the Divine Word in Sydney, ensures the connection between Sydney and Batroun continues.



POLAND

Publishing first for UPJII Krakow

Complete Concordance to the Greek Bible and Analytical Dictionary of the Greek Bible are the first publications of their kind in the world for the Greek Bible. The new publications are the result of the work of UPJII scholars, Rev Roman Bogacz, PhD, DSc, Assoc. Prof. and Rev. Roman Mazur, PhD, who initiated the new Instrumenta Biblica publishing series. The dictionary was published both online and print format whereas, due to its size, the Concordance, was published online only.