

WORTH READING

Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis

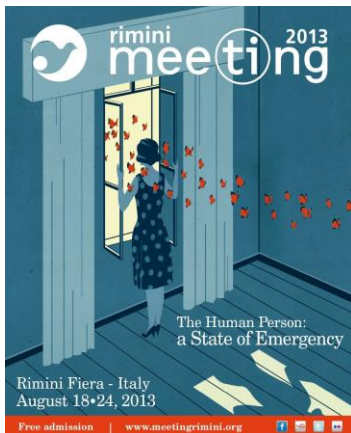
[Lumen fidei – The light of faith](#)

[Fr. Carron's Letter about the Encyclical](#)

World Youth Day

[Pope's Speeches](#)

IN THE PUBLIC ARENA



RIMINI MEETING

The Human Person: a State of Emergency

18 August 2013 - 24 August 2013

The title of the 2013 Meeting focuses on the most beautiful and at the same time the most dramatic thing on the face of the earth: the human person, or more to the point, the “state of emergency” of the human person. The human person in her need to exist as a unique reality, the human person in the irreducibility of his desire, the human person who feels that what defines and characterizes her is freedom.

In the last pages of *Everything Flows*, the great Russian writer, Vasily Grossman, describes the re-emergence of the never entirely suppressed sentiment of freedom in the soul of his protagonist, who returns home after 30 years of exile in Siberia. “It did not surprise Ivan Grigoryevich that the word ‘freedom’ had been on his lips when he was sent to Siberia as a young student and that this word was still alive in him, still present in his mind, even today.”

The human person today lives in a state of emergency, not only when authoritarian political systems threaten the elementary conditions of freedom and survival, but also where, albeit in systems where democratic freedoms are guaranteed, the desire of the heart risks being anesthetized, censured.

Sociological analyses and the experience of many educators document how one of the greatest ills affecting our young people today is a weakness of desire, a waning drive for ideals, a settling for the products society offers. There is no lack of products that serve to satisfy the thousand faces of human instinctivity.

But when the human heart, which is made for greatness, which cannot renounce the search for life’s meaning, finds itself so bridled and standardized, sooner or later it rebels, often tragically with violent behavior or phenomena of self-destruction. Or, more simply and less dramatically, it loses the gusto of life.

This state of emergency in which we live today is clear to the eyes of all.

But, as throughout its history, the Meeting does not want to insist above all on the negative aspects, or just cry out alarm, but rather, it wants to show that the emergence of the human is possible, that throughout the world, yesterday like today, there are people who have found strength in the spark of their own desire, reawakened by an encounter, by a fact, by a circumstance.

Therefore, we will try to document how the human person’s freedom expresses itself

SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY

We will all continue working on the **[Fraternity Exercises](#)**.

Fr. Carron’s **[School of Community](#)** can be found on the website in English.

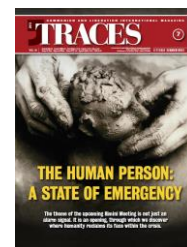
BOOK OF THE MONTH

The Power of the Powerless

A book of great political insight and novelty. The essays in this collection are among the most original and compelling pieces of political writing to have emerged from central and Eastern Europe during the whole of the post-war period.

[Václav Havel's The Power of the Powerless](#) essay provides the title for the book. It was read by all the contributors who in turn responded to the many questions which Havel raises about the potential power of the powerless.

TRACES



Issue number seven of 2013 continues its exploration of the meaning and fruit of life in the Fraternity of CL.

News from the USA includes articles on the CL-University, euthanasia’s entrance onto the healthcare scene, as well as reviews, complimenting the issue’s cultural focus, especially on books, film, and the upcoming Rimini Meeting.

To subscribe to Traces **[click here](#)**.

BEGINNING DAY

The proposed date for the beginning day is October 12th.

We will do a similar format to last year, including a video of Fr. Carron. More information will come.

as need to perceive reality, to judge it and build in it, not according to preconceived frameworks and projects imposed from outside, but starting from their needs and desires.

What we expect is that once again the Meeting can offer the opportunity to encounter others and oneself, to experience positivity in living and above all to verify that differences of culture and traditions are only the expression of different ways every person, but also every people, have used encounters that destiny and history offered them in the attempt to face the question of life and give a reasonable answer to that need for truth and to that desire for meaning inscribed in each person's heart.

Fr. Carron's Comment to the Meeting's Theme:

"The title of this year's Meeting in Rimini, "The human person: a state of emergency", redirects us immediately to the many instances in which Pope Francis said that the crisis we are experiencing is not merely economic, but "it is a human crisis: it is the human person that is in a crisis! Man himself is in danger of being destroyed! But man is the image of God! This is why it is a profound crisis! At this time of crisis we cannot be concerned solely about ourselves, withdrawing into seclusion, discouragement, and a sense of powerlessness in the face of problems. Please, don't shut yourselves in." (Pentecost Vigil with Ecclesial Movements and New Communities, May 18, 2013). The Meeting, with its proposals of exhibits and presentations wants to be a help offered to everybody to understand the Pope's concern, which is not to be taken for granted."

The English version of the Meeting website, with news, pictures and videos. www.meetingrimini.org/eng/



women and children fleeing Syria daily whose summer is destined to be full of suffering and sacrifice.

AVSI-USA provides a direct channel for donations to reach the refugees through our AVSI staff who spend time with the people, listen to the mothers, hug the children, play with them, offer a smile and reassurance that they will be cared for.

- Just \$10 can provide 2,000 liters of clean water, or an hour of lessons to help a child catch up at a new school.
- A \$50 contribution is enough to deliver food kits of 2 kg each of rice, beans and sugar and 2 liters of oil for 5 families.

You can help to spread the word by following us on [Facebook](#), or make a tax-deductible donation through [Paypal](#) or by check to AVSI-USA, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 994, Washington DC 20045, with the memo "Syria". For weekly updates and pictures of the work we are doing thanks to the campaign, visit the [AVSI-USA website](#). Contact kristin.kennalley@avsi.org with any questions.

MEDCONFERENCE

October 18-20, 2013 – New York, NY



The [MedConference](#), an annual medical conference open to physicians, nurses, students and other health care workers - started in 2009 out of the desire of some physicians to remind one another of the ideals that had inspired us to enter into the medical profession, and to communicate experience of beauty in medicine through clinical cases, or through innovative treatments, etc.

To check the program visit us online at, www.medicalconference.us

Furthermore, as you open the website, you can open the links of previous years, see the programs and read the transcripts. If you have any questions or desire to participate please contact Costanza Raimondi at, medconference.aamp@gmail.com

Registration for this year are open and I invite you to register as soon as you can. Spots are limited.

CL NATIONAL OFFICE

125 Maiden Lane, 15th floor
New York, NY 10038
ph: 212.337.3580 | fax: 212.337.3585
clnationaloffice@clhac.com

Upper Midwest Vacation

By John Steichen

The vacation was held in Osceola, WI from July 24-28 with 185 people of all ages attending. The theme was taken from the Exercises, "Who Will Separate Us From The Love Of Christ?" and from the question which Fr. Carron posed regarding the vacations, "How does one live?". Fr. Jerry who gave the daily reflections constantly put in these questions in front of us: "What about you?", "How does this (i.e. games or hike or witnesses, etc.) move you?", "How is Encounter alive with me now?". In fact, we held a separate assembly regarding the two presentations precisely about these questions. Because we can too easily say, "That was beautiful!", without looking at how it impacts me and what this has to do with Christ present now. Sebastian Modarelli gave one of the presentations regarding composing and specifically how he composes and how the Encounter with Christ affects his work. The composer is obedient to the dialogue with the Mystery present in reality; and Christ, the Church, Fr. Giussani educate us to the criteria to see reality. Lele Columbo spoke about what it was that Fr. Giussani saw in the authors that he often refers to. He entitled it, "Giussani and Friends", and specifically looked at Pavese and Peguy. He noted that it is the clarity with which these men saw their humanity that so interested Fr. Giussani. "Immortal things exist. It is not hard to acknowledge them. It is hard to touch them." (Pavese) "The overturning of creation, it's creation upside-down. The Creator now depends on his creature. He who is everything placed himself, suffered to be placed, allowed himself to be placed on this level. (Peguy) Curtis Brown, who along with his family met the movement at last year's vacation, spoke about how the charism is educating him to a greater certainty and trust to follow the reality placed in front of him. Veronica Bushman, who has been in the movement since her GS days in Italy and who just recently moved from NYC to Minnesota, spoke of how leaving the friends and places she was accustomed to has made her more aware of her deepest needs and the joy at seeing how they are met in this new place. We also took a cold, wet hike along the beautiful bluffs of the St. Croix River. And no Upper Midwest vacation would be complete without experiencing the creative and mind-boggling games designed by Jeff Wicker. Luckily, no one was hurt; at least no one needed medical attention. We left the vacation more certain and joyful of the journey we are taking. As one person wrote to me after the vacation: "The vacation was truly the lab for me--the question asked framed the entire vacation- and remains with me now. It is my desire to keep it before me each day--and beg to welcome grace. Let everything else fall away save this. The movement is necessary to me and I am grateful for it."

Lower Midwest Vacation Summary

Erica Heinkamp

The Lower Midwest Vacation took place from July 24-July 28 in Nashville, IN at Brown County State Park. We focused our time on the work of the Spiritual Exercises with our theme being, "Where is Your First Love?" In attendance were 60 adults and 45 children from Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Tennessee, Michigan, and of course, Italy. The children ranged in ages from 11 days to 17 years with a majority under six. Fascinating were the efforts made by young families to participate in the vacation even when it demanded sacrifice. Their response was a concrete answer to the question, "Where is Your First Love?" in the moment and this question was constantly proposed to all of us. We participated in a hike, sang lots of songs, played games based on the story of Zaccheus, listened to a presentation on a variety of classical music pieces led by Meghan Berneking, one on rock 'n roll and Bruce Springsteen by Davide Bolchini, and one applicable to all ages by Giulia Attolini on the gaze of Christ towards Zaccheus.

The turning point was the assembly on Saturday night based on a small portion of the Spiritual Exercises and the question, "How does Christ take the initiative today to make us participate in His Victory?" Young and old shared their experience of being grasped by Christ in the work of the vacation and finding true joy even when circumstances involved trial. In Sunday's synthesis, Fr. Alex Zenthoefer, of Evansville, challenged us to live every day outside the vacation with a new expectation that Christ will take the initiative in our daily grind. "You see a forest of trees and are moved by beauty, but in a forest of people at work, you remain unchanged. Is a tree more glorious than a human person?"



We leave the vacation wanting to live with the same openness as our newest CL vacation attendees--a family of 8 (but there were more at home) from Michigan who were relatives of a family in CL in Ohio. They were invited to the vacation having never participated in any other CL gesture. After the first night, the mother of this family asked of the vacation to her oldest daughter, "What is this?" and promptly bought a songbook and Book of Hours to better engage in the vacation. This mother, her husband, and the six children were the educators for us on what it means to follow something interesting proposed by witnesses you trust. We want to live every day with such abandon and trust in search of He who is waiting for us.