



Final report of the AMI President Major General Norbert SINN

Your Excellency's, especially you, Bishop Rabek, dear guests of our conference, and you, dear comrades, members and friends of AMI!

This year's conference is now coming to an end. We discussed two complementary themes and respective questions. Therefore the moment has come to do a résumé:

First:

Allow me please to say thank you for trusting my Austrian-Netherlands team, for being in charge, to lead AMI for further three years. It is not only a great honor being head of AMI but even a great pleasure and responsibility.

Taking the responsibility is a normal thing for a soldier, so I take it as the marvelous opportunity to bring together soldiers from different countries and continents. – And, we all are soldiers of different ranks, civilians, men and women, and we all are Christians.

We all try to do our best in fulfilling our military duties and our daily life, together with our superiors, our subordinates, family and friends. We all know that already daily life is a challenge, caused by mistakes we do, unexpected events or developments, tragic losses, or, as we military often call it, imponderability's.

Beside that we Christians try to think and act positive, try to pursuit for happiness and even to do this is a challenge. My challenge concerning AMI – meaning you all – will be to accomplish the expectations you have in AMI, and that we are able, not only to formulate results expected, but to hold friendship, trust, common understanding, as it should be in the smallest cell of social life: the family.

So, I promise to do my best, with all my skills and all my weaknesses.
Thank you again!

Second:

Maybe the best experience of the last three years: Every year new friends are coming and staying with us. Whether they come from Australia, or another corner of good old Europe or another continent.

Concerning our conference, let me express, what thoughts I have:

We listened to excellent lectures, and worked hard for our results. We reached our goals. Thank you all for your contributions you put in. Of course, it always could be more, and thinking about problems of the world – and war, I am convinced, is the main and most urgent problem – as old as mankind itself; is maybe a never ending story,

Thomas More explained it 500 years ago very straight as: „World will be better, when mankind will be a better one. – I think, an area we still have to wait a whole while for“.

From my point of view we leave from here with three specific tasks:

- To live following the results which are based on the Gospel,
- to spread it within our respective Armed Forces,
- and to inform Forces, not participating, at this conference about the results.

Quite a lot of Bishops and Military Chaplains have been present here, working, praying with us and sure following what we are doing here. Simply expressed all our work is focused on how we shall fulfill our duties. And, concerning this definition, we should bare in mind the words of Pope Frances in Redipuglia, so I come back to my introductory slides, as follows:

„After experiencing the beauty of travelling throughout this region, where men and women work and raise their families, where children play and the elderly dream....I now find myself here, in this place, near this cemetery, able to say only one thing: War is madness“.

As soldiers we know quiet a lot about the tragedy of war and conflict, sometimes to much, but this knowledge makes us stronger and help us to believe and trust in God and to carry out our duties based on our Christian Faith.

I kindly invite you, Excellency's and Chaplains, to take the knowledge with you, that lay military organizations are valuable for the development of dignity, culture, honor and self-understanding in fulfilling our soldierly duties. There are much more lay people in our respective armies able to serve as models than it will be possible to have priests in numbers enough talking about and explaining it.

I'd like to convince you to enable on a national basis the foundation of similar organizations to act for our Holy Church and to support you, the Military Bishops and Military Chaplains, in your work. The Holy Church consists of all

people and even we soldiers should try to act as apostles. That should also be a message we take with us.

As all the years before we will put together all results and distribute it to all delegations. As the years before we will produce a press release concerning the most important aspects as an appeal.

Let me conclude: We are grateful to Military Bishop Frantisek Rabek, and all Military Chaplains and soldiers of the Slovak Armed Forces providing us a real marvelous setting to think, discuss and meditate about the questions we popped up.

Your hospitality was and is outstanding; Papiernicka was the best place to work.

On behalf of the AMI – Family I warmly thank you for all you did for us. I kindly ask you to transmit our thanks even to your Minister of Defence, Dr. Martin GLVAC and the Chief of General Staff, LtGen. Maxim Milan for supporting our conference.

Looking forward I officially announce to you that next year's conference will take place in Santiago de Compostella in Spain, the place AMI was founded fifty years ago. Our next year's conference will focus on the Christian vocation of soldiers and the challenge of Serving as Christians. It will be an honor and will be inspiring, developing goals, leading discussions, working and praying together on the place where Saint Jacob is buried.

Thank you for having reelected the Austro-Netherlands team and me.

And herewith, beside the fact that we tomorrow will have our cultural program and that we will be able to regard our beautiful host country completely distressed, I declare our Conference 2014 closed.