

**Members of the Association  
CRESCENDO Worldwide Network**  
“For a human and Christian Aging”  
January 2020

International Ascent Life (VMI)

International Association of Charities (AIC)

International Catholic Committee of Nurses and  
Medical-Social Assistants (CICIAMS)

International Federation of Catholic Medical  
Associations (FIAMC)

International Movement of the Apostolate of  
Independent Social Networks (MIAMSI)

International Religious Congregation of the Little  
Sisters of the Poor

*“According to God’s design, each human being is a growing  
life from the first sparkle of his existence until his last  
breath.”*

*John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation Christifideles laici, n° 48*

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CRESCENDO Worldwide Network” Association**

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## HISTORICAL

**The Association Crescendo Worldwide Network for Christian and Human Aging**” was founded in Paris on July 9 2001. Crescendo arose from the inspiration of the Little Sisters of the Poor and the working group “Third Age” of the Conference of International Catholic Organizations (COIC) **in order to do together what cannot be done alone.**

The name **Crescendo** expresses the image of a life in perpetual growth and development and claims to be the reflection of its mission.

## CRESCENDO: WHAT IS IT?

**Crescendo** is a coalition of organizations and international Catholic congregations of various disciplines, active in the area of elderly persons, each one maintaining its complete autonomy and its own charism.

**Crescendo**’s main concern is to favor a humanist approach by improving the image of the development of the aging person, the respect of her dignity and spiritual richness.

Through its action, **Crescendo** facilitates exchanges by **offering a platform between various partners concerned with aging**: UN programs and specialized agencies, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations professionals, experts, networks of elderly persons and the political world.

## VISION

**Crescendo** promotes and defends the sacred dignity of the person in all stages of his existence, without reducing it to a criterion of profitability or economical usefulness or utility;

**Crescendo** recognizes the growing importance of affective and spiritual values throughout life, particularly the Christian values of the family and inter-generational solidarity.

## MISSION

**Crescendo** works through, for, and with elderly persons in the emergence of a more human society for all ages;

**Crescendo** displays a positive image of aging, inspired by the biblical vision of the person;

**Crescendo** arouses the participation of elderly persons in civil and religious society life. These persons have an essential mission to play in front of society;

**Crescendo** acts, through his associations members at the international, national, and local level.

## GOALS

**Crescendo** works as a network;

**Crescendo** collaborates with partners working for ecumenical, humanitarian, and for human rights organizations;

**Crescendo** promotes a human and Christian aging;

**Crescendo** exchanges, informs, and forms.

## CRESCENDO Activities

**2002: Madrid: UN World Assembly on Aging.**

Participation in the NGO Forum: conferences and stand. Official message for the document adopted by the UN, stressing the urgency of promoting a more human vision of aging, integrating ethical and spiritual values.

**2003: First issue of the quarterly electronic bulletin** (French, English, Spanish, Italian)

**2004: Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe** 1<sup>st</sup> statement by Catholic INGOs members of Crescendo on the report of the *Social Affairs Commission* favorable to euthanasia. The report was postponed.

**2005: Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe** 2<sup>nd</sup> statement by Catholic INGOs : the Report is rejected **Bossey-Geneva; International Seminar “For a fully human and Christian aging”** organized in collaboration with the CIC of Geneva.

**2006: Vth World Meeting of Families (WMF) in Valencia (Spain):** Organization of a congress of the elderly persons integrated in the WMF and intervention during the theological-pastoral congress.

**2007:** Invitation in Rome to the 1<sup>o</sup> Forum of the INGO of catholic inspiration.

**2008:** Rome : Invitation to the **Pontifical Plenary Assembly for the Family**. Speech of the President.

**2009: VIth WMF (Mexico) : Speech**

**2010:** Invitation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum of the INGO of catholic inspiration, in Rome;

**2011:** Rome : Visit to the **Pontifical Council for Health**. Participation in the **Forum’s Group of Family Work**. **Strasbourg : invitation to the seminar of Catholic INGO**

**2012: VIth WMF** :Speech at the **theological-pastoral Congress (Milan)**

**2013 Launch of Crescendo’s new Web site.**

**2014 Geneva : Social Forum of the Human Rights Council (1 to 3 April)** Crescendo participated in the organization of the meeting. Theme : Rights of the elderly and best practices. **Paris : 15 May** : CCIC Conference : “Familie, Patrimoine mondial de l’Humanité ?

**2015 Rome : Pontifical Council for the Family (PCF) :** Invitation to the International Congress of Movements, groups and associations concerned with family and life issues.

**VIIIth World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia : (22 to 27 September)** Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Poor represented Crescendo

**2017 : Rome : Invitation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum INGO of Catholic inspiration**

**2018 : Participation in the World Meeting of Families in Dublin**

**Since 2010 :** Regular participation to the sessions of the Human Rights Council, the Social Forum, Ceremonies of 1<sup>st</sup> October (International Day of the Elderly)