



Global Council Network

2d Global Forum of the People of God

Sao Paulo 2018

Towards a Church-Inspired by the Gospel-for the world

Por uma Igreja inspirada no Evangelho - para o mundo

Rumbo a una Iglesia inspirada en el Evangelio-para el mundo

Vers une Eglise-inspirée par l'Évangile-pour le monde

Verso una Chiesa ispirata dal Vangelo per il mondo

Letter of information N° 7 - October 2018

(updated and superseding the N°7 letter dated Sept. 28, 2019)

Our last information letter was issued in April 2018

During Jean-Pierre Schmitz's visit to Sao Paulo end of July, we had opportunity to visit the new venue of our Forum and to review in details the preparation activities, in particular during a teleconference held on July 21st with some members of our international coordination group.

After that visit, decision to postpone the Forum to June 20th to 23rd, 2019 was proposed by the GCN Brazilian team and agreed by the GCN international coordination group.

Relocation of the Forum

As we already informed, it has been decided to relocate our forum to hotel Santa Monica in Guarhulos

<http://www.villasantamonica.com.br/> which is near (20 mn drive) the Guarhulos Sao Paulo international airport, but far enough to avoid inconveniences of aircraft noises and heavy traffic.

The main reasons of that decision are:

- Easier access conditions
- Friendly and convivial ambience
- All facilities: bedrooms, auditorium (250 seats), small groups rooms, restaurant, chapel, are close each other and easy to find.
- Quiet situation with forest surroundings
- And last but not least, much cheaper accommodation prices and no charge for use of auditorium and meeting rooms.

Forum postponement

Considering that, in November 2018, there will be in Brazil numerous events on all weekends, especially the closing of the Year of the Laity, the organizations are having financial difficulties to guarantee the participation their representatives. We evaluated in the coordination that with the

transfer of the date we will continue with the current efforts to publicize the event, prioritize the collection of financial resources.

None of us is happy to postpone the Global Forum, but it seems that the economic crisis and political events in Brazil (and elsewhere) are badly affecting our plans. We will have more time to do some fundraising and the organizations will have the opportunity to save up some money so that they can send delegates to our event. Meanwhile, let us advance in the discussion of issues that are so important if we are really committed to reform our Church.

That new schedule will allow us to have more time for preparation of the forum and coordinate international support actions.

Forum designation

Due to relocation and postponement, we agreed to rename the event as:

**2nd Global Forum of the People of God
From Medellín 1968 to São Paulo 2019**

São Paulo, June 20th to 23rd, 2019

“Empowering the People in the Church and in society”

“The Gospel challenged by globalization: justice, peace, democracy, environment, spirituality”

Forum Agenda

An updated agenda is already being prepared and will be circulated as soon as possible.

In particular, concerning invited speakers, some of them already confirmed their intent to participate.

Recent events, in particular sexual abuses, which occurred in the Catholic Church in various parts of the world, have initiated a lot of exchanges and discussions within the international networks which support our GCN forum project.

It now clearly appears that a deep re-founding of the Church institutions is becoming more and more unavoidable. One of the main aspects would be getting rid of clericalism and, with real implementation of *sensus fidelium*, allow full expression from grass-roots level to all, especially laity, in the People of God.

We will try to emphasize that concern in updating the agenda of our forum.

Even though Aparecida does not appear any more in designation of the forum, possibility will be provided to add a visit to the Aparecida sanctuary.

Invitation letters and Registration forms

During our last meetings, we discussed the contents of the registration forms

Updated versions of those documents, incorporating the new location and dates of the forum are being prepared.

Payments

The advance payments received from Brazilian participants will be used to pay the deposit requested by Santa Monica Hotel.

In order to avoid costs related to international bank transfers, non-Brazilian participants are not required to provide advance payments with their application. They would settle on location with cash or credit cards. However, this implies a firm commitment to participate when submitting the application.

Council 50 Proceedings

The English version of the Proceedings of the 1st Forum of the People of God (Council 50) is now published and available at the French publishing company Edilivre either on paper or digital versions, with the following links :

To order the book:

<https://www.edilivre.com/1st-global-forum-of-the-people-of-god-council-50-towards-a-church.html>

To read the first pages:

<https://www.edilivre.com/mag/index.php/frontwidget/preview/viewer/id/890638/>

The French version is also available with the following link:

<https://www.edilivre.com/premier-forum-mondial-du-peuple-de-dieu-concile-50-sous-la-direc.html/>

Portuguese version is being prepared in Brazil under supervision of our GCN team and should be available by end of this year

Fund raising

The financial situation remains critical. Even though relocation of the forum makes it possible a drastic reduction of costs, we still need significant donations to balance the budget as it was the case for the 1st forum of the People of God (Council 50) in 2015.

This especially concerns travel and accommodation costs for invited speakers and other participants coming from other continents who could not afford to attend unless they receive financial help.

Fund raising actions have already been initiated. Up to now, the financial contributions represent only a small part of what will actually be needed.

Everyone should be aware of that situation and try to help our fundraising efforts.

Bank transfers can be made to the GCN bank account (continuation of the Council 50 account):

Account's Owner : Réseau Européen Eglise et Liberté (EN-RE) Concile 50

Bank : CCM Seine Ouest (France)

IBAN : FR76 1027 8060 7500 0210 5210 423

BIC : CMCIFR2A

Thanks in advance

Best wishes to all

Edson Silva
Leader of GCN Brazil

Jean-Pierre Schmitz
GCN International Group Coordinator