

Leo XIV

The name of your association clearly expresses its identity: you are disciples of Jesus, witnesses of his Gospel and fellow travellers together with the whole Church... To make peace is the quintessential "Catholic action", because it is the gesture that makes us witnesses of Jesus, the Redeemer of the world. (19 December 2025)

Francis

Catholic Action's charism is the charism of the Church herself, profoundly incarnate in the here and now of every diocesan Church, as she attentively contemplates and discerns the life of her people and seeks new ways to evangelize and carry out her mission, beginning with the different parish situations. (27 April 2017)

Benedict XVI

Co-responsibility demands a change in mindset especially concerning the role of lay people in the Church. They should not be regarded as "collaborators" of the clergy, but, rather, as people who are really "co-responsible" for the Church's being and acting (...) Cultivate authentic personal relations with everyone, starting with the family, and offer your readiness to participate at all the levels of social, cultural and political life, constantly aiming for the common good. (10 August 2012)

Saint John Paul II

The Church needs Catholic Action! Our memories of it must not be reduced to a nostalgic withdrawal into the past but must grow into awareness that the Holy Spirit has made a precious gift to the Church, a heritage that is called, at the dawn of this third millennium, to bring forth new fruits of holiness and of the apostolate, extending the "implantation" of the Association to many other local Churches in different countries. (10 August 2004)

ABOUT US

Secretariat 2023-2026

Argentina, Burundi, Italy, Mexico, Philippines, Senegal, Spain.

Secretariat Coordinator

Eva Fernández Mateo (Spain)

Ecclesiastical Assistant

His Excellency Monsignor Eduardo Horacio García (Argentina)

26 Member Countries

AFRICA: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Mali, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda and observer countries

AMERICA: Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela and observer countries

ASIA: Philippines, Myanmar and observer countries

EUROPE-MEDITERRANEAN: Albania, Austria, Italy, Malta, Poland, Romania, Spain, Italian-speaking Switzerland (Ticino), Hungary and observer countries

INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF CATHOLIC ACTION (IFCA)
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The INTERNATIONAL FORUM of CATHOLIC ACTION

is a space where
Catholic Action associations
enrich themselves through
encounter and build unity with all
for the mission within the universal
Church and the local Church.

STAGES

1987 First meeting of the founding countries (Argentina, Austria, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Paraguay, Romania, Spain) during the Synod of Bishops on 'The Vocation and Mission of the Laity in the Church and in Society'.

1991 Constitutional Assembly.

2000 Recognition of IFCA by the Pontifical Council for the Laity (now Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life) with the approval of the normative document (Decree No. 144/00/S-61/B-65).

Ordinary Assemblies: **1994** Vienna – Austria; **1997** Buenos Aires – Argentina; **2000** Rome – Italy; **2004** Rome/Loreto – Italy; **2008** Rome – Italy; **2012** Iași – Romania; **2017** Rome – Italy; **2022** Rome – Italy; **2026** Rome, 15–18 October

International Congresses/Conferences: **2004** Rome–Loreto; **2017** Vatican City; **2021** Rome; **2022** Rome; **2026** Rome.

Catholic Action took part in the 2023–2024 Synod, represented by **Eva Fernández Mateo**, Coordinator of the IFCA Secretariat for 2023–2026, who was among the special guests.

AIMS

- to be a space where availability and solidarity are lived out amongst the Catholic Action associations of different countries, regions and continents;
- to animate and promote the mission of evangelisation, whilst respecting the different pastoral and structural contexts of each Catholic Action association;
- to foster the development of a mature laity of missionary disciples who embrace their baptismal vocation in co-responsibility and synodality;
- to discern the global challenges and difficulties that contemporary society poses to the Church and to Catholic Action.

HOW WE WORK

By continent and region

- Africa • America • Europe-Mediterranean • Asia
- Holy Land

By age

- Adults • Young people • Children

with assistant priests

RELATIONS with international Catholic organisations

IN COLLABORATION WITH

- the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life
- other Dicasteries of the Holy See
- the Church's continental organisations

IFCA DAYS

1 January

World Day of Peace

4 February

Liturgical commemoration of Bl. Eduardo F. Pironio

8 February

World Day of Prayer and Reflection against Human Trafficking

Good Friday

Universal Collection for the Holy Land

Easter Season

Via Lucis



Every day, and especially **on 8 June at 1.00 pm**, in every town, pause one minute, bow your head and pray for peace, each according to his/her own tradition.

One Minute for Peace was first launched in 2014, in support of the 'Invocation for Peace' gathering organised by Pope Francis on 8 June in the Vatican Gardens, together with the President of Israel (Shimon Peres), the President of the Palestinian Authority (Mahmoud Abbas – Abu Mazen), and the Patriarch of Constantinople (Bartholomew I).

From 2025 onwards, in collaboration with the Giuseppe Toniolo Institute of International Peace Law and Italian Catholic Action, an annual international conference entitled 'Pax et Bonum' is organised for the occasion.

1 September- 4 October

Season of Creation

7 October

World Day for Decent Work

In collaboration with the Foundation 'Catholic Action School of Holiness Pius XI'

1 November

Feast of All Saints

9 November

Day for the commemoration in the local Churches of their own saints, blessed, venerable and servants of God



Blessed **Cardinal Eduardo F. Pironio**, President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity from 1984 to 1996 (now Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life), encouraged and supported the founding and early development of IFCA.

«It is essential that the Forum be precisely this: a 'forum', a place of encounter, exchange, collaboration and the promotion of Catholic Action.»
[1991]