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RELIGIOUS INFORMATION SERVICE
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SERVICIO DE INFORMACION RELIGIOSA



year 15
24 January 2003

n. 5 (1175)

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**Croatia:
Archbishop
Bozanic, "the
country's future
is in the EU"**

"Our application to join the European Union must not become a contest of political rivalry. It concerns the common good and our future, in particular the future of our children and young people". So said Archbishop Josip Bozanic of Zagreb, in an interview published in recent days by the Croat daily "Vecernji list" and disseminated by the Catholic press agency IKA. Croatia could enter the Union as early as 2007, together with Bulgaria and Romania, without having to wait for the other Balkan countries, as hitherto envisaged.

According to Bozanic, domestic political issues could influence Croatia's application to join Europe: "Good results depend mainly on ourselves, on our unity and on our common position. The best recommendations are unity and a clearly presentable common position", said the archbishop, pointing out that "at times one has the impression that something in Croatia is being exploited, including national interests". "In Croatia – he emphasized – there's an urgent need to define the general national good, which must be protected and supported by all the parliamentary parties and must not become a political football exploited for their own ends by individual leaders". In his view it seems that in Croatia there's still a lack of knowledge of what is being asked of the country and what are its tasks vis-à-vis Europe. "It may undoubtedly be concluded – says Bozanic – that the general attitude among people is widely pro-European. The alternative is being sidelined with the so-called western Balkans and left behind". Recently Archbishop Bozanic also met the president of the European Commission Romano Prodi, who said he was favourable to Croatia's application to enter the EU.

**Spain:
university
of mysticism
at Ávila**

Ávila, the city of St. Teresa and John of the Cross, will be the venue of the world's first ever university of mysticism. The new centre, scheduled to open in 2005, will confer degrees and doctorates in mysticism. "At the present time talks are being held with the competent authorities for the authorization of the university, the licence for its building work and the procedures for the recognition of its academic degrees", explains Discalced Carmelite Father Francisco Javier Sancho Fermín, director of the Centro Internacional Teresiano-Sanjuanista in Ávila. **The centre will promote study and research on the thought of the two great Castilian mystics, but will also be a point of reference for the study of mysticism in other religions.** "The ground plan of the new university will be star-shaped", says the director of the centre. It will be built next to the convent of the Incarnation, one of the Teresian monasteries of Ávila. A thousand students are expected to enroll in the university each year. Lectures will be in Spanish and English, with professors from all over the world and of various religious traditions. "The continuous expressions of interest that arrive from all over the world – and not only from Catholics – have convinced us of the need to offer academic degrees on this subject", explains Sancho Fermín. And he adds: "The number of people asking for courses of mysticism in the Castilian city is growing, and so too is the interest among Lutherans and Presbyterians, especially in the USA". For the time being the Centro Internacional Teresiano-Sanjuanista Centre (www.citesavila.org) is organizing a post-graduate programme on St. Theresa of the Child Jesus and St. John of the Cross. This year 60 have enrolled in the course, of whom 17 laypeople. In the summer it organizes, with the Catholic University of Ávila, a university course on literature and mysticism. The Centro Internacional de Estudios Místicos is also located in Avila; in collaboration with other institutions, it annually holds a conference on mysticism; the last was devoted to Hinduism.