

## **LIFE ASCENDING INTERNATIONAL - VMI**

Soon after the appearance of the Vie Montante in France in 1962, similar groups were set up in countries around Europe, and also elsewhere in the world, often as a result of the work of missionaries.

Vie Montante Internationale was officially established in Rome in 1985 and was recognised by the Pontifical Council for the Laity (CCPC) as a “Private International Association of the Faithful”, with Pontifical and legal rights, on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1996. VMI’s objective is to “gather together those national organisations of the lay apostolate which are involved in the pastoral care of the retired and elderly, who are at one and the same time recipients of and participants in their own evangelisation” (art. 1 of the Statute).

Today approximately 50 countries around the world, in all 5 continents, are part of VMI. Some movements are very well-organised with active groups from parochial to national level. In other places there are only isolated groups and the level of contact is spasmodic. A membership comprising such a large number of countries, each with different cultures and backgrounds, demands strict observance of our common objectives and at the same time great flexibility of approach and methods.

We maintain contact between each world region through the work of co-ordinators in each country. Sometimes a team of people, sometimes a person working alone. At the moment we have a co-ordinator for Africa, one for North America, a team in Asia, a team in Latin America and also one in Europe. Australia counts as a single entity. At international level the Executive Committee, consisting of 3 lay members and a ecclesiastical assistant, watch over the whole organisation.

Four times a year we publish a newsletter in 3 languages, French, English and Spanish. It is sent to each national group which chooses how best to distribute and use it. It is sent out by post or through the Internet.

Every four years an international meeting is held for delegates from each member country. The last such meeting was in Lourdes in October 2006. The report of this meeting is available on the MCR website (the French “Mouvement Chrétien des Retraités”) – [www.mcr.asso.fr](http://www.mcr.asso.fr)

## **OFFICIALS**

### **President**

Bernadette CANTENOT (France)

### **Members of the Executive Committee**

Léon CASSIERS (Belgium) and José-Maria CASTANO (Spain)

### **Co-ordinators**

- Africa : Albert GRIMAUD (Benin)
- North America : Ronald BEAUPRE (Canada)

- Latin America : Susell DEMARCO (Argentina)
- Asia : Peter CHAN (China – Hong Kong)
- Europe : Isabella BELLENGUER (Spain)

Ecclesiastical assistant

Mgr Lucien DALOZ (France)

### **VMI Member Countries (or affiliated)**

#### **AFRICA**

South Africa, Burkina-Faso, Benin, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda

#### **LATIN AMERICA**

Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay

#### **NORTH AMERICA**

French Canada, Canada, United States, Miami diocese

#### **ASIA**

Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam

#### **EUROPE**

French-speaking Belgium, Flemish Belgium, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia

#### **OCEANIA**

Australia