

**WORKSHOP OUTPUT
AMI GENERAL ASSEMBLY &
CONFERENCE 2011**

DAY 1

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

- Asia, Europe, Americas, Africa
 - Religion (do not talk to people from other religions; politicization of religion leads to protracted conflict i.e. Bosnia, Philippines)
 - Language
 - Trust & Stereotyping (barrier to dialogue)
 - Different family structures (no divorce in Philippines)
 - Length of Deployment of servicemen; distance of soldiers and their families from bases

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

- Chaplain Service
- Family Groups
- Lay Organizations
- Private Organizations
- Military Networks with Parishes where they are deployed where commanders and chaplains link with parish priests
- Philippine National Police have their own dialogue mechanisms with parishes

SOCIAL & ETHICAL CHALLENGES

- Long periods of deployment have significant social impact on Asian, African & European military families
- Economic structure of Asian families also lead to overseas deployments and this creates problems of misbehavior such as infidelity, relations with children
- Values reinforcement weak that could lead to misbehavior
- Rumors of misbehavior also affect families

HOW THE CHAPLAIN SERVICE CAN HELP

- Social Networking – concern is that people really do not talk because its all computers
- Advocate Short Term Deployments
- Family Groups encouraged by the Chaplain
- Family Groups use E-Communications such as e-mail, skype, Web pages as bridges between soldiers and their families
- Africa - Chaplains are deployed with troops while there are chaplains who address needs of their families
- Misbehavior (US case) as it is dealt more leniently but chaplains can use the pulpit to speak against it.

HOW THE CHAPLAIN SERVICE CAN HELP

- Lay organizations, Private organizations also organize themselves and help military families as well as the Chaplains
- Key is closer cooperation between lay organizations, laymen & Chaplains & the military system.
- Encouragement from the church to lead more upright moral values

THANK YOU VERY MUCH