

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

Dear church dignitaries, representatives of scientific, professional and political institutions

On behalf of the CCMS FIAMC Congress entitled "Sanctity of Life and Medical Profession from Humanae Vitae to Laudato Si" we are deeply appreciative and offer you our most grateful welcome.

The Honorary President of the Congress is the Archbishop of Zagreb, Cardinal Josip Bozanić and the Congress is held under the high auspices of the President of the Republic of Croatia, Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović. Besides scientific, political and religious institutions, it is also held under the patronage of the City of Zagreb, the Mayor of Zagreb, the Croatian Medical Association, the Croatian Chamber of Physicians, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia and the Medical School of the University of Zagreb.

First of all, I would like to share with you this wonderful, blessing experience and the great honor being invited to attend a private audience by His Excellency Pope Francis. As a member of FIAMC exCO and the Organizing Committee of the Congress I have been invited, together with other exCo members, to the audience on the 28th May.

It was my great honor to have the possibility to present to Pope Francis the monograph of the 25th Anniversary of Croatian Catholic Medical Society and 25 HRK coin issued in the year 2000 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Republic of Croatia, showing an image of a human fetus as a symbol of life. I was also able to inform him on the 25th FIAMC Congress and the support and prayers of CCMS members and Congress organizers. The encounter with the Holy Father permeate the present and future with blessings, light and optimism.

I would also like to stress that special program has been organized within the Congress for the young which underlines the importance of participation of the young physicians and medical students on the Congress.

To protect the sanctity of human life in the light of faith and science is one of the biggest moral challenges our civilization is facing and it is the responsibility for the future of all life on the earth.

The field of medicine and health, in fact, has not been spared from the advance of the technocratic cultural paradigm, from the cult of unlimited human power, and from a practical relativism which sees everything as irrelevant unless it serves one's own immediate interests. (cf. Lit. enc. Laudato si ' , 122)"

In his address to the members of the Delegation of the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations (FIAMC), Pope Francis has underlined the following: "Your qualification as Catholic physicians commits you to continuing spiritual, moral and bioethical formation in order to implement evangelical principles in medical practice, starting with the doctor-patient relationship to the missionary activities, to improve the health conditions of its fringe populations".

Herewith, we would like to express, once again, our gratitude to His Holiness for all he has been doing, inspiring us for love, peace and solidarity, planting hope to the world and we gladly include Him and His responsible Pontificate in our prayers.

Considering the importance of recognizing the identity of Catholic doctors in the context of ethical relativism and transhumanism in the world and promotion of ethical principles in medicine based on Hippocrates oath tradition and Catholic church doctrine, the significant role of the bishop in peace, Msgr. Valentin Pozaić, as spiritual assistant of CCMS, is irreplaceable in order to express absolute truth in our everyday life, in our minds and our hearts.

And at the end, we would like to say thank to all donors and patrons of this Congress with a wish that its message strongly resounds in public, contributing to shaping public awareness on the sanctity of human life.