

YMCA OBSERVATORY, International Edition

-Published by the Young Men's Christian Association / YMCA of the Republic of Argentina.

- December 2015, Year XI, No. 29

This publication is sent by e-mail and included in the Internet site: www.ymca.org.ar, intends to share, in short, information and ideas with the broad international world of the Young Men's Christian Association /YMCA. Only twelve subjects have been selected to be shared.

- - - - -

- **YMCA UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE**

The president of the Argentine Nation signed on November 24, 2015, Decree No. 2450 approving the YMCA UNIVERSITY INSTITUTUE of the Young Men's Christian Association / YMCA of the Republic of Argentina. This is the end of a long process. Argentine YMCA's was already accepted by the Coalition of YMCA Universities.

- **NATIONAL CONGRESS ON VALUES, CRITICAL THOUGHT AND SOCIAL NETWORK**

With a record number of attendants, close to 450, the XIV National Congress on Values, Critical Thought and Social Network was held on September 24 and 25. Its focal point was: "Justice, security and inclusion: imperatives addressed to a sustainable Argentina". The main opinion leaders of local political, social, union and economic life exposed, among them, province governors, majors, judges, union leaders and civil society representatives. A book was published that includes the whole development of the congress and is being distributed to sensitive spaces of the society.

- **XI ATHLETIC EVENT**

On December 6, Argentine YMCA and the Universidad Tecnológica Nacional carried out the XI edition of their joint athletic event. The ten-kilometre competition and a recreational 5-km one gathered 3500 competitors in Buenos Aires' streets. This is one of the events having the greatest impact in terms of registered competitors.

- **RELATIONSHHIP WITH THE ARMENIAN YMCA**

Jimena Jáuregui, a young volunteer leader of Argentina's YMCA, stayed a month in the Armenian YMCA, within the frame of a cooperation programme agreed upon between both movements on the occasion of the World Council held in the United States of America in 2014. The visit to Argentina, in 2016, of representatives of the Armenia's YMCA, is expected to deepen the relationship between both organizations. One of the objectives shall be to formulate a joint programme referred to young people.

- **RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE EUROPEAN ALLIANCE OF YMCAs AND OF REGIONAL YMCAs**

The quadripartite agreement subscribed by Argentine, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese YMCAs constituted a major step. Within this context, Jimena Jáuregui, after visiting Armenia, was received by the Spanish YMCA. In November, Mario Cenci, Leadership and Communication executive of Argentine YMCA took part in an exchange visiting Italy's, Spain's and Portugal's YMCAs.

Furthermore, within the framework of the invitation received from the European Alliance of YMCAs, he attended the meeting of secretaries general of the old continent held in Rome.

- ***ELECTIONS IN ARGENTINA***

The election process in Argentina ended on November 22. Argentine YMCA was part of the call and organization of the two presidential debates that were held in one of the schools of the Universidad de Buenos Aires. Complementarily, the National Electoral Chamber summoned us as leader organization of the civil society to be part of the commitment to contribute to awareness about election transparency. The act for the promotion of the network party poll monitors was held in YMCA's auditorium.

- ***MEXICAN YMCA'S INTERN IN ARGENTINA***

Between mid November and early February 2016, Argentina's YMCA received an intern of the sister YMCA of Mexico. She is *Cristina Cruz* and her experience in Argentina is focused on student and family tourism.

- ***CLIMATE SUMMIT IN PARIS***

Regarding the call of the World Alliance of YMCAs, Argentina's YMCA delegated its representation to Portugal's YMCA. This was agreed upon within the context of the quadripartite cooperation agreement subscribed with the YMCAs of Spain, Italy and Portugal.

- ***BOOK ON OSCAR A. ROMERO***

On Wednesday, September 30, the book "Oscar Romero" was presented in the Argentine YMCA, written by Roberto Morozzo della Rocca, with a preface by Andrea Riccardi. Lectures were given by the president of the Social Pastoral Commission of the Argentine Episcopal Conference, *Monsignor Jorge Lozano*, Archbishop of Gualeguaychú, *Oscar Menjivar Chávez*, ambassador of El Salvador in Argentina, *Andrea Poretti*, from the Community of Sant'Egidio and *Norberto Rodriguez*, secretary general of the host institution. Reviewing the life of the now blessed Oscar A. Romero, killed in 1980 being Archbishop of San Salvador, was a very illustrative experience full of nuances. It reflects the drama lived by Central America in those dark moments of the regional history.

- ***ARGENTINE YMCA IN THE PRESS***

Information and opinion pieces on Argentine YMCA appear systematically in the main local media. This reality promotes the leader quality of the institution in sensitive subjects always related to common good and framed within the values supporting our mission.

- ***THE HOUSE OF ABRAHAM***

On October 8, the most emblematic synagogue of Argentina (Libertad Synagogue) gave birth to ***The House of Abraham***. Over and above the physical space, The House of Abraham is the product of the spiritual encounter between the descendants of the patriarch Abraham, celebrating the diversity of the ethical and humanistic monotheism that was revealed in the Sacred Torah, Holy Gospels and Sacred Koran. The keystone of The House of Abraham is the donation of the Sacred Koran made by the Grand Mufti of Istanbul, Dr. Rahmi Yaran, with a moving message of peace. The House of Abraham is devoted to develop educational and cultural programmes, inviting all men and women of good faith to meet and contribute their knowledge and ideas to educate the younger generations in the most ethical and moral values. Argentina's YMCA besides being one of the institutions adhering to the initiative has cooperated in direct procedures before the Catholic Church and the Islamic Centre of the Republic of Argentina.

- ***"COMMON HOUSE"***

We are pleased to inform you the creation of the "COMMON HOUSE" CIVIL ASSOCIATION, the purpose of with is: "Promoting the diffusion and increasing the public awareness of Pope Francis' word, documents, work and public activities, as well as the events generated by such activities. Promoting and making the study, analysis and debate on these subjects and other related ones easier. Encouraging any type of action that allows spreading, defining and promoting the work of Pope Francis." Together with opinion leaders of the religious area as well as of the field of education, culture, journalism and of the civil society, the secretary general of the Argentine YMCA, Norberto Rodríguez, is one of the founding partners.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
