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Apostolat Militaire International

INVITATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE 2015

September 6 till September 11, 2015

AMI 2015 – 2018

We serve Catholic.

**“To live authentically according to the Word of God and to spread the
gospel”**

Theme AMI 2015

Gaudium et Spes & the Declaration Nostra Aetate

&

50 years of AMI, the need for interreligious dialogue for Catholics

Hospedería Martin Pinarío (www.sanmartinpinario.eu)

Plaza de la Inmaculada 3

15704 Santiago de Compostela

or

Hotel La Salle (www.alberguelasalle.com)

Tras Santa Clara 2

15704 Santiago de Compostela

- **Invitation by the Secretary General**
- **Program**
- **General Information**
- **Registration**



To the
Catholic Military Bishops

May 2015

To the Members and Friends
of the Apostolat Militaire International (AMI)
by e-mail

Your Eminence, Your Excellency, Most Reverend Military Bishop,
Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Members and Friends of AMI,

This year's General Assembly and Conference of the Apostolat Militaire International (AMI) will be held in:

**Hospedería Martin Pinario (www.sanmartinpinario.eu)
Plaza de la Inmaculada 3
15704 Santiago de Compostela, Spain**

The AMI Conference and General Assembly will discuss under the overall topic of
AMI 2015 - 2018:

**AMI 2015 – 2018
We serve Catholic.**

“To live authentically according to the Word of God and to spread the gospel”

**Theme AMI 2015
Gaudium et Spes & the Declaration Nostra Aetate
&
50 years of AMI, the need for interreligious dialogue for Catholics**

We will commemorate that we were founded 50 years ago in Santiago de Compostela and hopefully you will join us to celebrate our 50th anniversary.

At the end of the conference, we will vote on a joint AMI position regarding the conference topics, if possible, and publish it subsequently.

You are free to send up to five delegates from your country or organisation to the 2015 AMI Conference. Last year we asked you also to bring lay people, working for the Military Ordinariate in your country.

As in the previous years, we would be pleased to welcome also your spouses/husbands/partners.

Please register using the enclosed registration form **as soon as possible**
(Not later than July 1, 2015).

You can already let me know if you want to attend the conference and send your travel schedule later. But please let us know as soon as possible if we can welcome you in Santiago de Compostela. For organizational reasons it is very nice to know this in an early stage.

Please send your registration by e-mail to the AMI Secretary General:
nellekeswinkels@onsbrabantnet.nl.

This early date for registration is absolutely necessary because of the arrangements our hosts have to make at the **Hospedería Martin Pinarío** (www.sanmartinpinarío.eu) and the **Hotel La Salle** (www.alberguelasalle.com).

The accommodations mentioned are **available from Sunday 06.09.2015** so if possible please travel to Spain on Sunday. If you are already arriving on Saturday, we will try to accommodate you for one night elsewhere.

Please register in time; otherwise, we cannot accommodate you during the conference!

Your Eminence, your Excellency, most reverend Military Bishop, it would be a particular honour for the AMI members to welcome you at this conference in person, be it only for a few days, and/or to welcome your Vicar General as well.

Fostering the lay apostolate within the Armed Forces as well as strengthening the cooperation of military chaplains of all levels with the military catholic lay people is an important objective of AMI and of this conference.

Preparations for the conference

All delegations are kindly requested to prepare a paper for this conference with the latest developments in their countries in writing. So we can put it afterwards on the conference DVD. This exchange of information is of utmost importance in order to harmonise national activities and develop new initiatives.

It is not necessary to prepare and give the general assembly a presentation because of our very tight time schedule.

All reports/contributions should be prepared in English. The conference language in Spain will be English.

Working Groups

There will be, as every year, three working groups to discuss the conference topics. One working group in English, one in German and one in Spanish language on the same topic, will be established.

The main goal is to sum up all the lectures and to find a common summary.

At the end of our General Assembly, we can publish a minute with the results of the conference 2015.

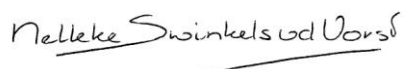
Numerous delegations

I am looking forward to welcoming numerous delegations from among the member countries and the friends of AMI as well as from countries that have not become members of our association so far.

Note: A kindly request to you all. Please send me by e-mail once again your current e-Mail address and post address to keep our database up to date.

E-Mail: nellekeswinkels@onsbrabantnet.nl

Best wishes - Yours in our Lord sincerely,



Nelleke Swinkels- van de Vorst, AMI Secretary General



General Information for our participants

1. Conference topic

We serve Catholic.

“To live authentically according to the Word of God and to spread the gospel!”

and the following subtopic:

**AMI 2015
Gaudium et Spes & the Declaration Nostra Aetate
&
50 years of AMI, the need for interreligious dialogue for Catholics**

2. Important addresses

- The **General Assembly** will take place in:

**Hospedería Martin Pinario (www.sanmartinpinario.eu)
Plaza de la Inmaculada 3
15704 Santiago de Compostela, Spain**

- **The Point of Contact in the period before the Assembly is:**

Secretary General AMI
Nelleke Swinkels – van de Vorst
AMI Secretary General
Esdoornstraat 21
NL-5682 CM Best
Phone: 0031 – 6 5479 6857
Fax: 0031 – 499 37 4444
E-Mail: nellekeswinkels@onsbrabantnet.nl

- **The Point of Contact in Spain is:**

Chaplain Rev. D. Juan Jose Rascon Soler
Email: jjrascon2@gmail.com
Or
Padre (LtCol) Joseph Obrador Castro
Phone: +34 659 396 166
E-mail: jobrcas@ea.mde.es

1. **General information on the host nation Spain**

General information on Spain and Santiago de Compostela you can find on the Internet.

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Spain.aspx>;

<http://www.letsgetospain-event.com/information-about-Spain.html>

2. **Uniform and transportation**

- Service dress with jacket is to be worn during the conference; an upgraded uniform version will be appropriate for the receptions. Casual civilian dress is to be worn during our cultural program.
- Civilians: informal dress during the conference: lounge suit with tie during ceremonies and visits.
- Ladies please choose clothing according to the dress code for gentlemen.
- The best way to travel to **Santiago de Compostela is by plane to Santiago Airport or by train from Madrid (5 hours) or come by car, but be aware that the Hospederia has no parking facilities.**
- If you come by plane you will be picked up at the airport in Santiago, please let us know as soon as possible your travel arrangements and at least before the 1st of July.

3. **Conference fees**

The amount of **€ 400,00** per participant is to be paid at the Conference Secretariat upon arrival.

The conference fee will cover accommodation, meals, transfers, secretariat services etc. It does not cover personal expenses such as using the bar or the telephone.

There will be no reduction in the conference fee in case of late arrival or early departure of the delegates since the fee covers the entire period between September 6 and September 11, 2015.

Because of the fact that our accommodation is booked until Sunday September 6, it is difficult to arrive earlier. For our guests who can't be in time on Sunday and want to arrive on Saturday, we will try accommodate you for one night elsewhere on your own costs. If you wish to stay longer in Spain, please let us know so we can inform the hotels. All additional costs will have to be paid directly at the Conference Secretariat by the persons/delegations concerned.

Concerning the **standing order (article XII) of the Apostolat Militaire International (AMI)** from each member organization **an annual contribution of 800 Euro.-(€)** has to be paid to the Secretary General.

I would like to remind you kindly to pay the open invoice total of **€ 800,00** as soon as possible.

As you know, we are very busy to promote and support international understanding and cooperation as a contribution to strengthening the peace in the world, especially with making use of international meetings and events (congresses, international meetings and events (congresses, pilgrimages etc.), continuous exchange of ideas and experiences (documents, periodicals, etc.) and our representation on international bodies. Therefore we need a financial background to do our job and to act in the spirit of the conciliary decree on the lay apostolate.

The account number of AMI is:

- Rabobank Utrechtse Heuvelrug, Postbus 82, 3700 AB Zeist - NL
- Account No.: 1138.41.256
- IBAN: NL02 RABO 0113 8412 56
- BIC: RABONL2U
- Account Name: Apostolat Militaire International

4. **Spouses/partner programme**
Our hosts from Spain have already planned a separate spouses/partner programme. A detailed program will be available in Santiago.
Of course accompanying spouses & partners are invited to participate in all conference activities.
5. **Gifts**
Gifts for the hosts or participants should not be taken into consideration with the exception of medals, emblems, etc.
6. **Visa requirements**
Make sure that you have **in time** the necessary visa as stipulated by bilateral regulations. If we can be of any help, please let us know. Our Spanish hosts will inform their embassies in the countries of our delegates so they will be informed. Permission to wear uniform should be requested according to national regulations.
9. **Any other business**
 - a. The **conference language** will be **English**.
 - b. As already pointed out in the invitation, please prepare your contributions in English. Make sure that you have everything on compact disk or memory stick so that we can make copies and have the contributions also available for the minutes.
 - c. **Register** using the enclosed form as soon as possible (**no later than July 1 2015**) and send it by e-mail to the AMI Secretary General nellekeswinkels@onsbrabantnet.nl
11. **To our Bishops, Vicars and Chaplains**
A friendly request to our bishops, to bring their own alba and stole to the conference, as well as a white mitre. Vicars, priests and deacons please bring your own alba and stole.