



Charis European Service of Communion

EU-CHARIS-Info-letter No 3

April 12th, 2021

In this issue: *The previous EU-CHARIS-Info-letter was June 18th 2020. This 3rd edition is on European transitional Coordinating Team, especially Paolo Maino. This team organizes a first European meeting in Zoom, April 23-25th, to prepare a first official European CHARIS Continental Service of Communion.*

The composition of the first CHARIS International Service of Communion in 2019 was a surprise. The two representatives for the European continent, Paolo Maino and Etienne Mellot, had to work on the European level: creating a European transitional Coordinating Team, assist in the creation of National Services of Communion and to prepare the European Service of Communion. All according to the first [CHARIS-statutes](#), presented by the Vatican in 2018.

Members of the *European transitional Coordinating Team*



Paolo Maino (Italy)



Etienne Mellot (France)



Cathy Brenti (France)



Gerard Farrell (Scotland)



Oscar Puebla Martin (Spain)



Zoltan Vegh (Hungary)



Kees Slijkerman (The Netherlands)

Paolo was unknown on the European level, so we have asked him to tell a little bit more about himself and his priorities for CHARIS.

Who is Paolo Maino?

Paolo Maino lives in Riva del Garda, Italy, where he also was born in 1948. He is married to Eliana Aloisi. In 1979 he was baptized in the Holy Spirit. Shortly thereafter, in the same year, together with his wife and fr. Domenico Pincelli, he founded the *Association Via Pacis*. This community was born in the context of Catholic charismatic spirituality and was recognized by the Pontifical Council for the Laity as an International

Private Association of the Faithful in 2014. Paolo was President of this Association until 2019. He worked as a Religion teacher in High Schools. In 1994 he founded the *Association Via Pacis Onlus* and was its President until 2012. This Association works in favor of the poorest by evangelization and self-development projects in eighteen countries.

He obtained the doctorate in theology, with specialization in pastoral liturgy. His thesis was on



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"Postmodernism in the Church? The Charismatic Renewal".

Since 2006 he has been the Director of the quarterly magazine *Sulla Via della Pace*. He has taken part to national and international conferences and ecclesial events as a trainer and speaker. Since 2018 he is a member of the International Service of Communion CHARIS (ISCC) as representative of Europe.

Paolo his priorities for CHARIS

Paolo: 'Pope Francis at the International Conference of the Leaders of RCC, hold in June 2019, urged us *"to testify to unity in diversity ... so that all can dwell there as members of one family, a family in which no one member is more important than another, neither in virtue of age, intelligence or ability..."*

I believe this is the greatest challenge we have as members of the International Service of Communion Charis (ISCC). How to make unity real? Where there's a good relationship, don't settle for it, improve it! Where the relationship is ruined have the courage to struggle to meet the other! Where there is a bitter memory, look forward! Where there is an offense, forgive!

These are only few actions to give answer to the invitation of Jesus *"So that they may all be one that the world may believe"* (John 17,21).

If we do not make the dimension of unity more and more ours, we will be destined for doing, for designing beautiful things too, but without producing lasting fruits. This does not mean delete conflicts. Real unity involves the willingness to embrace the richness of challenges elaborating them in order to transform them into positive stimuli.

Unity is not primarily an ethical commitment, but it is the vision and the gift of God to a humanity on the road to ever deeper communion. As members of ISCC we always should have the courage to remind what our task is: listening, new relations, dialogue, respect for each identity and individual paths, subsidiarity, being able to wait for the others...tell us again that we are a service group and not a government group.'

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