



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Yvan Paradisi

Dear Friends,

A big thank you, first and foremost, for all your spiritual, moral and financial support. We need that support more than ever, as we look to the future, engaging with a fast-changing world that requires ever-more creative solutions in the field of communications training.

The effects of the Covid pandemic, and its related health restrictions, have affected all of us in our efforts to carry out our mission. But they have not reduced our optimism, or limited our plans, as we continue to go forward with confidence.

CREC confirms its commitment to the efficacy of face-to-face training, and is determined to remain faithful to this methodology, for as long as the situation allows. Our pedagogical approach is based on experiential learning, the human presence, and supporting local initiatives on the ground. At the same time, we do not rule out the possibility of offering limited online training, and consultation via videoconferencing.

The Covid pandemic highlighted the pastoral role played by Catholic communications (radio, television, websites, and social media) in accompanying people during the lockdown. As such, it also confirmed the importance of media training and, therefore, the role and contribution of CREC International. Thank you for believing in that role, and for supporting that contribution.

Let's keep working. Together.

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ACTIVITY REPORT 2020

*Clearly, the 2020 Activity Report cannot be compared with that of the previous year. In 2019, CREC offered 6 training courses worldwide, and 11 international workshops in 2018. However, before international flights were cancelled, we did complete **3 training courses in Africa** out of the 10 workshops originally planned for 2020.*

From 16 to 25 January 2020, CREC was in Togo, at the Major Interdiocesan Seminary of Philosophy Benedict XVI. Over 70 seminarians participated in the workshop. Fr Fabrizio Colombo and Charles Ayetan, together with two local communications experts, Edwige Mensah and Jacques Koffi, provided training on how better to engage with social media, conduct live streaming, and become an Influencer. Positive feedback from the participants confirms they are already applying what they learned: using social media to improve communications in their parishes, especially during lockdown.



From 10 to 20 February 2020, despite the extremely precarious security situation in the Central African Republic, CREC was in the capital, Bangui, at the Parish of Notre-Dame de Fatima. Fr Fabrizio Colombo, assisted by two media experts from Chad, Masbeye Renaud and Djedouboum Laotol Christian, trained 25 young people in story-telling techniques, and the production of professional videos and documentaries.



From 9 to 21 December 2020, CREC returned to the same parish in Bangui for a follow-up session focussing on music production, live video broadcasting, and business management. This time, Fr Fabrizio was accompanied by a musician from Chad, Djimrade Kamdoh, and two experts in video production and multimedia management from Cameroon, Yvan Dassie and Marcellin Djassi. With presidential elections underway, rebels forces were closing in on the capital and classes were held in rooms with walls riddled by bullet holes. Despite political and military tensions in the area, CREC hopes that, thanks to this training, the Fatima Martyrs' Center can become a fully professional multimedia production center, and an important point of reference.





COMING SOON AT CREC



PLANNED TRAINING SESSIONS

Approved training sessions for 2021 are currently on hold, as we wait for borders to reopen, and for the health situation to improve. Among those pending are communications and media workshops scheduled to be held in the following countries: **Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, South Sudan, Tanzania, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Uganda..**



The **CREC Campus** for media professionals, already scheduled for July 2021, in collaboration with the Catholic University of West Africa (UCAO- Abidjan), will take place as planned.

The CREC training session for journalists and radio professionals in Mauritius in 2019 contributed to the launch of Radio Nouzili on the island, in December 2020. A follow-up session is presently under consideration.

ONGOING PROJECTS



During the lockdown of 2020, CREC continued to work on improving both its internal and external communications:

- Revisiting and refreshing its overall design
- Working on an updated and more user-friendly website
- Consolidating its relations with other Catholic media professionals and organizations (Missio, Cameco, Signis...).

A NEW MEMBER



In 2020, CREC welcomed Charles Ayetan, from Togo, as its latest new member. Charles is a journalist and film critic. He is Editor-in-Chief of the Catholic publication, "Présence Chrétienne", and correspondent for "La Croix Africa" online media.

He also directs the CineMediaEducation program of Communication et Développement Intégral (CDI-Togo).