

## WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF ROAD VICTIMS

November 18, 2007

*Press release sent by AIFVS to the Italian offices of international institutions*

The Associazione Italiana Familiari e Vittime della Strada, present all over Italy with 98 local centers, and member of the FEVR (NGO recognized by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and participating to their work on road safety; also member of the "Road Safety Collaboration Forum", founded in 2004 by WHO), announces that on the next 18 november, UN World Day for the remembrance of the road Victims, its efforts will be directed to give importance to the serious social problem of road carnage, for whose solution we can and must do more.

First of all, the victims will be remembered in the Holy Masses of the Catholic Church throughout the Country, thanks to an agreement with the Italian Bishops Conference, with a prayer for the victims inserted in the Sunday's liturgical leaflet; at the exit of many churches, some AIFVS documents will be distributed, and in particular a booklet to reflect on the conditions of the road victims.

On this recurrence, with the assistance of local institutions and citizenship, two monuments will be dedicated to the victims of the road: one in Boretto (Reggio Emilia) and the other in Cinisello Balsamo (Milan).

In Travagliato (near Brescia) and in Verona, the "Crosses demonstration" will take place: a silent protest that simulates the cemetery in a square to shake our conscience and urge the civil commitment to set an end to human sacrifices on the roads. In Conselve and Abano Terme (Padua), there will be events involving associations and schools, and a distribution of documents and gadgets about road safety and a final concert. In Maglie (Lecce) will be placed crashed cars in the main square.

Moreover, we asked to the Mayor of Rome, Walter Veltroni, the illumination of the Coliseum, to symbolically light a very serious social problem on which the spotlights can't be turned off until we find a solution. Even if, finally, lightening the Coliseum wasn't possible due to the technical reasons, our request was welcomed with great enthusiasm by Rome's Municipality, which granted that the Capitol (which is the Town's Hall), will be illuminated; in particular, three powerful light beams will be put in front of it, to testify that turning this light on is a duty for the institutions; pointing on the sky, those lights will remind the need of a global solidarity and create an ideal bridge with the rest of the world. The positive response to our request convinced us to extend the initiative all over Italy: so we wrote to the President of the ANCI (National Association Italian Municipalities) to illuminate a monument in every city. Many towns joined in our idea: among them, the city of Ferrara, whose most famous monument – the Este's Castle – will be lightened, and probably the city of Venice.

We also illustrated our project at the last FEVR General Assembly, held in Amsterdam on 3 and 4 November, in view of a possible extension of this initiative to the other European cities in the next future. On that occasion, we also had the chance to share some experiences with other Countries, and organized a video conference link, on November 18, with France and Mexico for an ideal "transfer of light" during that day.

In Rome, there will also be a procession at the Verano cemetery, to lay a flower at the tombs and participate at the Mass. In addition to it, there will be a great event of considerable involvement and social awareness: in via Villa Patrizi, games on road safety for children, an exhibition of drawings and photography award, and the launch of a competition for short films. On November 19 at 9 pm, the play "A night of a Saturday evening" will take place in the Teatro Tendastrisce (via Perlasca

69). The show is publicized in Rome with posters and distribution of 2000 balloons advertising in the center of Rome (the video is viewable on <http://it.youtube.com/>, typing in search box "a night of a Saturday evening").

Finally, also this year we asked to the highest political charges and to His Holiness Benedict XVI a message for the World Day of Remembrance.

The documents related to our initiatives are available on our website [www.vittimestrada.org](http://www.vittimestrada.org).

Dr. Giuseppa Cassaniti Mastrojeni  
President AIFVS  
090.710707; 340.8273214