

given to World Youth Day. It is worth pointing out that many youngsters, as in past years, are counting on this gesture of solidarity to be able to be present at Toronto and to testify, together with their brothers and sisters of other nations, to the power and actuality of Christ's words in the Gospel of Matthew: "You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world" (*Mt 5:13-14*).

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Ecclesial movements and frontier evangelization

With a view to the possible organization of a regional meeting of Catholic laity in the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, a meeting was held in the offices of the Pontifical Council for the Laity on 31 March 2001. It was attended by the representatives of twelve ecclesial movements and new communities that, at least in part, even in the years of the Iron Curtain, were able to ensure a missionary presence in the geographical areas under Marxist domination.

The discussion focused on three points in particular: first, *the experience* of movements and communities in the period of the Communist regime; second, *their presence and their apostolate* from the period of the fall of the Berlin wall and the collapse of the Communist regimes to the present day; and third, their reflections on *the needs, problems and challenges* which must be taken into account in fulfilling the Church's mission in these countries, with particular reference to the role of the Christian laity.

Those who intervened at the meeting included various members of the following movements and communities: Communion and Liberation, *Communauté des Béatitudes*, *Cursillos de Cristiandad*, *Équipes Notre-Dame*, St. Egidio Community, Focolare Movement, Neocatechumenal Way, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Regnum Christi Movement, Prelature of Opus Dei, *Communauté de l'Emmanuel* and the Schönstatt Movement.