



# ICON

INTERNATIONAL  
CATHOLIC  
ORGANIZATIONS  
NETWORK

## BOARD of DIRECTORS

### CHAIRPERSON

MICHAEL J. LASKY, OFM Conv.  
Franciscans International

### VICE-CHAIRPERSON

EMEKA XRS OBIEZU, OSA  
Augustinians International

### TREASURER

MARGARET MAYCE, OP  
Dominican Leadership Conference

### SECRETARY

MARY BECCHI  
Catholic Medical Mission Board

## DIRECTORS

ELIZABETH BEGLEY  
Pax Christi International

JOSEPH CORNELIUS DONNELLY  
CARTAS Internationalis

JOE HOLLAND  
Pax Romana CMICA-USA

DANIEL LeBLANC, OMI  
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

DR. MARY E. NORTON  
Felician College

18 July 2012

Dear ICON Member,

Since 1946 the International Catholic Organization (Network) has served the Catholic community of organizations at the United Nations. Inspired by the Gospel and the social teachings of the Church, our organizations play a significant role at the United Nations advocating for justice, peace, and the safeguarding of creation.

Many of you will recall how over the past several years we have wrestled with issues regarding the viability and relevance of the ICO (later ICON). Certainly, in the recent past, discussion of the *Center's* sustainability consistently had a place at the top of the agenda.

The Members meeting on March 27, 2012, and the follow-up message that was sent to you clearly outlined the current situation of ICON. These exchanges led to the realization that the reality of Catholic NGOs and the international community in the twenty-first century has changed significantly. Due to such positive and meaningful engagement of Catholic NGOs at the UN, we have concluded that ICO(N) has achieved the purpose and vision for which it was founded so many years ago.

With this insight in mind, the ICO(N) Board of Directors met on June 27, 2012 for additional discussion. At that time the Board determined that ICON is no longer necessary for the purpose of assisting Catholic organizations at the UN in fulfilling the call of Gaudium et Spes (90) to "*contribute in many ways to the building up of a peaceful and fraternal community of nations.*" As a result we voted that ICO(N) will cease operations as of July 31, 2012.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to personally thank you for your support of our collective mission throughout the years. We trust that you will understand that this action has come about because of our firm belief that Catholic NGOs today are well placed within the UN system and have long demonstrated the professionalism, strength, and willingness for collaboration and dialogue as we work for a more just and peaceful world.

In the days ahead, may we all find a moment to give thanks for the people and organizations who have been a part of the fruitfulness of ICO(N) over the last eight decades.

Peace and Goodness,



Michael Lasky, OFM Conv.  
Chair

International Catholic Organizations Network

246 E. 46th St., Ste. 1F, New York, NY 10017

Tel. (212) 490-4625 ■ Fax (212) 490-4626 ■ Email [ico\\_center@yahoo.com](mailto:ico_center@yahoo.com)

[www.icocenter.org](http://www.icocenter.org)