

Association Members

CRESCENDO Worldwide Network

For a human and Christian Aging

- International Military Apostolate (AMI)
- World Catholic Association for Communication (SIGNIS)
- International Association of Charities (AIC)
- International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medical-Social Assistants (CICIAMS)
- International Religious Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom
- International Religious Congregation of the Oblates of St. Joseph
- International Religious Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Poor
- International Forum of Catholic Action (FIAC)
- International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations (FIAMC)
- International Federation of Catholic Pharmacists (FIPC)
- International Federation of Catholic Universities (FIUC)
- Fondacio
- International Movement of the Apostolate of Independent Social Networks (MIAMSI)
- International Ascent Life (VMI)

CRESCENDO Worldwide Network" Association

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HISTORICAL

The Association **Crescendo Worldwide Network for Christian and Human Aging** was founded in Paris on July 9 2001. Crescendo arose from the inspiration of the Little Sisters of the Poor and the working group "Third Age" of the Conference of International Catholic Organizations (COIC) **in order to do together what cannot be done alone.**

The name **Crescendo** expresses the image of a life in perpetual growth and development and claims to be the reflection of its mission.

CRESCENDO: WHAT IS IT?

Crescendo is a coalition of organizations and international Catholic congregations of various disciplines, active in the area of elderly persons, each one maintaining its complete autonomy and its own charism.

Crescendo's main concern is to favor a humanist approach by improving the image of the development of the aging person, the respect of her dignity and spiritual richness.

Through its action, **Crescendo** facilitates exchanges by **offering a platform between various partners concerned with aging**: UN programs and specialized agencies, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations (INGO), professionals, experts, networks of elderly persons and the political world.

"According to God's design, each human being is a growing life from the first sparkle of his existence until his last breath." John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation Christifideles laici, n° 48

VISION

- **Crescendo** promotes and defends the sacred dignity of the person in all stages of his existence, without reducing it to a criterion of profitability or economical usefulness or utility;
- **Crescendo** recognizes the growing importance of affective and spiritual values throughout life, particularly the Christian values of the family and inter-generational solidarity.

MISSION

- **Crescendo** works through, for, and with elderly persons in the emergence of a more human society for all ages;
- **Crescendo** displays a positive image of aging, inspired by the biblical vision of the person;
- **Crescendo** arouses the participation of elderly persons in civil and religious society life. These persons have an essential mission to play in front of society;
- **Crescendo** acts, through his associations members at the international, national, and local level.

GOALS

- **Crescendo** works as a network;
- **Crescendo** collaborates with partners working for ecumenical, humanitarian, and for human rights organizations;
- **Crescendo** promotes a human and Christian aging;
- **Crescendo** exchanges, informs, and forms.

CRESCENDO Activities

2002: Madrid: UN World Assembly on Aging. Participation in the NGO Forum: conferences and stand. Official message for the document adopted by the UN, stressing the urgency of promoting a more human vision of aging, integrating ethical and spiritual values.

2003: quarterly electronic bulletin (French, English, Spanish, Italian)

2004: Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe 1st position taking and warning with regard to the report of the *Social Affairs Commission* favorable to euthanasia and the dispatch of a document to the International Catholic organizations concerned. Following this intervention, the study of this report was postponed.

2005: 2nd position taking. Report rejected

Bossey-Geneva; International Seminar "For a fully human and Christian aging" organized in collaboration with the CIC of Geneva.

2006: Participation in the Conference of the University of Bangalore (India): "Aging with health and Dignity"

Fifth World Meeting of Families (WMF) in Valencia (Spain): Organization of congress of the elderly person integrated in the WMF and intervention during the theological-pastoral congress.

2007: V Conference for south America in Aparecida (Brasil). Invitation to the **1° Forum of the OING of catholic inspiration.**

2008: Invitation to the **Pontifical Plenary Assembly for the Family.** Speech by the President. Rome.

2009: Invitation and speech at the **VI WMF (Mexico)**

2010: Invitation in the **2nd Forum of the INGO of catholic inspiration**, in Rome; in the sessions of the **Council of Human Rights**, and in the 3rd session of the **Consultative Committee.**

2011: Visit to the **Pontifical Council for Health.** Participation in the **Forum's Group of Family Work**, in the **seminar of Catholic INGO (Strasbourg)** and in the **Council of Human Rights.**

2012: Speech in the **theological-pastoral Congress of the Seventh WMF (Milan)**