

Catholic Bishops Conferences
of Austria, Hungary, and Slovak Republic

in collaboration with

Catholic Bishops Conferences
of Bosnia&Hercegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic,
Poland, and Slovenia



International Conference

Ethics of Life in the Christian Perspective
Lebensethik aus Christlicher Sicht

within the programme of
Central European Catholic Days

3. – 5. 10. 2003

Bratislava, Slovak Republic

1st Information & Preliminary Programme

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Conference Venue **SÚZA**
Drotárska st. No. 46
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tel.: (++421-2)5935.4999 (reception desk)
fax: (++421-2)62801843
www.suza.sk (incl. on-line venue + city map)

Invitation

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The challenges of contemporary confrontations between the 'Culture of Life' and 'Culture of Death' (Evangelium vitae, 28) are faced nowadays by the individuals, families, communities, nations, states, and many distinguished international organisations in Europe and all over the World. The Catholic Church, faithful to Her mission and service to all peoples, has been paying a deep and continuous attention to these quandaries since their very beginning, roughly a century ago.

Professing, announcing, and living the 'Gospel of Life' in contemporary World surely belongs to the Church's major tasks within the 'New Evangelisation' in Central and Eastern Europe and beyond at the beginning of the third Millennium. Listening attentively to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, as well as to the needs and quandaries posed by unprecedented developments in medicine, life sciences and modern biotechnologies, and their impact on contemporary man and the human societies all around the Globe, should help the Church in keeping abreast with the current and prospective moral problems arising abundantly in this volatile area. The 'Ethics of Life' offers a solid, enlightening, and hopeful basis for such 'human civilisation-saving' scientific, educational, pastoral and even political efforts of today and tomorrow.

Having been entrusted by the organizers of the „Central European Catholic Days 2003 – 2004“ to prepare, within the chain of other topical international meetings planned at this distinguished occasion, an international conference devoted to the pressing problems of 'Ethics of Life', I am pleased and honoured, on behalf of the international and local organising teams, to invite you cordially to take an active part in this important international meeting.

The organizers hope for a high quality, stimulative, thought-provoking and perspectives-presenting conference, aimed also to offer abundant possibilities of informal discussions, personal opinion and experience sharing, as well as contact building and networking of experts and all people of good will engaged in 'bio-ethics – bio-politics' area in Europe and beyond.

In communicating to you this cordial invitation, I would also like to express our strong hope that your visit to Bratislava, since 1993 the capital of the Slovak Republic, will enable you to enjoy a unique local mixture of ancient traditions, distinguished culture and warm hospitality that have been for centuries the brightest characteristics of this 'Beautiful city on Danube' (Istropolis) and its people.

*With kind personal regards in Christ,
Sincerely yours,*



Mons. František Rábek
Chairman, Local Organising Committee

Bratislava, Easter 2003

Preliminary Programme

3. 10. 2003 Friday

- 14.00 – 18.00 Registration
16.30 – 17.30 Spiritual Programme (Holy Mass)
18.00 – 18.30 Opening Ceremony
18.30 – 19.15 Plenary Lectures
18.30 – 18.55 Contemporary Man and the Challenges of Bio-Ethics
A. Rakús (SK)
18.55 – 19.20 Contemporary Man, Bio-Medicine and Christian Faith
A. Laun (A)
19.30 – 22.00 Welcome Evening

4. 10. 2003 Saturday

- 09.00 – 10.30** General Session I.
Ethics of Life and its Contemporary Challenges
09.00 – 09.20 Ethics of Life – Philosophical Foundations
J. Letz (SK)
09.20 – 09.40 Ethics of Life, Moral Theology and the Challenges of Postmodernism
J. Ďačok (SK)
09.40 – 10.00 Moral Status of the Human Embryo an Foetus
V. Pozaic (Croatia)
10.00 – 10.30 Discussion
10.30 – 11.00 Break
11.00 – 12.30 General Session II.
Bioethical Issues at the Beginning of Human Life
11.00 – 11.20 Assisted Procreation
E. H. Prat de la Riba (A)
11.20 – 11.40 Fertility Regulation, Contraception
A. Szostek (PL)
11.40 – 12.00 Prenatal diagnostics
K. M. Radner (A)
12.00 – 12.30 Discussion
12.30 – 14.00 Lunch Break

- 14.00 – 15.45** General Session III.
Challenges of New Biotechnologies
14.00 – 14.20 Human Cloning – Reproductive and „Therapeutic“
C. Hutter (A)
14.20 – 14.40 Stem Cell Research – Adult and Embryonic
L. Kenner, K. Stangl (A)
14.40 – 15.00 Challenges of New Genetics
Speaker to be announced (H)
15.00 – 15.20 Present and Future of Environment – Christian Values of Sustainable Development (20')
M. Džatko, E. Bublinec (SK)
15.20 – 15.45 Discussion
15.45 – 16.15 Break
16.15 – 17.30 General Session IV.
Bioethical Issues at the End of Life
16.15 – 16.35 Elderly Patient
Z. Kalvach (CZ)
16.35 – 16.55 Palliative Medicine, Terminal Care, Hospice
J. Bonelli (A)
16.55 – 17.15 Euthanasia
P. O. Harsányi (H)
17.15 – 17.30 Discussion
17.45 – 18.45 Spiritual Programme (Holy Mass)
19.30 Social Programme¹

5. 10. 2003 Sunday

- 9.00 – 10.15 Holy Mass (St. Martin's Cathedral)
11.00 – 12.15 General Session V.
Conclusions and Future Perspectives
11.00 – 11.20 Bioethics and Biopolitics in Europe
P. Liese (G; EP)
11.20 – 11.40 Evangelium Vitae for the Present and Future Europe
G. Virth (A)
11.40 – 11.50 Central European/Bratislava Declaration on Bioethics/Biopolitics
International Drafting Committee's Chairman
11.50 – 12.10 Concluding Remarks
Ch. Cardinal Schönborn (A)
12.15 Closing of the Conference²

¹To be announced. Bus transfer provided.

²Light lunch will be served on departure at the conference site at 12.30 o'clock

General Information

Press Conferences

Time and venue to be announced.

Conference Languages

English, German, Slovak (Czech), Hungarian.
Simultaneous translation will be provided for general sessions.
Arrangements for other languages possible for groups of at least 50 participants.

Registration Desk

Friday 14.00 – 19.00

Operating Hours

Saturday 08.00 – 18.00

(at SÚZA)

Sunday 11.00 – 12.00

Registration Fee

The amount of **10,- EUR** should be paid by all participants in cash or by a credit card at the registration desk.

Local Transport

Bus No. **41** from the Main Railway Station and from the bus stop Pražská street directly **to the conference venue** (the last stop). Operating every 30 min.

The coach **transport from the hotels** to the conference venue will be provided at scheduled time points (to be announced).

Good **taxi** availability at reasonable prices.

Accommodation

Rooms were pre-booked for the conference participants at special rates in the chosen hotels (the information given below). See the enclosed **Hotel Reservation Form** for details on the booking procedure.

The coach transport from the hotels to the conference venue will be provided at scheduled time points (to be announced).

Hotel Information

SÚZA (Conference venue). Located in an attractive, quiet district of Bratislava with a nice view on the city and the river Danube. The rooms are equipped with shower and WC, colour TV and mini-bar. Boarding possibilities: restaurant, daily bar.

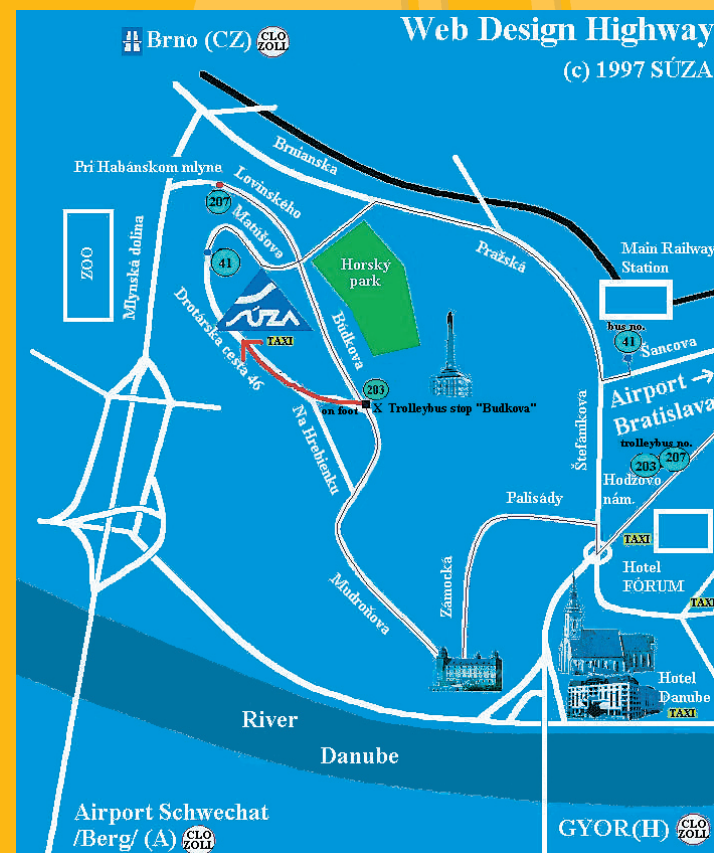
BARÓNKA. Located in the eastern part of Bratislava, in the Rača suburb. This area has been known for ages by its history and tradition of high quality vine and for excellent wines. The rooms are equipped with bath, toilet, TV, radio, fridge, telephone. Boarding possibilities: A style restaurant connected with summer terrace and wine tavern. Thirty minutes drive from the Conference venue.

Meals

NIVY. Located close to the centre of Bratislava. The rooms are equipped with bath WC, colour TV with a satellite, refrigerator and telephone. Boarding possibilities: Restaurant Slovakia with Slovak and international cuisine. Twenty-five minutes drive from Conference venue.

ÚVS (Institute for Adult Education and Services). Located in a quiet district of Bratislava – Kramáre. The rooms are equipped with shower and WC, radio. Boarding possibilities: Restaurant, daily bar. Twenty minutes drive from Conference venue.

Refreshments will be served during coffee breaks and simple conference lunches on Saturday and Sunday.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
Ethics of Life in the Christian Perspective
Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 03-05 October 2003

HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

To be returned, **not later than 30 June 2003**, to:

EMILY TOURS Travel Agency
Mrs. Emília Chovancová
Bardejovská 16
SK-831 02 Bratislava 3, Slovak Republic
tel./fax: (+421-2) 44 25 86 17
e-mail : emilytours@napri.sk

Booking Procedure: To make a booking, please complete the **Hotel Reservation Form** and return it to the address of EMILY TOURS **before 30 June 2003**. Requests will be honoured in the order as received. Participants should indicate their choice of hotels on the form and travel agent will allocate rooms as available. If reservation is mailed by the required date, accommodation will be confirmed by a voucher. The timetable of the **coach transportation from the hotel to the conference site** and back will be enclosed with the voucher.

Cancellation and Changes of Reservation: Please notify EMILY TOURS in writing as soon as possible if a reservation must be changed or cancelled.

Surname (Mr./Ms.):

First name(s):

Organization represented:

Mailing Address:

Post Code: City:

Country:

Telephone: Telefax:

E-mail:

Accompanying person(s):

Surname (Mr./Mrs.): First name:

Surname (Mr./Mrs.): First name:

Indicate name of the hotel chosen from the attached list:

First choice:

Second choice:

Single room [] Double room [] Number of nights []

Date of check in: Date of check out:

I will share the room with:

Please indicate the way of your transport to Bratislava:

Private car [] Bus [] Train [] Plane []

Date: Signature: