

February 16, 2016

NEWS 2016 - About fifty Major Superiors from all over Europe met on February 3 and 4 in Rome for their 17th General Assembly on the topic: "UCESM – Memory and Prophecy". The purpose of this Assembly was, besides the celebration of the 35th founding year of UCESM, to reread the road travelled, set current challenges and identify prospects for the future. After the input of Fr. Mariano Sedano, councillor of UCESM over the past eight years, on the historical record of the association since 1981, the Carmelite Father Bruno Secondin, professor emeritus of spirituality at the Papal University Gregoriana, endeavoured to show how UCESM, with its service of communion and sharing, could meet the new challenges Europe is facing us with today. Fr. Alessandro Perrone, councillor for CISM and CICLSAL, put his conclusive stance to these talks.

Subsequently, the participating members met in language groups and reflected on the way to make UCESM evolve towards a dynamic and contemporary instrument of service to religious life.

The Eucharist of the first day was presided over by Cardinal João Braz de Aviz, Prefect of CICLSAL, who conveyed to the assembly a message of encouragement for the path taken by UCESM and of thanks for the invaluable service and joyful testimony of men and women religious throughout the European continent.

At the end of the meeting, elections to the new Executive Committee for a four-year mandate took place: Fr. Giovanni Peragine crsp was re-elected as President; the new members are: Sr. Danièle Faltz dcn of Luxemburg, Vice-President; Sr. Hedvig Deák op of Hungary and Fr. Nicolai Dubinin ofm conv of Russia, councillors.

The next General Assembly is planned to take place in Romania in 2018.