



Best, December 2009

To the Catholic Military Bishops,

To the Members and Friends of the Apostolat Militaire International (AMI)

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) was held at the Bischöflichen Bildungshaus in St. Georgen am Längsee, Austria from 11 till 16 October 2009.

Attached you will find the summary of the Annual General Assembly and a press release regarding the topic of the Conference.

For documentation of this Annual General Assembly all topics, presentations and results of all working groups and also a collection of photos will be attached on the conference DVD, which I will send to each head of the delegation as soon as possible. For all delegates there is a copy available at the next conference in Berlin. You will find all documentation also at our website:

[www.apostolatmilitaireinternational.com](http://www.apostolatmilitaireinternational.com)

*Best wishes - Yours in our Lord sincerely*

Nelleke Swinkels – van de Vorst  
AMI Secretary General



## **Apostolat Militaire International (AMI)**

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AMI Secretary General  
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### **Summary of the „General Assembly and Conference 2009 at the Bischöflichen Bildungshaus in St. Georgen am Längsee, Austria**



**Bischöflichen Bildungshaus St Georgen am Längsee**



**AMI Delegates before the church at the “Khevenhüller-Kaserne” in Klagenfurt**

## **Annual General Assembly in St. Georgen am Längsee, Austria from 11. – 16. October**

The Annual General Assembly 2009 was conducted in the Austria. We kindly thank



our hosts from Austria for their shown exemplary hospitality and their excellent organization of our conference. Our special gratitude deserves + Mag. Christian Werner, Military Bishop of Austria.

During the whole time of preparation we enjoyed a very constructive, busy and fruitful cooperation between the organizing team of Austria and the AMI

Executive Committee. Our special gratitude has to go to LtCol Michael JEDLIČKA and MSgt Markus STROMBERGER , both are the initiators and pioneers of the project “AMI-General Assembly 2009 in Austria”.

At the same moment we also need to honour Mons. Dr. Werner FREISTETTER, Bishops’ Vicar and Ecclesiastical Assistant of AMI for a splendid preparation of the Liturgy and all other members of the Austria organizing team for their support.

The president of the Association of Catholic Soldiers (AKS), Genmaj Norbert SINN deserves our special gratitude. He established the preconditions to conduct our conference in Austria with a well organised performance and the necessary financial support with his organisation.



**Genmaj Norbert Sinn, president of AKS**



We also want to thank all the responsible representatives of the Austrian Armed Forces, especially the Chief of General Staff of the Austrian Armed Forces General Mag. Edmund ENTACHER.

**Mag. Edmund Entacher**

I am sure that I can speak in the name of all participants of our Annual General Assembly. I want to point out that we were deeply impressed and excited about the warm welcome, the special hospitality and organization and also the wonderful arrangement of the supporting programme of this conference. For documentation of this Annual General Assembly all topics, presentations and results of all working groups and also a collection of photos will be attached, as every year on the Conference DVD, which I will send to each head of the delegation as soon as possible. For all delegates there is a copy available at the next conference in Berlin. Soon you will find all documentation also at our website:

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### **Summary 2009**

For the summary of contents subsequent information has to be mentioned:

The Annual General Assembly 2009 was highlighted with:

**“The Christian soldier: servant of security and freedom of the peoples”**

and the following subtopic:

The need of intercultural competence in missions abroad;

- philosophical approach
- theological approach
- military approach

## **Presentations “The need of intercultural competence in missions abroad”**

The presentations were well prepared and carried out with enormous engagement by



Professor DDr Christian Stadler (philosophical approach)



Mgr. Werner Freistetter (theological approach)



and Brigadier Mag. Thomas Starlinger (military approach)

At the end of the conference two of the AMI delegates, Lt Col GS Ralf Wittkamp and Capt RNLN Frank Marcus made a summary regarding the conference topic. The conclusion of the AMI General Assembly that intercultural competence is a key factor of success in (military) missions abroad is written down in a press release. You will find it in the annex.

Our special gratitude has to go both to Ralf and Frank for their excellent job.



**Lt Col GS Ralf Wittkamp**



**Capt RNLN Frank Marcus**

### **Permanent Working Group**

Last year it was unanimously agreed to establish a new **“Permanent Working Group”** throughout the next 3 years. This Working Group will be chaired by our ecclesiastical assistant bishop’s curate Monsignor Dr. Werner FREISTETTER and will be tasked with following topic:

“The declaration of the AMI General Assembly on 15. November 2000 in Rome: The Catholic Soldier at the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium”.

- Review of the declaration of Rome
- The declaration of Rome- guidelines for the Christian Soldier

During the conference we established one working group in English and one in German discussing on the same topic.



**English Working Group**



**German Working Group**

In March 2010 members of the permanent working group will be together in Vienna to work further on the topic and to prepare papers for the next conference of AMI in Berlin, September 2010.

### **Preparations for the conference**

All delegations were kindly requested to prepare for this conference an presentation on the conference topic; “The need of intercultural competence in missions abroad, national approach”, in which, from their country’s point of view, they describe the current situation and existing problems and also suggest possible solutions and a brief summary in writing for the discussion and the minutes. This contributions has been a part of the discussions in the working groups.

Also to prepare a flipchart of the annual reports of the national organizations to make a little exhibition of all this information.

We asked the delegations to use the following structure for their contributions:

1. Very short information on the actual structure of the (lay) organisation;
2. Up to three important activities carried out during the report period to strengthen Christian values;
3. Up to three important activities planned for the forthcoming year
4. Problems that should be discussed within AMI forums and for which AMI might provide support;
5. Most important: What can we do to improve our lay activities within the Armed Forces and how can we advise and support others in their activities in this context?

The AMI Executive Committee thinks that this exchange of information is of utmost importance in order to harmonise national activities and develop new initiatives. All reports/contributions should be prepared in English, because the conference language will be English.



**Flipcharts**

### **Financial Report**

Our former SG, Michael Jedlicka gave us his last financial report of the year 2007/ 2008 on Wednesday and the Executive Committee was unanimously discharged by all eligible to vote delegates. Lt Col Michael JEDLIČKA (Austria) and Lt Col Andreas PREUSS (Germany) again volunteered to take the responsibility as auditors. All eligible to vote delegates have unanimously agreed for this personnel decision.

### **Conference 2010**

Germany will organize the upcoming AMI Annual General Assembly. It will take part in Berlin between 26 September and 1 October 2010.

Topics for our conference in 2010 should be nominated until 15. January 2010 to the Secretary General.

The main topic: **The Christian soldier: servant of security and freedom of the peoples”** will stay the same.