

European Forum of National Laity Committees

Study Assembly ELF Birmingham, 6th – 11th July 2010

"Human Dignity in a changing Europe –
A Christian response"



CVs

Bishop William Kenney

Titular Bishop William Kenney was professed in the Passionist Congregation in September 1963 and was ordained in 1969. He studied theology, sociology and psychology and worked as a parish priest and academic sociologist within the Catholic Church in Sweden, before pursuing doctoral studies at the London School of Economics from 1977 to 1979.

In 1987 Bishop Kenney was ordained bishop and appointed Auxiliary Bishop of the diocese of Stockholm and Vicar General. One of his major concerns has been to build up the Caritas organisation of the diocese. From 1991 to 1999 he was President of Caritas Europe. The major part of this work concerned the problems of refugees and immigrants within Europe and the building up of Caritas organisations in Eastern Europe. Now he is serving a second term on the Legal Affairs Commission of Caritas Internationalis and working as auxiliary bishop in the archdiocese of Birmingham.

Christophe Renders, sj

Christophe Renders (1969) entered the Society of Jesus in 1988. He studied law (Louvain-la-Neuve) and theology (Madrid and Brussels). From 1995 to 1997 he worked as a member of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) in Rwandan refugee camps in Bukavu in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo and in the service of the population suffering the effects of the civil war.

Since 2003 he is the director of JRS-Belgium, whose principal activity consists in accompanying and defending the rights of asylum seekers and migrants in detention. At the same time he works as advocacy officer of JRS-Belgium.

Jan De Volder

Jan De Volder lives and works in Antwerp, Belgium. He has an MA degree in Romance Literature and Languages and a PhD in Social and Religious History.

He is political editor of the Flemish Catholic weekly *Tertio*. Every week he writes articles on religion, culture, politics, and society. As such, he often comments on church and social issues on radio and television. Last year, he published *De geest van Damiaan. Een heilige voor onze tijd*, Lannoo (230 p.), a biography of father Damien in the year of his canonization. Translations are being prepared in English, Italian, Polish, and Portuguese.

As a senior member of the Community of Sant'Egidio in Belgium, he is committed to voluntary service to the poor and to Sant'Egidio's work for interreligious dialogue and peace and reconciliation, especially in Africa. He is president of the Belgian association 'Viva Africa'.

Dr. Lidmila Nemcova

Dr. Lidmila Nemcova has a long pedagogical and research practice. She was the first in the Czech Republic to introduce the new discipline of Business Ethics at the University of Economics in Prague. After 1989 she was on numerous stays abroad; among others for short studies in the USA and France (focus on management, marketing, social economics and business ethics), for lectures at various congresses and international conferences (Brazil, USA, Japan, China). Her publications are in fields of business ethics, cooperative movement, problems of women entrepreneurs, business culture and ethics, geoethics etc.

She is member of the European coordination group of the European Christian Workers Movement (ECWM), President of the Czech Society for Ethics in Economics and Co-founder of the Czech branch of the EAPN (European Anti-Poverty Network).

John Gerard Bruton

John Gerard Bruton studied law at University College Dublin. He started his political career as an appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry and Commerce and to the Minister for Education, by the National Coalition in 1973.

Bruton held a number of the top posts in Irish government, including the post of Minister for Finance from 1981 to 1982 and from 1986 to 1987, as well as the post of Minister for Industry, Trade, Commerce and Tourism from 1983 to 1986. He became leader of Fine Gael (United Ireland Party) in 1990 and served as Taoiseach (equivalent to the prime minister of England) from 1994 until 1997.

Moreover he served as the Ambassador of the European Union to the United States from 2004 to 2009, and is a former Vice-President of the European People's Party (EPP).

Archbishop Bernard Longley

Archbishop Bernard Longley was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton in 1981 and served as Assistant Priest in a parish and as Chaplain to Psychiatric Hospitals. From 1987 to 1996 he taught dogmatic theology at St John's Seminary in Womersley. In 1991, he was appointed Chairman of the Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Commission for Christian Unity and five years later became National Ecumenical Officer at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. In 1999 he was appointed Moderator of the Steering Committee of "Churches Together" in Britain and Ireland and also Assistant General Secretary of Catholic Bishops' Conference with responsibilities for Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs.

Archbishop Bernard Longley was ordained Bishop and appointed as an Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Westminster in 2003 and became Archbishop of Birmingham in 2009.