

WORTH READING

Pope Francis: "Never again war!"

The culture of an encounter, of a dialogue: this is the only road for peace"

[Pope Francis' Sunday Angelus, September 1st](#)

Fr. Julian Carrón: "We embrace the Pope's invitation and we sustain his cry: Never again war!"

In receiving Pope Francis' dramatic appeal for peace in Syria, Fr. Julián Carrón, President of the Fraternity of Communion and Liberation, stated:



"The Pope appeals to the need for peace that nestles in the heart of every man in order to launch a dramatic call for peace in Syria; at the same time, he offers a criterion for approaching conflict: it is never the use of violence that brings peace, but encounter and negotiation.

We will be able to reach a peaceful solution only if we all look at the other not as an enemy to eliminate, but as a brother: 'it is neither a culture of confrontation nor a culture of conflict which builds harmony within and between peoples, but rather a culture of encounter and a culture of dialogue; this is the only way to peace.' We embrace this urgent invitation of the Pope's and we sustain his cry—'Never again war!'

An appeal which arises from deep within me!—uniting ourselves to his prayer with the offering of our days, while we wait to participate with all of our brothers and sisters, and men and women of good will, in the great day of fasting and prayer set for Saturday, September 7th in Rome, adhering to the initiatives of the dioceses around the world."

IN THE PUBLIC ARENA



Rimini Meeting

18 August 2013 - 24 August

The Human Person: A State of Emergency. John Waters on the Meeting's title

If you don't rediscover your relationship with the Mystery, life gets unbearable

"I feel loved by Christ. Without this love, life would be unbearable. "John Waters talks about his experience, comparing it with the title of the 34th Meeting for Friendship among Peoples: 'The Human Person: A State of Emergency'. He tells his life, his sufferings, and his dependency on alcohol and his redemption within the rediscovery of the beauty of reality in the relationship with the Mystery. Emilia Guarnieri, President of the Foundation Meeting for Friendship among Peoples, opens the central meeting this week, scheduled at 5 p.m. in Auditorium - D5 space – and introduces the editor of The Irish Time and Irish writer.

SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY

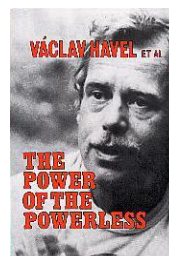


We will all continue our work on the 2013 [Fraternity Exercises](#), specifically the Sunday morning lesson until the Beginning Day.

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

BOOK OF THE MONTH

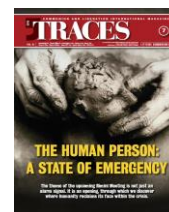
The Power of the Powerless



Václav Havel's essay, [The Power of the Powerless](#), 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. Please note that the Beginning Day cannot be before the 12th, considering the video transcribed until then.

He is entrusted with the task of getting to the bottom of the question of freedom and humanity of each. "Letting ourselves be provoked - draws Emilia Guarnieri - because man is always defined by a positive cry."
 You can find John Waters full presentation at the Meeting [here](#).



**What Awakens Humanity?
 Testimonies of Conversion
 By Anujeet Sareen**

At Rimini this year, five people were asked to give witnesses to help answer the question, "What awakens humanity?"
[Tianyue Wu](#) from China, [Aleksandr Filonenko](#) from the

Ukraine, [Claire Ly](#) from Cambodia, [Jonathan Fields](#) from New York, and [myself](#).

I left for Italy in mid-August with my three older children and we spent three days in Rome before heading to Rimini. I had been to Rome once before but I had never really visited all of the famous places in the city. From the Pantheon to the Vatican, it was remarkable to see how the Church has embraced and preserved all that was great and beautiful of ancient Rome. I was also startled to learn that the Way of the Cross starts at the Coliseum each year and that a cross now stands where the emperor used to sit inside the stadium. The Church doesn't just want to memorialize the places where Christians have suffered - it wants to mark those places with the cross, marking the victory of Christ over suffering. Amazing! We left from Rome to Rimini and the witnesses at the Meeting were all about the same experience we had in Rome. The different witnesses, with their varied backgrounds and histories, geographically and culturally, all showed the way Christ found each of them in their particular circumstances and drew them to Him. No tide of secularism, ideology, suffering, or culture limit the attractiveness and grace of Christ. Jonathan and I were walking through halls of the Meeting one day and he turned to me and said how impossible it was that we were both here. The testimonies gave witness to the victory of Christ in this world.

In addition to the links above, you can find many more presentations, talks, and witnesses at the Meeting's YouTube page, www.youtube.com/meetingdirimini.



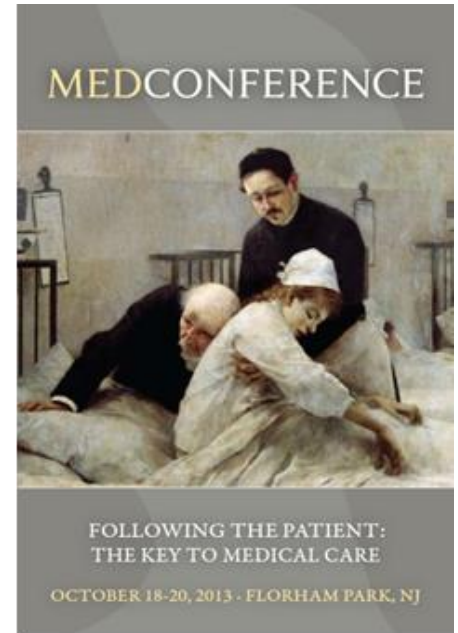
The Meeting has launched an international appeal against the persecution of Christians, the text can be found [here](#) in many languages including English.

During the week of the meeting an appeal was signed by tens of thousands of visitors and most of the guests and speakers of the meetings, including Muslims. Please spread the appeal in your community.

For more information on the Meeting, including information on next year's meeting please see their website, www.meetingrimini.org.

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.

At 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

SPIRTO GENTIL



The works of the "Spirto Gentil" CD series is now available from the CL office. Contact Kinga Omiljan kamiljan@clhac.com for more info.

The Pittsburgh Encounter

'O Human Race, Born to Fly Upward!':

Faith as the Recognition of an Exceptional Presence

September 6-8, 2013 – Pittsburgh, PA

The Pittsburgh Encounter is a weekend-long cultural festival sponsored by St. Paul Cathedral and the Pittsburgh, PA and Steubenville, OH communities of Communion & Liberation. The weekend is comprised of a series of presentations and exhibits understood in light of the fact that faith in Jesus Christ means to recognize Him present, here and now. The quote by Dante Alighieri, "O Human Race, Born to Fly Upward!" expresses that exigency, found in the human heart, to recognize this Presence and embrace it.



The Pittsburgh Encounter is directly inspired by Pope Benedict XVI's declaration of a Year of Faith (October 11, 2012-November 24, 2013), and draws its energy from the examples of such Communion & Liberation-sponsored cultural events as the annual Meeting for Friendship Among Peoples (Rimini, Italy), and the annual New York Encounter. As its name implies, the

Pittsburgh Encounter understands Christian faith as "the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new and decisive direction" (Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*). It seeks "to aid both the encounter with Christ through authentic witness to faith, and the ever-greater understanding of its contents" (*Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, "Note with pastoral recommendations for the Year of Faith"*).

For additional information on the Pittsburgh Encounter day, see the website, www.pittsburghencounter.wordpress.com

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITIES

A Testimony

By Sofia Wiener

This summer, at the Meeting of Rimini, I had the privilege of giving English-language tours of the exhibit, *Symphony from the 'New World: A United Europe, from the Atlantic to the Urals*. The exhibit addresses important issues regarding the European Union and the current economic crisis Europe finds itself in. In preparing to give these tours, I wondered why the Meeting would present an exhibit that seemed to focus on politics and economics when the theme emphasized the importance of the human person? In fact, as an American-educated philosophy and language student, I was concerned that I might not have the background to discuss the kinds of issues raised in the exhibit. However, the exhibit proposed something different than mere information about the European Union, its politics, and economic problems.

On the Vigil of Pentecost, Pope Francis told the ecclesial movements, "this time of crisis, beware, is not merely an economic crisis. It is not a crisis of culture. It is a human crisis: it is the human person that is in crisis!" Therefore, beginning from

EURESIS DAY

"Science and Knowledge"

September 28, 2013 – Washington DC



What does it mean that "wonder is the only path to knowledge"? How does scientific knowledge relate to other forms of knowledge? Broadening reason when doing scientific research... is it possible?

The gaze of science thus benefits from faith: faith encourages the scientist to remain constantly open to reality in all its inexhaustible richness.

Faith awakens the critical sense by preventing research from being satisfied with its own formulae and helps it to realize that nature is always greater. (Benedict XVI)

For more information on the Euresis day, [click here](#).

FRATERNITY

The CL Office will be contacting everyone in the Fraternity of Communion and Liberation to get updated information and answer any questions you may have.

Please look out for a call from Joan Russo and return any missed call in a timely fashion.

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this human starting point, the exhibit primarily offered witnesses of people from different ideologies, time periods, nationalities, and religions within the European Union, who were able to live freely, even in times of hardship, because what they held most dear was something greater than what divided them.



Rather than giving a mini-tour of the Exhibit here, I would like to focus on my personal experience working at the Meeting, particularly this Exhibit. My work presenting the exhibit was the way the Meeting's theme—a human emergence—became mine. By doing the English tours to mostly new visitors to the Meeting (and people new to the Movement in general), handing out the radio devices so that visitors could hear the exhibit guides, picking up little pieces of trash to ensure that the exhibit remained clean and beautiful, and, above all, by engaging with the other members at the exhibit, I found myself truly emerging and becoming more myself as the days progressed. The huge welcome I received from the other people working at the exhibit, the attention we all had for one another's needs, helping each other work better, the enthusiasm for our work—the affection toward me, was something strange and beautiful since they had never met me before.

I had to leave the Meeting two days early because of school. On my last day, one of the ladies I had gotten close to that week discretely came up to me during my last tour nervously asking me to hurry up because there was a surprise waiting for me. I tried hurrying, but I was not quick enough. A second volunteer came up to me and whispered, "Sofi, please hurry. We got you something and it's melting!!!" When I had finished, I went to the front desk of the exhibit and saw 15 cups of gelato, all melted, waiting for me and the other 14 people in my shift. Standing next to cups of cold soup were the smiling faces of the volunteers who began clapping for me.

Perhaps the person that most helped me understand what this week at the Meeting meant to me was someone who was not part of Communion and Liberation, did not volunteer at the Meeting, and at first, did not seem too thrilled to be a paid technician at the exhibit. This young man (we'll call him Giovanni) helped me see what—or rather, who—was at the heart of all these great people: As we all enjoyed our gelato, we spoke about how happy we were to have gotten to know each other and how we hoped to see each other again next summer. As I hugged one of the volunteers goodbye, she said, "Keep that same smile and gaze in front of all your life." I responded, "You too...even though I know you are going through a difficult time right now." "Behind every great smile is a great encounter."

I was standing next to Giovanni who had heard the whole conversation and so I nudged him jokingly and said, "Right, Giovanni? Don't you agree?" I thought I was being funny, since he was not in the Movement, and all. Yet, when I looked at his face he was so serious: he just stared at the ground with a very pensive face. I could tell that he had seen something extraordinary on one of his "random" work assignments. This "something" was so extraordinary that it made a phrase like, "Behind every great smile is a great encounter" plausible to him, and therefore, to me. It was only thanks to Giovanni's eyes who had changed that week with us, that I was able to see the meaning of the Meeting more fully.

All of these elements point me to a growing conviction that Christ is present in this world and that he is changing my life. Starting from the intelligent understanding of reality that all the events at the Meeting offered, to my exhibit's fresh approach beginning from the human person to a seemingly stagnant situation, to the love and affection for "the American" exhibit guide, all the way to Giovanni, the technician's, sensibility to a Presence that I realized was at the heart of everything.

