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INVITATION AMI GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE

Apostolat Militaire International

AMI General Assembly 2012

**Commemoration: “Powerful past, powerful present,
challenging future”**

Corsendonk De Linde, Retie, Antwerp, Belgium

September 09 – 14, 2012

- **Invitation by the Secretary General**
- **Program**
- **General Information**
- **Registration**



To the
Catholic Military Bishops

May 2012

To the Members and Friends
of the Apostolat Militaire International (AMI)
by mail and e-mail

Your Eminence, Your Excellency, Most Reverend Military Bishop,
Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Members and Friends of AMI,

This year's General Assembly and Conference of the Apostolat Militaire
International (AMI) will be held in:

Hotel Corsendonk De Linde, Retie, Antwerp, Belgium
September 09 – 14, 2012

The AMI Conference and General Assembly will discuss under the overall topic of
AMI 2012 - 2014:

**The Christian Soldier in the Service of Just Peace. “To live
authentically according to the Word of God and to spread the
gospel”**

and the following subtopics:

Commemoration: “Powerful past, powerful present, challenging future”

- Commemoration of the war dead, past, present, future
- How to overcome fear and death on the battlefield by trusting in God our Hope
- Military ceremonies of the war dead

At the end of the conference we will vote on a joint AMI position regarding the
conference topics, if possible, and publish it subsequently.

You are free to send up to four delegates from your country or organisation to the
2012 AMI Conference. As in the previous years, we would be pleased to welcome
also your spouses/husbands/partners.

Please register using the enclosed registration form as soon as possible
(Not later than July 1, 2012) and mail it to the AMI Secretary General preferably
by E-mail: nellekeswinkels@onsbrabantnet.nl.

This early date for registration is absolutely necessary because of the arrangements our hosts have to make at the Hotel Corsendonk De Linde, Retie, Antwerp.

So please register in time, otherwise we cannot accommodate you during the conference!

Your Eminence, your Excellency, most reverend Military Bishop, it would be a particular honour for the AMI members to welcome you at this conference in person, be it only for a few days, and/or to welcome your Vicar General as well. Fostering the lay apostolate within the Armed Forces as well as strengthening the cooperation of military chaplains of all levels with the military catholic lay people is an important objective of AMI and of this conference.

Preparations for the conference

All delegations are kindly requested to prepare a paper for this conference with the latest developments in their countries in writing. We then can put it afterwards on the conference DVD. This exchange of information is of utmost importance in order to harmonise national activities and develop new initiatives.

It is not necessary to prepare and give the general assembly a presentation because of our very tight time schedule.

All reports/contributions should be prepared in English. The conference language in Belgium will be English.

Working Groups

Again there will be formed two working groups to discuss the conference topics. One working group in English and one in German on the same topic will be established.

The main goal is to sum up all the lectures and to find a common summary.

At the end of our General Assembly we can publish a minute with the results of the conference 2012.

Numerous delegations

I am looking forward to welcoming numerous delegations from among the member countries and the friends of the AMI as well as from countries that have not become members of our association so far.

Note: A kindly request to you all. Please send me by e-mail once again your current e-Mail address and post address to keep our database up to date.

E-Mail: nellekeswinkels@onsbrabantnet.nl

Best wishes - Yours in our Lord sincerely,

Nelleke Swinkels vd Vorst

Nelleke Swinkels- van de Vorst

AMI Secretary General



General Information for Participants

1. Conference topic

**The Christian Soldier in the Service of Just Peace.
“To live authentically according to the Word of God and to spread
the gospel”**

and the following subtopics:

Commemoration: “Powerful past, powerful present, challenging future”

- Commemoration of the war dead, past, present, future;
- How to overcome fear and death on the battlefield by trusting in God our Hope;
- Military ceremonies of the war dead.

2. Important addresses

- The **General Assembly** will take place in:

Corsendonk De Linde Kasteelstraat 67 2470 Retie, Belgium

Phone: +32 (0) 14 38 99 80 Fax : +32 (0) 14 39 02 60

E-Mail: info.delinde@corsendonkhotels.com

www.de-linde.be/en

- **The Point of Contact in the period before the Assembly is:**

Secretary General AMI

Nelleke Swinkels – van de Vorst

AMI Secretary General

Esdoornstraat 21

NL-5682 CM Best

Phone: 0031 – 6 5479 6857

Fax: 0031 – 499 37 4444

E-Mail: nellekeswinkels@onsbrabantnet.nl

- **The Point of Contact in Belgium is:**

Chaplain Annie Walscharts
Jules van Beylestraat 35
B-2140 Borgerhout, Belgium
Phone: 0032 – 478 94 06 50
E-Mail: anniewalscharts@hotmail.com

1. General information on the host nation Belgium

General information on the Kingdom of Belgium you can find on Wikipedia on the Internet.

2. Uniform and transportation

- Service dress with jacket is to be worn during the conference; an upgraded uniform version will be appropriate for the receptions. Casual civilian dress is to be worn during our cultural program.
- Civilians: informal dress during the conference: lounge suit with tie during ceremonies and visits.
- Ladies please choose clothing according to the dress code for gentlemen.
- You can take a plane to Berlin or come by car or train. You will be picked up at the airport or railway station, just let us know your travel arrangements.

3. Conference fees

The amount of **€ 400,00** per participant is to be paid at the Conference Secretariat upon arrival.

The conference fee will cover accommodation, meals, transfers, secretariat services etc. It does not cover personal expenses such as using the bar or the telephone. There will be no reduction in the conference fee in case of late arrival or early departure of the delegates since the fee covers the entire period between 09 September and 14 September 2012.

Should you wish to arrive earlier or depart later inform the Secretary General no later than 1 July 2011. In this case all additional costs will have to be paid directly at the Conference Secretariat by the persons/delegations concerned.

Concerning the **standing order (article XII) of the Apostolat Militaire International (AMI)** from each member organization **an annual contribution of 800 Euro.-(€)** has to be paid to the Secretary General.

I like to kindly remind you to pay the open invoice total of **€ 800,00** as soon as possible.

As you know, we are very busy to promote and support international understanding and cooperation as a contribution to strengthening the peace in the world, especially with making use of international meetings and events (congresses, international meetings and events (congresses, pilgrimages etc.), continuous exchange of ideas and experiences (documents, periodicals, etc.) and our representation on international bodies. Therefore we need a financial background to do our job and to act in the spirit of the conciliary decree on the lay apostolate.

The account number of AMI is:

- Rabobank Utrechtse Heuvelrug, Postbus 82, 3700 AB Zeist - NL
- Account No.: 1138.41.256
- IBAN: NL02 RABO 0113 8412 56
- BIC: RABONL2U
- Account Name: Apostolat Militaire International

4. Ladies programme

Our hosts from Belgium already plan a separate ladies programme. A detailed program will be available in Retie.

Of course accompanying spouses & partners are invited to participate in all conference activities.

5. Gifts

Gifts for the hosts or participants should not be taken into consideration with the exception of medals, emblems, etc.

6. Visa requirements

Make sure that you have the necessary visa as stipulated by bilateral regulations. If we can be of any help, please let us know. Our Belgium hosts will inform their embassies in the countries of our delegates so they will be informed.

Permission to wear uniform should be requested according to national regulations.

9. Any other business

- a. The **conference language** will be **English**.
- b. As already pointed out in the invitation, please prepare your contributions in English. Make sure that you have everything on compact disk or memory stick so that we can make copies and have the contributions also available for the minutes.
- c. **Register** using the enclosed form as soon as possible (**no later than July 1 2012**) and send it to the AMI Secretary General and to our hosts from Belgium preferably by e-mail.
nellekeswinkels@onsbrabantnet.nl and anniewalscharts@hotmail.com

11. To our Bishops, Vicars and Chaplains

A friendly request to our bishops, to bring their own alba and stole to the conference, as well as a white mitre. Vicars, priests and deacons please bring your own alba and stole.