

THE CHRISTIAN SOLDIER IN A SECULARIZED SOCIETY

Facts

1. There are differences between countries in the way religious matters are conducted within the armed forces.
2. The main differences is that in some European countries state and religion are formerly separated.
3. In secularized countries individualism is a way of life unlike other countries where people live as a community.
4. Spiritual guidance is only applicable in training schools but after training an individual can make his or her choice on methods of matters concerning religion.
5. In Europe religion is a private matter and it is illegal for the military to force a soldier to go to church. One can take you to court if you violate his rights by forcing him to do it.
6. Secularization has affected Europe to an extend that the believers are becoming a minority and the trend is creeping slowly into Africa.
7. Most soldiers with families stay outside the barracks.
8. There is deficiency of priests in Europe and the few who are available administer to many parishes.
9. Secularization has affected the administration of the Sacraments of the church.

10. Marriages are conducted in courts and the few Christians who marry in church must marry in courts first.
11. Many Catholics in Europe are traditional Catholics by birth.
12. AMI membership is diminishing because of lack of funding.

Conclusion

1. AMI is encouraged to strengthen Christian organizations in member countries.
2. AMI as an umbrella body can assist in strengthening of the lay organizations like:-

Community of catholic soldier
Catholic Men Association
Catholic Women Association
Couples For Christ
Marriage Encounter
Netherlands Catholic Home front (NKT) and others.

3. AMI to encourage the lay community to be an evangelization tool to other soldiers by their very existence.
4. AMI Should build a website to provide information in different languages.
5. AMI to support chaplaincy during missions abroad.
6. Secularization has reached Africa and AMI together with other organizations to control its negative effects.