

Dr. Eric de Saventem R.I.P.

It is with a sense of the passing of an era that I received the following e-mail, on 28/04/05 from FIUV's President:

- "It is my sad duty to inform you that our Founding President and Président d' Honneur, Dr. Eric de Saventem, has been called this night into the Glory of God.

St Simeon was allowed to sing: "Nunc dimittis servum tuum secundum verbum tuum in pace". We may presume that our longtime President was dignified to receive now the merits now from God's hands. His memory will last forever, and the Lord will let shine His face over him!" (Ralf Siebenbürger)

Prior to this, on 27/04/05, Mr. Leo Darroch had reported: Dear Friends:

- "I have received an email from Sally Gray about Dr Eric de Saventem. She visited him last weekend in the nursing home and he is very ill. On Sunday he received Extreme Unction and absolution in the presence of his sister and other family members and a friend spent the night at his bedside.

He recognises Sally but he does not say much other than give very brief replies. He is very happy about our new Pope Benedict."

Una Voce International Is Formed

The first initiative to preserve the Latin heritage of the Church came not from a predominantly Catholic country but from a lady in Norway, a nation with one of Europe's smallest Catholic populations. In the summer of 1964, Dr Borghild Krane, an eminent psychologist in Oslo, sent out an appeal to concerned Catholics to group together in defence of the Church's liturgical heritage. As a result of that appeal a number of national associations came into being in 1964/65, starting with France, where, by a most happy inspiration, it was named UNA VOCE. The official date of its foundation is 19th December 1964. Dr Krane, our foundress, died upon 14 October 1997.

Realising the need for coordinating their efforts, delegates from six European associations met in Rome in early 1965 and agreed to create an appropriate

supra-national structure. This was the beginning of the FEDERATIO INTERNATIONALIS UNA VOCE (FIUV). It was formally erected in Zurich on January 8th, 1967, when delegates from by then twenty associations approved the draft statutes and elected the first Council. At that meeting Dr Eric de Saventem was unanimously elected as President. He was re-elected, again unanimously, at every subsequent General Assembly and would still be President today but for his decision to step down prematurely for personal reasons in January 1995. Michael Davies from Great Britain was elected to succeed him. (UVA)