



Highlights of AMI President's Welcome Remarks

BGen Reinhard Kloss

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Manansala B Hall, Sulo Riviera Hotel

Quezon City, Philippines

Before delivering his Welcome Address, BGen Kloss introduced the head of the various foreign delegations that attended this year's AMI Conference and General Assembly. He expressed regrets that other delegations, particularly in Eastern European countries, were not able to send a representative due to some limitations on the financial resources. He also expressed that this year's conference will be memorable for him because 2011 is his last year to serve as President of AMI and it is his first time to visit Asia and the Philippines.

BGen Kloss then delivered the goals of the AMI in the near future:

First, the AMI want to change or improve the manner of conducting its conferences. The intention was to turn these conferences into venues where participants and delegates can discuss their thoughts, experiences and reflections and where they can also make friends. Based on the program for this year's conference, BGen Kloss believes that this goal will be attained. In addition, BGen Kloss believes that the presence of first time attendees is a good sign, which means AMI is an organization that has something new and interesting to offer.

Second, the intention was that at the end of each conference, it is expected that all delegates can bring new knowledge and learnings to their respective countries. It does not have to be declarations; it could be ideas, thoughts and reflections. The AMI has talked various topics, which includes families, secular societies, Christian leaderships, Christian values, among others.

Third, the AMI wanted to build an international network, allowing the AMI to work together besides annual conferences and for faster communication among the members. For instance, the Internet would allow AMI members to come together across borders. While this is not really a problem of money, it is more a problem of time and that not all members are available to provide support to this goal. But BGen Kloss believes that the creation of such a network can provide support to soldiers especially in the age of Globalization.

Fourth, the AMI wants to be become an international Catholic NGO. While the AMI is working on this, it is not easy to accomplish. In the meantime, the AMI continuous to establish relations with other INGOs, such as the UN and work to achieve what is requested of the AMI by the Holy See.

After the 2011 conference, there will be a new presidency that will be bringing new perspectives and ideas. Hence, the topics chosen for this year's conference were considered appropriate as a conclusion to BGen Kloss' term as AMI President.

The AMI shall be tackling three (3) important topics that would inspire the discussion on the values and the priorities of the Christian soldiers. First is the Dialogue of life between chaplains, soldiers and their families; second is the fidelity of the soldiers to their families, which is very important due to experiences of prolonged separation between soldiers and his or her families during deployment in missions that can last up to a year; third is on ecumenism, interfaith and the relationship among the different denominations, a topic that will be important especially in the near future.

BGen Kloss hopes that the participants will have fruitful discussion on the aforementioned topics. Solutions to common problems shall be drawn from the said discussions and from the experiences from Europe, Africa and Asia. AMI delegates have a golden opportunity to learn from each other, and identify solutions that would be applicable to delegates' respective systems. BGen Kloss wish the 2011 Conference will have successful days and fruitful discussions.