



# Presentation of the AMI Declaration Berlin 2010 „The Christian Soldier in the Service of Just Peace“

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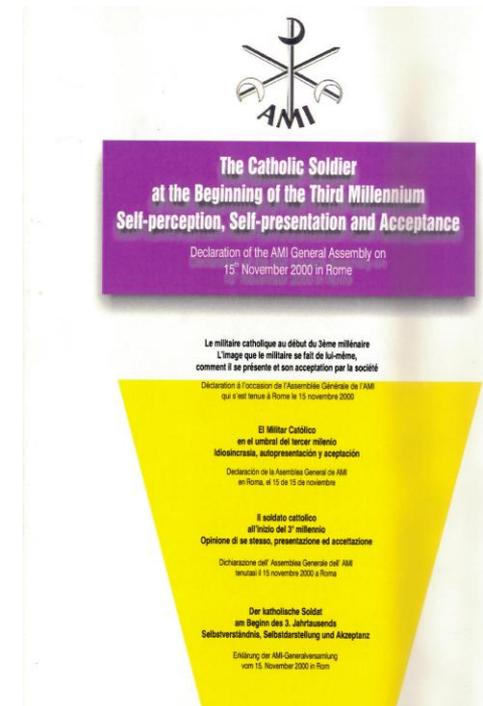
Looking back:

# AMI Declaration Rome 2000



## The 2000 Document: The Catholic Soldier at the Beginning of the 3rd Millennium.

Self-perception, Self-presentation and Acceptance.  
*Declaration of the AMI Conference, 15 Nov, 2000 in  
Rome*





# Contents AMI 2000

- **1. Peace on Earth to all people**

Why do we serve?

- **2. The Soldier as a Servant of Peace**

What do we stand for?

- **3. On the path to peace**

What do we expect?



“The following **maxims** should shape the self-perception of the Catholic soldier today. They apply to all soldiers, in particular to superiors at all levels in their function as leaders, trainers and educators.

- Deeply rooted in **faith** [...]
  - **Morally** engaged [...]
  - **Politically** educated [...]
  - **Professionally** skilled [...]
- Serving **conscientiously** [...]
  - Committed to **peace** [...]
  - Striving for **cooperation** [...]
- Open to the **ecumenical** movement“



# Ami Declaration Berlin 2010

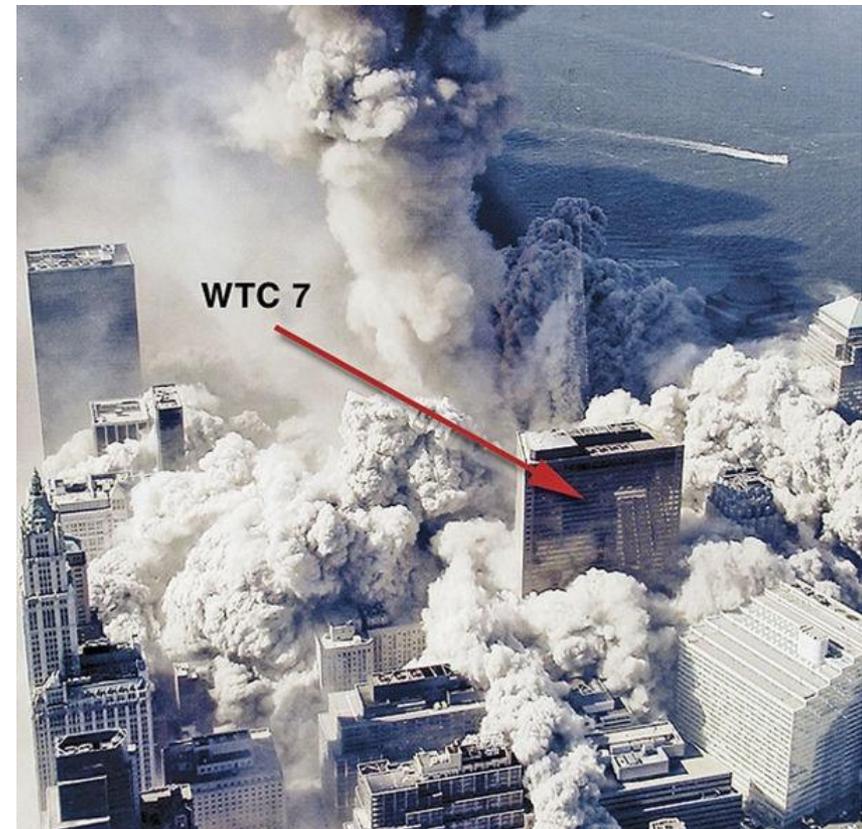


# Contents

- Introduction
- Defining Factors
- Defining Effects for the Catholic Soldier
- Understanding the Perspective
- Steps in Advancing the Cause of Peace
- Guidelines for the Christian Soldier
- Recommendations

# Defining Factors

- Information Technology
- The Banking Collapse
- Global Phenomena
- Secularism
- New Wars
- Terrorism





# Defining Effects for the Catholic Soldier

- “The post-modern view of life, accentuated by the destabilising events of the decade, has further diminished reliance on established norms of religion and philosophy. Loyalties to a corps, a cause or a country and acceptance of military discipline have become harder to establish. Conversely, a society with a healthy scepticism about authority may, in itself, be a subtle form of conflict prevention with people less disposed to follow where confrontational politicians lead.” (9)

# Defining Effects for the Catholic Soldier

- “Christian Soldiers on active duty in multinational forces are expected to exercise inter-cultural competence and moral integrity but may be increasingly distanced from, and doubtful about, the political initiatives that deployed them. This is especially so where a military initiative alone cannot resolve a complex crisis and where intervention may be misconstrued as prosecuting a ‘Holy War’.” (11)



# Understanding the Perspective

- “In every Christian debate about war, the defining perspective must be peace, peace that results from justice based on respect for human dignity and paves the way to universal brotherhood. The New Testament declares a timeless message of peace on earth, "*Peace on Earth to all people in whom God delights!*" (St Luke 23:14)" (15)



## Understanding the Perspective

- “Peace as the ultimate perspective of political and military action is not just the absence of war. From a Christian point of view peace is a gift, the totality of life God has promised us. Peace in its Biblical context is always associated with the pursuit of the common good and justice for all. Pope Pius XII chose the words, “*Opus iustitiae pax*” as his motto, “*Peace as a work of justice.*” Pope John Paul II added the concept of solidarity, “*Opus solidaritatis pax*”, peace as the fruit of solidarity, – and combined both concepts in the motto, “*Opus iustitiae et solidaritatis*”, peace as the product of justice and solidarity. Both are necessary if mankind is to become a global community capable of co-existence” (18)



# Steps in Advancing the Cause of Peace

Are developed in “Steps in Advancing the Cause of Peace“ and resumed at the end in “Recommendations“

I.

“Protection of the moral restraints of our defining principles for engaging in conflict and their rigorous application when hostilities seem to be a possibility, when engaged in conflict and in its aftermath. (para 20)“



## Steps in Advancing the Cause of Peace

“Catholic teaching emphasizes that military action should only be the last resort, when all peaceful means have proved to be unsuccessful. Further just peace criteria are: Legitimate cause and authority, chance of success and the existence of a just political concept acceptable for all parties of the conflict. Civilians have to be protected, military means must be used according the principles of military necessity, proportionality, discrimination and humanity. Soldiers in every part of the command chain are accountable for their actions during military operations. Just peace responsibilities in post conflict scenarios include contribution to reconstruction, compliance with peace treaties and international regulations, dialogue and reconciliation.”

# Steps in Advancing the Cause of Peace

## II.

“Engagement in a diligent dialogue to improve and make more relevant the just peace criteria in our contemporary situation. (para 22)”





# Steps in Advancing the Cause of Peace

## III.

“A recognition that the seeds of hostility are within us all and lie dormant even in the most noble soul. Any quest for peace and brotherhood must therefore begin in the heart of the individual, cultivating the seeds of peace and suppressing the roots of bitterness. (para 24)”

# Steps in Advancing the Cause of Peace

## IV.

“A willingness to understand and accommodate other perspectives and an avoidance of negative typecasting in unfamiliar cultures. (para 26)”



# Steps in Advancing the Cause of Peace

V.

“Intelligence led, UN authorized mediation or intervention to pacify unstable situations with the role of military forces extending beyond conventional national defence and alliances. Military intervention must be properly supported and quickly followed by a just settlement in which the indigenous people are the greatest shareholders. (para 28)”



# Steps in Advancing the Cause of Peace

## VI.

“Appropriate training and familiarisation for deploying forces in the cultural conditions prevailing in a possible theatre of operations. Such familiarisation is equally important between deploying allies, about indigenous populations and concerning potential enemies. (para 35)”



# Steps in Advancing the Cause of Peace

## VII.

“Focused operational preparation with loyalty to and support for those constrained to make operational choices, all of which may have tragic outcomes. (para 38)”



# Guidelines for the Christian soldier

- “Deeply rooted in faith [...]
- Moral engagement [...]
- Political awareness [...]
- Professional competence [...]
- Conscientious service [...]
- Commitment to peace [...]
- Striving for cooperation [...]
- Ecumenical outlook” (40)



# Conclusion

- “In this paper AMI has explored a Christian response for military people to the complexities of modern conflict. Peace is more than the absence of war. Such a shallow definition would bring no comfort to those lacking life’s necessities or suffering injustice. Conflict may be suppressed by a strong military presence but peace itself cannot be enforced for, in the act of enforcement, it is broken. Those in military service can clear the avenue that leads to peace in order that others may walk it in safety. Our contribution is therefore one of paving and protecting the way for political, diplomatic and civil agencies in concert to establish order, justice and freedom. Whilst we owe loyalty to these great principles, we are conscious that we must also answer to the Prince of Peace for our faithfulness and integrity in answering this call to duty.” (41)