

Rome, 23 June 2011

XL Incontro di Studiosi dell' Antichità Cristiana
AUGUSTINIANUM: 10-12 May 2012

Dear Friends,

After an interval of one year, due to building remodeling, we are ready to return to the normal rhythm of our annual incontri. The Augustinianum and the Organizing Committee (G. Caruso, F. Cocchini, A. Di Berardino, R. Dodaro, V. Grossi, M. Marin, A. Nazzaro, S. Pricoco, E. Prinziwalli, R. Ronzani) thank all who took part in the recent XXXIX Incontro di Studiosi dell' Antichità Cristiana.

Incontro XL will be held 10-12 May 2012 and will address the topic:

Lex et religio in Late Antiquity

The conference theme is taken from a phrase of Cicero (Pro Cluentio 58,159), that is being interpreted in a way which differs a bit from Cicero's intention, in order to adapt it to the changed political, social and religious conditions beginning with the fourth century. Orosius wrote at the beginning of the fifth century, "ubique patria, ubique lex et religio mea est" (5,2,2). One finds in this phrase a linguistic continuity with Cicero, coupled, however, with a semantic change of terms. In this case, *lex* takes on other meanings (e.g., *lex christiana*; *Christus legem dat*), as does *religio*. The same phenomenon occurs in religious legislation beginning with the fourth century, marked as it is by both continuity and change in relation to the ancient Roman traditions. According to these traditions, *leges* regulate the religious cult that provides the Roman identity of the *cives*. During *christiana tempora* imperial law does not 'divorce' itself from religion, which remains to some extent a part of *ius publicum*. As a consequence, legislative interventions in the religious sphere are assumed to be entirely justified. But *lex* concerns not only the question of *religio licita/illicita*, but also *religio vera* (*catholica/orthodoxa*), thus creating novel ties between Empire and Christianity, even while a new distinction arises between *imperium* and *sacerdotium*.

Scholars wishing to offer a communication (20 minutes) or a paper (25 minutes) should send the title together with a brief abstract no later than 30 November 2011 to the following address: Segreteria Incontri Augustinianum, Via Paolo VI, 25 – 00193 Roma / Italy - Fax +39.06.68006298; E-mail: incontri@patristicum.org. The Organizing Committee will meet early in January 2012 to evaluate proposals, and will communicate their decision as soon as possible thereafter.

The Organizing Committee of the
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