



## JESUS COLINA

■ BY LUCY GORDAN

Sometimes the right man gets the prize. In this case, the right man is Jesus Colina-Diez, a 36-year-old Spaniard with a winning smile, a good-humored disposition and a work ethic which astonishes his journalistic colleagues at *Inside the Vatican* and around the world. For Colina, almost single-handedly, has “moved mountains” in the Catholic media world, creating a world-spanning internet news agency (*Zenit*) while, at the same time (and more importantly) calmly and lovingly raising, along with his charming French wife, Giselle, three small, energetic children (Yann, Miriam and Stefan, who recently fell and broke his arm) all the while “on deadline.” For his journalistic creativity and his exemplary witness as a husband and father, we are proud to include Jesus Colina among our “Top Ten” people of 2006.

The Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations was officially established on April 6, 1964. For 42 years, the Mission has played an active role in the advancement of peace and justice in the international community, serving as a vehicle for promoting the teachings of the Catholic Church. To extend its humanitarian and conciliatory activities beyond the strictly diplomatic parameters of the Mission to the UN, the Path to Peace Foundation (located at 25 East 39th Street, New York, New York 10016-0903, tel. 212-370-9614), was established in 1991 by then-Archbishop Renato R. Martino, the apostolic nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations. (Archbishop Celestino Migliore is the current president.) The Foundation works independently, but in collaboration with the Holy See Mission, to spread the message of peace by which the Catholic Church, through the words and activities of the Pope and the Holy See, strives to “guide our steps into the path of peace” (Luke 1:79).

Since 1994, the Foundation has bestowed a *Servitor Pacis* (“Servant of Peace”) Award. In 2006, “in recognition of his service to the Church in disseminating its teaching on peace and the dignity of the human person, and for covering the work of the Holy See at the UN,” the Servant of Peace Award was bestowed on Colina.

Born in Miranda de Ebro, Spain, not far from Burgos, Colina studied with the Legionaries of Christ in Mexico as a teenager, then in Rome, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy at the Pontifical Gregorian University, and in Madrid, earning a bachelor’s degree in communications from Complutense University.

Colina has worked in Rome as a journalist since 1991. He was the editor-in-chief of *Proyección Mundial*, a monthly Catholic magazine published in Mexico for Latin America, and an associate editor of *Catholic World Report (USA)*, and *Le Temps de l’Eglise* (France). Since 1994, he has been the Rome

correspondent for the Spanish weekly supplement *Alfa y Omega*, distributed by the Spanish daily newspaper, *ABC*. He also writes for other publications like *Avvenire* (the newspaper of the Italian bishops’ conference) and the *National Catholic Register* in the USA.

In 1997, Colina founded *Zenit*, an independent, non-profit internet news agency committed to spreading the Catholic Church’s message, especially the wealth of the Church’s social teaching. With 52 collaborators from 14 countries, *Zenit* is available in six languages and has 400,000 subscribers.

In 1998, he became responsible for the contents of the Digital Network of the Church in Latin America, a project of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications and the Latin American Bishops’ Council. He is also co-founder and co-director of *Periodismo-catolico.com*, the largest network of Catholic journalists in Spanish.

In mid-October at the first World Congress of Catholic TV worldwide (estimated at 2,000 stations) held for three days in Madrid, Spain, Colina presented a new television service called H2O News ([www.h2onews.org](http://www.h2onews.org)),

developed in cooperation with the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. He is one of H2O’s four founders.

In his presentation, Colina said that H2O, scheduled to start transmitting in the near future in cooperation with the Vatican Television Center, will offer Catholic television stations short video clips in various languages, and a news program in seven languages.

“Its name is the chemical formula of a vital element, water,” Colina said. “The news service is water for the user: renewing information which springs from the source of the Gospel and vivifies the receiver. Our motto is: ‘H2O News TV, Your Good News Source.’ H2O News emanates from Rome, the center of Catholicity and source of information for the life of millions of Catholics.” For more information about its founders, its mission, its editorial line, and how to subscribe, click on [www.h2onews.org](http://www.h2onews.org).

On November 26, the Holy Father appointed Colina one of the 19 new consultants of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. American appointees are Monsignor Owen F. Campion of the diocese of Nashville, director of *Our Sunday Visitor*; Carl Albert Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Order of the Knights of Columbus; and Anthony Spence, director of the Catholic News Service.

The last time we met Colina, just before Christmas in Rome, we had just enough time to talk about this profile and drink half a cup of coffee. Then Colina looked at his watch: “I have to go,” he said. “Giselle has been preparing today’s daily news report, and I promised I would be back to help her.” And, as good as his word, he got up, paid for the coffee, and went back to work. ●



Jesus Colina-Diez, a leader in Catholic media worldwide