

INSTITUTE FOR WORLD EVANGELISATION (ICPE MISSION)

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1. Origin and Historical Development

The Institute for World Evangelisation (ICPE Mission) was founded in Malta by a couple, Mario and Anna Cappello in 1985 as a response to the late Pope John Paul II's call for a new evangelisation.

This journey began in 1978 when Mario Cappello felt the Lord's call to gather Catholics together as a community to evangelise. This call was shared with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Malta in October 1979. Following the first Evangelisation Course organized by the Renewal and led by Mario, a group of people came together to form a community on 8th December 1979. The community began to meet in different homes for praise and worship, formation and evangelistic outreaches and was soon growing in numbers. Over time, the particular call of the community to Worship and Evangelisation became clear even as the Lord was pointing it to the international dimension it would have.

While Catholics were being encouraged to evangelise, the possibilities of training available in the Church at that time for the lay people were not many. This led the community to support Mario and his wife Anna in running its first School of Evangelisation in January 1985 in Malta which attracted 20 participants from 14 different nations. It was with this School that the ICPE Mission was launched and subsequently became the missionary expression of the "Glory of

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God International Covenant Community.” In 1986, Mario and Anna had the opportunity to present their vision to Pope John Paul II and he gave his personal support and encouragement.

Subsequent schools of evangelisation were held in Rome, and Wellington, New Zealand, and other countries. Young men and women from different nations began to join the ICPE Mission with the desire to be full time lay missionaries to make Christ known. Since then, the ICPE Mission has established missionary communities and centres in ten countries in the continents of Europe, Asia – Oceania, Africa and the United States of America.

The charisms of the ICPE Mission are worship and evangelization. At the heart of the ICPE spiritual family are the lay missionaries who have left their professional commitments and often their home countries, in order to dedicate their lives fully to the call and mission of evangelisation, to make Christ known in the world. The ICPE spiritual family also comprises of Companions who choose to live the ICPE spirituality and charisms in the context of their professions, priests and consecrated singles. As members of the ICPE spiritual family, every member serves to bring Christ into every strata of society in which they are involved.

The ICPE Mission is dedicated to the formation and training of Catholics so that they may become more effective evangelisers. Through evangelisation, discipleship, community building and works of mercy, the ICPE Mission pursues its purpose of training, formation, serving the Church and affecting the world for Christ.

On May 19, 2002, the Pontifical Council for the Laity decreed recognition of the Institute for World Evangelization (ICPE Mission) to be an international association of the faithful of Pontifical right.

2. Adapting to Local Situations

Although the ICPE Mission had its origins in Malta, it is an international missionary community with members from diverse cultures and backgrounds.

One of the first steps in entering a local situation is to discern the needs with the local Church and assess how, and in which way, the ICPE Mission can serve the local Church and its people. In addition, learning the local language and culture is vital to understanding and serving the local people. The foundation of prayer, sensitivity, respect, flexibility, willingness to adapt and dialogue are aspects that are needed when working in a country. There is diversity in the ministries of the different ICPE Mission Centres as each community

finds its way of being relevant in the local context in sharing the Good News.

3. How the Vision Is Put into Practice

Regular programmes and ministries: The vision is achieved through evangelistic ministries and formation programmes that train Catholics to become effective evangelisers. Evangelistic ministries include parish missions, school and campus outreaches, youth ministry, prison ministry, children ministry and Woman to Woman ministry. As part of the evangelisation in places where the ICPE Mission encounters the poor, or natural disasters, the ICPE Mission engages in ways that seek to empower the poor as well as provide humanitarian relief as an integral part of sharing the Gospel of Christ's Love.

School of Mission: The School of Mission is the intensive training course for evangelisation. It is also the first step for those who wish to join the ICPE Mission. This programme is international, Catholic and dynamic – a 20-week training course aiming at forming and training young Catholics as effective evangelisers.

The School has two phases. The Formation Phase, which lasts 3 months, deals with topics such as: The Fatherhood of God, Jesus and the Cross, The Holy Spirit and the gifts, Building a Christian Character, The Church and Christian community, Worship, Discernment and Intercession, Evangelisation and much more.

The Mission Phase is the second part of the programme - one month devoted to direct evangelisation and works of mercy in schools, Churches, prisons and out on the streets. Participants learn to reach out to society through the performing arts and their personal witness, in response to Pope John Paul II's call for a "New Evangelisation". All schools are fully residential.

Other evangelistic training courses are San Andreas course, School of Witness and shorter evangelization and mission exposure courses such as the Emmaus Experience. Pastoral formation is also provided through the Set Free Ministry and pastoral care ministry programmes. Mission exposure is also given through our *Mission Possible* programs.

Members' Commitment: After the initial community experience and missionary formation period, members are invited to make a commitment of 2 years. Subsequently this can be renewed and extended to 3 years, and then 5 years. After this, a member may be

invited to consider making a life commitment. The commitment is to live the spirituality of the ICPE Mission and share in its mission with other brothers and sisters, as provided in the Statutes of the ICPE Mission.

Administrative Structure: The structure consists of the ICPE Mission Executive Council comprising of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and three other council members. In each country, the ICPE Mission Centre has its own Director assisted by a leadership team that is responsible for that community, its ministries and members.

4. Integrated into the Christian Tradition and to the Local Community

In the early Church, the first Christians came together as a community to pray, study the Word of God and share the Good News under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. They also experienced the transforming power of Christ in their lives enabling them to be ambassadors of Christ. In the same way, the ICPE Mission members gather together to pray, study and allow the Word of God to transform their lives, thereby making them effective witnesses and disciples of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is a concrete expression in which the ICPE member can live out his/her response to God's call in a radical way.

The ICPE Mission begins its presence in a new diocese only upon the invitation and blessing of the local bishop. Its aim is to serve and support the vision of the diocese where it is located. The ICPE community participates in the life of the parish and works in collaboration with the parish priest, for example, in providing faith formation for children and youth.

5. Contribution to the Church

In the past twenty five years, many young people have attended the formation programmes in different countries and have returned to their countries where they continue to evangelise in their parishes, families, schools and workplaces. After the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe, the ICPE Mission was one of the first Catholic missions to send teams to evangelise and share the Gospel to the generation of youth who had only known the culture of atheism and communism. As a result, many young leaders were trained for the Church especially in then Czechoslovakia and Poland.

Through street outreaches in Europe, the ICPE members have reached youth who would not otherwise go near a church. The fruit of these outreaches was the re-evangelisation of lapsed Catholic youth, catechizing them and leading them back into parishes where they are active members. New communities were also formed.

Through the ICPE Mission formation courses, young people encounter the Lord in a new way and are able to respond to God's call in their lives. As a result, there have been vocations to the priesthood, religious and consecrated life.

The ICPE Mission continues to reach out to youth and young people, which is an area of need in the Church, helping them to develop a love for God and his Church as well as discover their place in the Church.

6. Contribution to the Society/World at Large

By embracing Christ and his Gospel values, people are transformed more and more into the image of Christ, thus making Christ more present in our world today. Through its formation programmes, the ICPE Mission contributes to the evangelisation of every strata of humanity, bringing in the civilisation of love and the culture of life.

In its pastoral ministries, the ICPE Mission promotes the dignity and intrinsic value of every person. There is also the restoration of the true identity of the person before God. This inner freedom brings much liberation, and in turn influences the social structures of which the person is part of.

In its humanitarian initiatives and ministry, the ICPE Mission seeks to empower the poor and alleviate their poverty and suffering. It does this by helping to build and equip a medical centre, raising funds to support the education of poor children, and seeking means of livelihood for the poor.