

## Cardinal Foley Scholarship Fund Supporting professional formation for the Church's ministry in communications

Taking into account the importance of communications for the pastoral service of the Church, there is a broad consensus among local Churches, the Pontifical Council for Social Communications and donor organisations, of the need for adequate professional formation for those who will be responsible for the future development of the Church's mission in the field of communication.

"Catholic media work is not simply one more programme alongside all the rest of the Church's activities: social communications have a role to play in every aspect of the Church's mission. Thus, not only should there be a pastoral plan for communications, but communications should be an integral part of every pastoral plan, for it has something to contribute to virtually every other apostolate, ministry, and programme." (Aetatis Novae 1992, 17)

Continuous development and progress, in both the technologies and the culture of communications, require that those holding positions of responsibility should not only be competent in the technical aspect of communication, but should also be reflective practitioners, capable of engaging with the philosophical, strategic and organisational questions posed by the changes that new technologies have brought about in the very dynamics and patterns of communication praxis.

Therefore the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, donor organisations and CAMECO have joined forces to establish a Scholarship Fund which would aim to support the formation of future leaders in the field of communications, and to build up local capacity to provide for future formation in Africa and Asia (later on, we hope to also include Latin America). The goal/objective is

- \* qualify Africans and Asians who will have the capacity to provide proper formation for future Church communicators in local training institutes, communication (and theology) faculties and major seminaries

- \* broaden the base of qualified priests, deacons, religious and lay people who are competent to further develop the communication ministry of the local Churches. We are especially interested in developing potential future national or regional communication coordinators.

The Scholarship Fund will be coordinated by the Catholic Media Council (CAMECO). The Board that will award the scholarships will be composed by representatives of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications (PCSC), missio Aachen, the Institute of Missiology, CAMECO and other donor organisations which will contribute to the fund in the future.

### 1. Who should be eligible for a scholarship?

Priests, religious, permanent deacons and lay people, men and women, supported by their bishop and/or religious superior, and with a proven capacity (including practical experience) and interest in working in communications.

The application needs to be presented by the respective Church authority. Applications sent by candidates themselves cannot be considered.

### 2. What type of studies will be supported?

Graduate and postgraduate programmes in (pastoral) communications – both in Europe/North America and the southern continents. It is foreseen that half of the scholarships would be granted for graduate studies in Africa, Asia and Oceania.

This implies that basic training (undergraduate studies) in communications needs to be completed in the region of origin before submission of an application.

### 3. Criteria for selecting candidates

- Proven capacity and interest of the candidate towards working in communications – including basic (academic) training in the region of origin, and experience in media work
- Committed support from the local bishop or from the superior of any order/congregation of which the candidate is a member – and a confirmation of the Bishops' Conference (and, if applicable, of the national communication coordinator) that the candidate's further training will be of benefit to the local Church
- A clear perspective of the candidate's future task(s)
- A mutual (local Church and candidate) commitment to involve the candidate in the communication ministry for at least five years
- We aim at a good balance of candidates, in terms of geographical origin, gender, and lay and priests/religious.
- We expect the selected candidates to achieve a high standard in their courses.

### 4. Accompaniment of scholarship holders

We consider a close accompaniment of the candidates during their studies an integral part of this scholarship programme. This includes a virtual network among students, to facilitate contacts, common reflection, and exchange of experiences and concerns. Later on, former scholarship holders should also keep in touch with one another, with the PCSC and donors, through the network.

### 5. Internship as part of the scholarship

During the period of studies, the partners involved in the scholarship fund will promote the candidate's pursuit of an internship related to their future task in Catholic communications – in Catholic media, AV production centres, a press office or a news service, etc.

## 6. Consultation about the formation plans

A key concern of the fund is to support formation which responds to the specific needs of the local Church and the capacities and qualifications of the candidate. Therefore, as part of the application process, it is foreseen to enter into dialogue with the candidate (and their superior) about the formation plans presented. This could include further consultation on suitable academic programmes and on complementary practical training (internship).

## 7. Funding

The amount of the scholarship grant will be determined according to the study fees of the university chosen, to (adequate) living costs, and to a fixed sum for expenses directly connected with studies. In this first launch, scholarships can be requested for one or two years. For those selected, the screening committee will approve the necessary amount for the entire duration of the academic programme to be attended.

The scholarships are paid in yearly instalments. Before a next instalment can be transferred, the candidates must present a progress report of their studies, giving evidence of the grades achieved, as well as presenting a statement from their tutor or professor.

A scholarship can be cancelled before its date of expiration, if serious violations of the conditions under which the scholarship has been granted have occurred.

## 8. Timeline

Deadline for the presentation of applications: February 15<sup>th</sup> (March 1<sup>st</sup>?)

Written applications should be submitted to CAMECO at their postal address in Aachen. However, an additional presentation in electronic form would be appreciated, to facilitate smoother and swifter screening.

The screening process between March and mid April might include further consultation and dialogue with the candidate and local stake holders supporting his/her studies.

Candidates and their superiors will be informed about the final decision of the screening committee by early May: this timing should allow time for preparations (including language courses) to commence studies in the term 2013/2014.