

WORKSHOP OUTPUT
AMI GENERAL ASSEMBLY &
CONFERENCE 2011
Group 1

DAY 1: September 12, 2011

GUIDE QUESTIONS

- What are the key challenges to the practice of the Dialogue of Life based on the experiences of military chaplains and soldiers in Asia and in Europe? How can these challenges be overcome?
- What existing institutions and mechanisms in the Church and military institutions may be used to promote Dialogue of Life?

GUIDE QUESTIONS

- What are the social and ethical challenges that soldiers and their families have to cope in the military's expanded roles and extended deployments?
- What strategies can the Chaplain Service develop to help soldiers and families cope with these challenges

KEY CHALLENGES TO THE DIALOGUE OF LIFE & HOW THEY CAN BE OVERCOME

- Framework of the (military) organization
- Europe: the relationship or **the separation of the Church and the State** vis-à-vis different practices (e.g. collection of funds, teaching of Christian values, etc.)
- Asia is more democratic in the sense that we allow dialogue among different faiths. Respect for beliefs must be observed at all times.

INSTITUTIONS AND MECHANISMS IN THE CHURCH AND THE MILITARY THAT MAY BE USED TO PROMOTE DIALOGUE OF LIFE

- In the AFP, ecumenical prayers are offered for specific common purposes (e.g. Peace, Harmony and Cooperation)
- Prayers are phrased in general terms (applicable to all religions)
- Monthly masses and other religious/ spiritual activities; family-oriented activities
- Presence of ministers and participation
- In the AFP, Priests visit battalions and companies for regular counseling

SOCIAL & ETHICAL CHALLENGES

- Expanded role of the spouse in the absence of the military spouse
- Effect of the absence of soldiers/parent(s) on the children and same with the soldiers themselves
- Fear of injury or death in combat/ assignments
- Stability of the relationship (spouses) due to prolonged separation

HOW THE CHAPLAIN SERVICE CAN HELP

- Counseling of the military families
- Frequent visits of chaplains to line units in the field
- Need for soldiers' families to reach chaplains
- Family days and other activities for bonding
- Embedding of chaplains in the operational areas and in missions abroad
- Possibility of family and life ministries through marriage seminars/ encounters/ *cursillo* movement/ *Balik-loob sa Diyos*