

## **ICASSI 1995 St Paul's Bay, Malta**

It was in 1991, when ICASSI was held in Ireland, that Brother Pius, a headmaster and a member of the Maltese Christian Brothers Community, first attended ICASSI.

He returned to Malta full of energy and will to spread the theory and practice of Individual Psychology in Malta. For many successive years Brother Pius attended ICASSI together with other local participants. He took many photos and had meetings day and night at each ICASSI. His dream was to bring ICASSI to Malta. He helped arrange mini-ICASSIs during the year, between ICASSI summer schools.

In Malta, Brother Pius approached the Ministry of Culture for help and support. With the help of this support he and the ICASSI Board invited Professor Frank Walton, Prof. Dr. Roy Kern, Prof. Dr. Oscar Christenson, and others to give workshops as mini-ICASSIs in Malta to prepare for the international summer school. The introduction of the theory and practice of Individual Psychology was gaining ground.

With all this ground work, the day of the first ICASSI in Malta approached. For the ICASSI management it was not easy initially to solve the financial problems because of the low incomes of the Maltese participants. In the end, however, the ICASSI board found ways to minimize the financial risk, and in the Summer of 1995, ICASSI was held in Malta. The organization was outstanding, resulting in many participants attending from more than 20 nations.

For the opening ceremony, the flags of each nation fluttered in the hall. Local musicians entertained the participants, and welcoming speeches given by representatives from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Brother Pius and his team were very successful in inviting more than 150 participants from Malta, including teachers, psychologists, priests, nuns, managers and social workers. Participants all over the world enjoyed the courses, swimming in the hotel pools in the early morning or in the sea.

A special excursion for the faculty was a boat trip to the neighboring island of Gozo, with a splendid lunch hosted by the manager of a large hotel, as generously arranged by Pius Gatt.

New at this ICASSI was the music therapy class given by Prof. Gessulat from Bremen, Germany. On the initiative and experience of Helmut Heuschen, another innovation took place in Malta. With Prof. Roy Kern, USA, he created the Management Institute, having worked hard to gain finances for this project. The idea for the Management Institute originated with suggestions that came from ICASSI participants in the Ottawa ICASSI the prior year.

Managers and leaders were attracted to the Management Institute workshops, and they were grateful for the opportunity to improve their human relationships skills, especially in their workplaces. Work roles, conflict resolutions, group dynamics and personality

variables were viewed within the Adler-Dreikurs framework.

This successful start encouraged the ICASSI board to organize many management institutes as part of the ICASSI summer school in successive years.

The Malta ICASSI was very successful. The participants could easily mix business with pleasure, enjoy the Mediterranean sea, the climate and food as well as the beautiful Mediterranean evenings well into the night. A host of activities and fireworks brought the Malta ICASSI to an unforgettable end and diverse people became a happy community enriched with courage and new deep friendship round the world.