

F. E. A. M. C.
Fédération Européenne des Associations Médicales Catholiques
European Federation of Catholic Physicians Associations

10th Congress of FEAMC

New Challenges for Medicine
and Health Care in Europe



July 1 – 4, 2004
Bratislava, Slovak Republic



Final Program

GENERAL INFORMATION

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Secretary General	J. Glasá
Ecclesiastical Assistant	V. Pozaic
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Local Organising Committee	J. Bielik, J. Ďačok, D. Dian, J. Glasá (co-ordinator), K. Glasová, H. Glasová, M. Glasová, A. Hrádocký, E. Chovancová, M. Mojzešová, L. Paulinyová, J. Porubský, A. Rakús, S. Štefaňáková, A. Záborská, V. Žilínek
Participating Organisations	Slovak Medical Association; Faculty of Medicine, Comenius University, Bratislava; Slovak Medical University, Bratislava
Congress Secretariat	FEAMC 2004 Attn.: Dr. J. Glasá SZU, Limbová 12, 83303 Bratislava, Slovak Republic tel. (+421-2)59 36 94 72, fax. (+421-2)59369.506 e-mail: secretary@feamc2004.info web-page: www.feamc2004.info
Accommodation & Hospitality	EMILY TOURS T.A. Attn.: Mrs. E. Chovancová Bardejovská 16, 83102 Bratislava, Slovak Republic tel./fax.: (++421-2)44 25 86 17 e-mail: emilytours@napri.sk

WELCOME

Dear Sisters and Brothers, Dear Colleagues,

on behalf of the Board of FEAMC, and on behalf of the international and local organising teams, I am pleased and honoured to welcome you cordially to the jubilee 10th Congress of FEAMC.

The challenges of contemporary confrontations between the ‚Culture of Life‘ and ‚Culture of Death‘ (*Evangelium vitae*, 28) are faced nowadays by individuals, families, communities, states, and many distinguished international organisations in Europe, and all over the World. Nowadays, a particular field of this struggle lies within contemporary medicine and health care. The Catholic Church, faithful to Her mission and service to all peoples, has been paying a deep and continuous attention to these pressing issues 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 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 and the catholic physicians 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.

We hope and pray for a high quality, stimulative, thought-provoking and perspectives-presenting congress. It should offer abundant possibilities of informal discussions, sharing of personal opinion and experience, as well as for contact building and networking of experts and all people of good will engaged in medicine, health care, bioethics and biopolitics in Europe and beyond.

The meeting in Bratislava, the ‚Beautiful city on Danube‘ (Istropolis), should help us all to find and understand better the ‚signs of our times‘ and ‚lights of hope‘ for the years, and possibly decades to come.

Prof. Josef Marek, M.D., DSc.
President of FEAMC

Prague, June 2004

FINAL PROGRAM OVERVIEW

June 30 – Wednesday

16:00-20:00 Registration (Centre „Quo vadis“, Hurbanovo square 1)

July 1 – Thursday

07:30-18:00 Registration (Centre „Quo vadis“, Hurbanovo square 1)
09:00-13:00 **Symposia & Workshops** (MF CU, SMU)
18:00-19:00 Holy Mass (St. Martin's Cathedral)
19:10-20:00 Opening Ceremony

July 2 – Friday

07:30-17:00 Registration (Congress Centre „SÚZA“, Drotárska st. 46)
08:00-09:00 Holy Mass
09:00-09:20 Opening Addresses
General Session 1 - Challenges of Human Genetics
11:15-11:45 Coffee break
General Session 2 - Medicine and Human Reproduction
13:45-15:00 Lunch
General Session 3 - Rights of the Child and Pediatric Medicine
17:00-18:00 FEAMC General Assembly
17:30 Buffet Supper
20:00 Concert (Jesuits' Church, Františkánske square 4)

July 3 – Saturday

08:00-09:00 Holy Mass (Congress Centre „SÚZA“, Drotárska st. 46)
General Session 4 - Justice in Medicine and Health Care
11:00-11:30 Coffee break
General Session 5 - Challenges in Contemporary Psychiatry
13:30-15:00 Lunch
General Session 6 - Palliative and Terminal Care
19:30 Reception (Slovak National Council House, Župné square 12)

July 4 – Sunday

09:00-10:30 Holy Mass (St. Martin's Cathedral)
General Session 7 - Perspectives for the Future
12:45 Closing of the Congress

12:05-12:25	Metody asistované reprodukce a jejich etické problémy [Methods of Assisted Reproduction and their Ethical Problems] <i>P. Hach (Prague, Czech Republic)</i>	
12:25-12:45	The Recent Italian Law on Medically Assissted Reproduction: Ethical Considerations <i>R. Pegoraro (Padova; Italy)</i>	
12:45-13:05	La morale chrétienne et les progres scientifiques dans la reproduction (Christian Morality and the Scientific Progress in Human Reproduction) <i>G. Verstraeten (Ghent, Belgium)</i>	
13:05-13:20	Consciencious Objection in Medical Practice <i>V. Kirkels (Oss, Netherlands)</i>	
13:20-13:35	Catholic Gynaecologists in Secular Health Care <i>R. Ehmann (Stans, Switzerland)</i>	
13:35-13:45	Doctor's Role in Protection of Dignity and Human Life in Poland <i>M. Kosmicki, J. Mazan (Warszaw, Poland)</i>	
13:45-14:00	Discussion	
14:00-15:00	Lunch	
15:00 – 17:15	General Session 3 Rights of the Child and Paediatric Medicine Chairpersons: <i>F. Gontard (Paris, France), B. Streza (Bucharest, Romania), P. Deschepper (Waasmunster, Belgium)</i> Droits de l'enfant a respecter pour faire des adultes demain (Respect the Rights of Children to Make up Adults Tomorrow) <i>M. Basquin (Paris, Verrières Le Buisson, France)</i> I diritti dei bambini – Norme fondamentali di bioetica (Les droits des enfants: Principes de bioéthique / Rights of the Child: Principles of Bioethics) <i>A. Leocata (Catania, Italy)</i> Droits de l'enfant a l'hôpital (Rights of the child in the hospital) <i>M. Voisin (Montpellier, France)</i> La jeunesse au seuil du 3eme millénaire (The Youth at the Turn of the 3rd Millennium) <i>I. Steger (Budapest, Hungary)</i> Úmluva o právech dítěte v pediatrické praxi (Convention on the Rights of A Child in Paediatric Practice) <i>F. Schneiber (Prague, Czech Republic)</i> Paediatric Care in Croatia – Current Problems and Perspectives <i>Z. Zakanj (Velika Gorica, Croatia)</i> L'enfant handicapé a-t-il des droits spécifiques? (Specific Rights for the Handicapped Child?) <i>N. Basquin (Paris, Verrières Le Buisson, France)</i> Discussion	
16:30-16:40	FEAMC General Assembly (country delegates)	
16:40-16:55	Buffet Supper	
16:55-17:15		
17:00-18:00		
17:30		
20:00	Concert	(Jesuits' Church, Františkánske square 4)

July 3 – Saturday

08:00 – 09:00	Holy Mass	(Congress Centre „SÚZA“, Drotárska st. 46)
09:00 – 11:00	General Session 4	
	Justice in Medicine and Health Care	
	Chairpersons: <i>A. Anzani (Italy), E. Prat (Vienna, Austria), A. Laureano Santos (Lisboa, Portugal)</i>	
09:00-09:20	Solidarity, Subsidiarity, Charity: Political Impact <i>A. De Franciscis (Rome, Italy)</i>	
09:20-09:40	Population Greying, Medicine, Economy and Medicalization <i>C. Vergani (Milan, Italy)</i>	
09:40-10:00	Preventive und Lifestyle Medizin (Preventive and Lifestyle Medicine) <i>O. Jahn (Vienna, Austria)</i>	
10:00-10:15	The Heatwave in France (August 2003): Human and Medical Aspects <i>P. Deblois, F. Blin (Paris, France)</i>	
10:15-10:25	Moral and Health Care Problems: Catholic Physicians in Contemporary Lithuania <i>L. L. Mačiunas, I. Aleksiuniene, J. Mačiunaité, I. Mačiuniene, V. Šimelioniene (Vilnius, Lithuania)</i>	
10:25-10:35	Being a Helpful Doctor – Spirituality of a Practicing Physician <i>H. Stevens (Arnhem, The Netherlands)</i>	
10:35-11:00	Discussion	
11:00-11:30	Coffee break	
11:30 – 13:30	General Session 5	
	Challenges in Contemporary Psychiatry	
	Chairpersons: <i>E. Pavesi (Altdorf, Switzerland), J. M. Simon Castellvi (Barcelona, Spain), A. Rakús (Slovakia)</i>	
11:30-11:50	L'importance de la connaissance des maladies spirituelles pour l'élaboration d'une psychothérapie chrétienne <i>J. C. Larchet (Spicher-en, France)</i>	
11:50-12:10	The Notion of 'Soul' and the Conception of Ourselves <i>E. Runggaldier SJ (Innsbruck, Austria)</i>	
12:10-12:30	The Existential Analysis and the Importance of the Search for Meaning for Therapy of Psychiatric Disorders <i>F. X. Buqueras-Bach (Catalonia, Spain)</i>	
12:30-12:45	Drugs, Psychiatry and Adolescents – Ethical Aspects <i>E. M. M. van Alphen (The Hague, The Netherlands)</i>	
12:45-13:00	Contemporary Challenges for a Christian Psychiatrist <i>A. Rakús (Bratislava, Slovakia)</i>	
13:00-13:30	Discussion	
13:30-15:00	Lunch	

15:00 – 17:15	General Session 6	
	Palliative and Terminal Care	
	Chairpersons: <i>H. Stevens (NL), R. Giertler (Erfurt, Germany), L. Scheidová (Bratislava, Slovakia)</i>	
15:00-15:20	Health Care and the Elderly: Social, Medical and Ethical Problems <i>Ch. Ding-Greiner (Heidelberg, Germany)</i>	
15:20-15:40	Attitude to Euthanasia in the (Post) Modern Society: A Theological, Philosophical and Ethical Challenge <i>E. Schockenhoff (Freiburg i. Br., Germany)</i>	
15:40-16:00	Protection of Human Dignity and Human Rights within the Council of Europe <i>G. Virt (Vienna, Austria)</i>	
16:00-16:15	Modelle der Palliativmedizin (Models of Palliative Medicine) <i>M. Stoll (Vienna, Austria)</i>	
16:15-16:30	Ethical Aspects in Palliative Care <i>R. Giertler (Erfurt, Germany)</i>	
16:30-16:45	Dignity of the Elderly Patient - Increasingly Important Challenge for the Health Care Professional <i>Š. Krajčík (Bratislava, Slovakia)</i>	
16:45-17:15	Discussion	
19:30	Reception	(Slovak National Council House, Župné square 12)

July 4 – Sunday

09:00-10:30	Holy Mass	(St. Martin's Cathedral)
10:30-11:00	Break	
11:00-12:45	General Session 7 Perspectives for the Future	
	Chairpersons: <i>Em. J. Cardinal Lozano Barragán, G.-L. Gigli, J. Marek</i>	
11:00-11:20	Future Challenges for Christian Doctors and Health Care Professionals in Europe <i>J. Marek (Prague, Czech Republic)</i>	
11:20-11:40	Klugheit und Maß in der Medizin der Zukunft: Plädoyer für die Entmedikalisierung des Lebens <i>J. Bonelli (Vienna, Austria)</i>	
11:40-12:00	Bioethics and Biopolitics: Challenges for Doctors, the Church and European Societies <i>A. Neuwirth (Bojnice, Slovak Republic)</i>	
12:00-12:20	To Start with Medicine: Bringing Good News to Europe <i>G.-L. Gigli (Udine, Italy)</i>	
12:20-12:30	Approval of <i>The Bratislava Declaration of FEAMC</i>	
12:30-12:45	Concluding Remarks <i>Em. J. Cardinal Lozano Barragán</i>	
12:45	Closing of the Congress	

- Morfín v paliatívnej liečbe dušnosti
P. Beržinec (Nitra, Slovenská republika)
- Pediatrická paliatívna starostlivosť na Slovensku – Súčasná situácia a perspektívy (Pediatric Palliative Care in Slovakia – Present Situation and Challenges)
M. Jasenková (Bratislava, Slovenská republika)
- Stop eutanázii
Š. Grenda (Poprad, Slovenská republika)

W1 Primary Health Care English

Moderators: *J. Murín, J. Bulas*

- Metabolic Syndrome – The Global Threat
J. Murín, J. Bulas (Bratislava, Slovak Republic)
- Characterization of Primary Health Care Problems of Kaunas Population
R. Zuiraitiene, E. Stalioraite, D. Pangonyte, J. Palubinskiene, D. Kazlauskaite (Kaunas; Lithuania)
- Category and Duration of Diseases in Patients' Assessments of Primary Health Care Service
D. Kazlauskaite, D. Pangonyte, J. Palubinskiene, R. Zuiraitiene, Z. Stanioniene, E. Stankeviciene (Kaunas; Lithuania)
- Doctors, Alcoholism, and Alcoholic Doctors
J. Palubinskiene, M. Palubinskas (Kaunas; Lithuania)
- Health Improvement Service in the Kiev Catholic Church
V. Martyn, V. Zinko, M. Zhyla, M. Synenka (Lviv; Ukraine)

W2 Ethical Aspects of Smoking German

Moderator: *E. Prat de la Riba, M. Babál*

- Tabakrauchen aus kulturethischer Sicht
E. Prat de la Riba (Vienna, Austria)
- Evidence of Disease Caused by Smoking Cigarettes
F. Kummer (Vienna, Austria)

W3 Persistent Vegetative State and Palliative Care French

Moderator: *F. Blin*

- Persistent Vegetative State – Current Medical and Ethical Aspects
F. Blin (Paris, France)
- Foregoing Life Sustaining Treatments
S. Grosbuis (Paris, France)
- Palliative Care
E. Mathieu-Riedel (Paris, France)

S3 Psychiatry and Clinical Psychology

Slovensky/English (simultaneous translation)

Moderators: A. Rakús, M. Glasová

- Preventing Manipulation to Promote Health and Life
(Predchádzanie manipulácií aby sa podporovalo zdravie a život)
A. L. Santos, A. Gameiro (Lisboa, Portugal)
- Between Self-Actualisation and Self-denial – Counselling and Psychotherapy from Christian Perspective (Medzi seba -aktualizáciou a seba – popieraním: poradenstvo a psychoterapia z kresťanskej perspektívy)
P. Szczukiewicz (Lublin, Poland)
- Psychoterapie z pohľedu katolické lékařky
(Psychotherapy from the Point of View of a Catholic Physician)
I. Burdová (Brno, Česká republika)
- Existential Factors in Health and Illness (Existenciálne faktory v zdraví a v chorobe)
J. Stempelová, A. Čmáriková (Trnava, Slovak Republic)
- Filial Therapy: Child and Family Compatible Approach
(Filiálna terapia: prístup rešpektujúci dieťa a rodinu)
M. Glasová, W. Nordling (Bratislava, Slovak Republic; Arlington, VA, USA)
- Glossolalia
E. Koic, S. Nad, I. Celic (Virovitica – Zagreb, Croatia)
- The Illusion of Free Will? Neuroethical and Neurotheological Reflections on Determinism
(Illúzia slobodnej vôle? Neuroetické a neuroteologické úvahy o determinizme)
P. Jedlička, Z. Jedličková (Frankfurt/Main, Bratislava; Germany, Slovak Republic)

W4 Legal and Moral Issues in Gynaecology

English

Moderators: R. Pegoraro, P.-Kr. Hodzic

- Italian Law on Assisted Procreation
R. Pegoraro (Padova, Italy)
- Legal Aspects of Human Assisted Reproduction: Lithuanian Case
J. Juskevicius (Vilnius; Lithuania)
- Medical, Legal and Moral Aspects of Sex Reassignment in Case of Transsexualism: Lithuania Case A. Narbekovas (Vilnius, Lithuania)
- Fear and Hormonal Orchestration in Childbirth – the Christian Solution
P.-Kr. Hodzic (Zagreb, Croatia)

W5 Sexual Education

English

Moderators: M. Čuk, A. Širinskiene

- Rethinking Sexual Education
M. Čuk, I. Celic, Ž. Šubaric (Zagreb; Croatia)
- HIV Prevention through „Safer Sex“: The Effectiveness and Real Results
A. Širinskiene (Kaunas, Lithuania)
- The Role of Catholic Physicians in AIDS Pandemia
R. C. Bullecer (Cebu City, Philippines)

W6 Prirodzená regulácia počatia (Natural Family Planning)

Slovensky/Česky

Moderators: K. Šípr, K. Glasová

- Dimenzie zodpovedného rodičovstva (Dimensions of Responsible Parenthood)
R. Balak (Trnava, Slovenská republika)
- Billingsova metóda na Slovensku (The Billing's Method in Slovakia)
Z. Lauková, P. Lauko (Poprad, Slovenská republika)
- Ako funguje prirodzená regulácia počatia v porovnaní s inými metódami
(How does Natural Family Planning Perform in Comparison to Other Methods)
K. Šípr, H. Šiprová (Brno, Česká republika)
- Ľudský rod je ohrozený už od počatia
(The Human Race in Threatened from the Conception)
P. Kotouček, M. Kotoučková (Bratislava, Slovenská republika)
- Od potratu k antikoncepcii – „Anti-life mentalita“
J. M. Košč (Bratislava, Slovenská republika)

W7 Stemm Cell Research and Human Cloning

English

Moderators: L. Kenner, C. Hutter

- Introduction – Adult and Embryonic Human Stem Cells
L. Kenner (Vienna, Austria)
- Human Stemm Cell Research M.-L. Labat (Maisons – Alfort, France)
- Human Cloning – View from the Lab C. Hutter (Vienna, Austria)
- Therapeutic and Reproductive Cloning: Much Objectionable Procedures
W. Eijk (Groningen, The Netherlands)

W8 Embryológia (Embryology)

Slovensky/Česky/English

Moderators: J. Foltinová, V. Pospišilová

- Embryology, Physics and Environment
J. Foltinová, V. Foltin, M. Morovová (Bratislava, Slovenská republika)
- Knowledge of Embryology as a Key for Education in Bioethics
J. Kočová, V. Pospišilová, Z. Tonar, J. Slípkova (Plzeň, Česká republika; Bratislava, SR)
- Staging of Human Embryos and Fetuses Related to Development of Urinary System
J. Kočová, Z. Tonar, V. Pospišilová (Plzeň, Česká republika; Bratislava, SR)

Note. Due to the request of participants W8 will take place after W7 (at the same hall or 'next-door').

W9 Teaching of Medical Ethics

English

Moderator: M. Mojzešová

- How to Teach Medical Ethics?
Ž. Znidarčič (Zagreb, Croatia)
- Teaching of Medical Ethics at the Faculty of Medicine of the Comenius University in Bratislava
M. Mojzešová, V. Ozorovský (Bratislava, Slovak Republic)
- Teaching of Medical Ethics in Postgraduate Education Settings
J. Glasa (Bratislava, Slovak Republic)
- Teaching of Ethics to Helping Professions
E. Grey (Bratislava – Trnava, Slovak Republic)

POSTERS

Congress Centre SÚZA, Drotárska 46, July 2 – 3, 2004

1. The First Hospital in Bratislava at the Turn of the First Millenium
K. Bošmanský (Bratislava, Slovak Republic)
2. Ľudské telo – teologická reflexia v kontexte rešpektovania života
R. Balak (Trnava, Slovenská republika)
3. Úloha dospelých dětí v péči o stará nemocné rodiče:
Konfrontace křesťanských zásad se současnou skutečností
V. Drápal (Kroměříž, Česká republika)
4. Zdravotnícky, etický, sociálny a právny dosah vrodených chýb
I. Gulášová (Bratislava, Slovenská republika)
5. Psychologický prístup k umierajúcemu pacientovi
I. Gulášová (Bratislava, Slovenská republika)
6. Terminálna ošetrovateľská starostlivosť o onkologických pacientov
I. Gulášová (Bratislava, Slovenská republika)
7. Etické aspekty komunikácie vo vzťahu pacient – sestra
I. Gulášová (Bratislava, Slovenská republika)
8. Natural Family Planning in Lithuania
B. Obeleniene, V. Rudzinskas, A. Naberkovas (Kaunas, Lithuania)
9. Ontological Status of Human Embryo in Patrology
A. Katolo (Rende, Italy)
10. Bude liečba kmeňovými bunkami bez etických problémov?
Š. Kopecký (Trnava, Slovenská republika)
11. Surgeon and Anaesthesiologist Responsibilities in Operating Room:
The Dilemma of Ethics
S. R. Mousavi (Tehran, Iran)
12. Ethical Considerations Related to Organ Transplantation
S. R. Mousavi (Tehran, Iran)
13. Je podávanie antibiotík v gravidite spojené s poškodením plodu?
*J. Fargašová, M. Mrázová, M. Kačmariková,
V. Krčmér (Košice, Bratislava, Trnava; Slovenská republika)*
14. Religious Delusion and Psychotic Disorder:
Results of 3 Years Survey at „Acute Men Ward“
P. Šutiaková, R. Žirkó (Hronovce, Slovak Republic)
15. Children's Spiritual Dimension and the Moral Development
I. Schusterová (Trnava, Slovak Republic)
16. Jak se vyrovnat s úmrtím nenarozeného dítěte
(kazuistické sdělení a pohled psychiatra)
I. Burdová (Brno, Česká republika)
17. Etické rozmyry rozhodovacích procesov v liekovej politike
D. Tomek (Bratislava, Slovenská republika)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Venue	Bratislava, Slovak Republic: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• July 1: Symposia & Workshops: at the premises of Faculty of Medicine CU, Sasinkova 2 – 4, or of the Slovak Medical University, Limbová 12 – 14 (see the program for details),• July 1: Opening Holy Mass & Ceremony: St. Martin's Cathedral,• July 2 – 3: Congress Centre „SÚZA“, Drotárska 46,• July 4: Closing Holy Mass, General Session 7 & Closing Ceremony: St. Martin's Cathedral
Official Languages	English, French, German, Italian, Slovak/Czech (simultaneous translation will be provided for General Sessions and Symposium 3).
Scientific Program	General Sessions (invited and free oral papers), Poster Session, Symposia & Workshops
Poster Session	Posters will be exhibited on July 2 – 3, 8:30–17:00 at the Congress Center „SÚZA“. Authors are kindly requested to be in attendance at their posters during the coffee breaks.
Spiritual Program	Holy Mass will be celebrated daily for the congress participants at the congress venue: St. Martin's Cathedral (July 1 and 4), Congress Centre „SÚZA“ (July 2 and 3).
Social Program	Evening social program is organised for the congress participants and accompanying persons. Timing and locations see in the Program Overview. Please, wear your congress name badge and show the invitation tickets to the organisers at addmission.
Meals	Light lunches, refreshments and dinners will be served on Friday and Saturday at the congress venue for all participants and accompanying persons. Thursday and Sunday – individual boarding. Excellent availability of restaurants, pubs,咖啡厅, etc. in the city centre.
Program for Accompanying Persons	Accompanying persons are invited to all spiritual and social events, as well as refreshments and meals served during the congress (registration and wearing of the congress name badge necessary). Possibility to join attractive excursion programs offered by Emily Tours T.A. in Bratislava and its surroundings. Availability depends upon the minimum number of persons registering for the particular tour. Details at the T.A.'s office at the Congress Registration Desk.
St. Luke Award	Limited number of supporting grants for participation of persons from CEE countries (non-member countries of EU) has been made available to cover the congress fee and local expenses (accommodation & meals).

Exhibition	Exhibition of literature, charities and other organisations on July 2 – 3, at the Congress Center „SÚZA“.
Local Transport	Bratislava has a well-developed, rather low-priced local transport system (buses, trams, trolleybuses). Excellent availability of taxis at reasonable prices.
Clothing	Informal for most occasions.
Banking	Name of the currency used in the Slovak Republic is the Slovak Crown (in Slovak – „Slovenská koruna“ (SKK)). Exchange offices are widely available in the city centre, railway/bus terminal, and in major hotels. The rates offered are very similar (slightly lower in hotels). It is neither necessary, nor recommended to change money in the streets. Emily Tours T.A. will provide basic banking services and advice at the congress registration desk. All major credit cards are accepted in most hotels and in many shops and hypermarket stores.
Travel & Tourist Services	Emily Tours T.A. will operate the Travel and Tourist Services Desk during at the Congress Registration Desk to provide any tourist or travel services and information you may require, as well as to book the additional tours, excursions and accommodation.
Book of Proceedings	The papers delivered within the Congress General Sessions, Symposia & Workshops will be included in the Book of Proceedings, which will be published <i>after</i> the congress.
Congress Web Page	Please, visit the congress web page at www.feamc2004.info for all updated congress information.

PRAYER OF THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR

Lord Jesus,

Divine Physician, who in your earthly life showed special concern for those who suffer and entrusted to your disciples the ministry of healing, make us ever ready to alleviate the trials of our brethren. Make each one of us, aware of the great mission that is entrusted to him, strive always to be, in the performance of daily service, an instrument of your merciful love. Enlighten our minds, guide our hands, make our hearts diligent and compassionate. Ensure that in every patient we know how to discern the features of your divine Face.

You who are the *Way*, provide us with the gift of knowing how to imitate you every day as medical doctors not only of the body but of the whole person, helping those who are sick to tread with trust their own earthly path until the moment of their encounter with You.

You who are the *Truth*, provide us with the gift of wisdom and science in order to penetrate the mystery of the human person and their transcendent destiny as we draw near to them in order to discover the causes of their maladies and find suitable remedies.

You who are the *Life*, provide us with the gift of preaching and bearing witness to the 'Gospel of life' in our profession, committing ourselves to defending it always, from conception to its natural end, and to respect the dignity of every human being, and especially the dignity of the weakest and the most in need.

Make us O Lord, *Good Samaritans*, ready to welcome, treat, and console those we encounter in our work. Following the example of the holy medical doctors who have preceded us, help us to offer our generous contribution to the constant renewal of health care structures.

Bless our studies and our profession, enlighten our research and our teaching. Lastly, grant to us, having constantly loved and served You in our suffering brethren, that at the end of our earthly pilgrimage we may contemplate your glorious countenance and experience the joy of the encounter with You in your Kingdom of joy and everlasting peace.

Amen.

The Vatican, 29 June 2000

John Paul II.