



APOSTOLAT MILITAIRE INTERNATIONAL
the PRESIDENT

STRENGTHENING CHRISTIAN VALUES WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES WORLDWIDE

MajGen ret. Norbert SINN

Hauptstrasse 41

A - 2263 Dürnkrut

Vught, 22.09.16

A week full of information, discussion, work, remembrances, voting for, say hello and good-bye, comes to an end.

We worked on:

The consequences of armed conflict, especially for Catholic soldiers and their families in the background of "Laudato Si"

Mercy in military life

And

The future of AMI

We listened to impressive lectures and confessions, learnt about mercy and the twofold sides of it, the personal and the organizational one. How to act, when mistrust is growing, disparaging all humanitarian work at a time when every state faces the problems of disemployment and political disorder (just as examples).

The problems arising when being obliged fulfilling military tasks, although the answer could be an easy one at minimum in democratic states, if you remember the statement to shoot or not in certain situations.

We heard at least a little bit more about AMI as an NGO, although, honestly, I myself do not yet know exactly how to proceed. That was the reason for we tried and intended to let think about in our working groups, because the more people are thinking, the better – in theory – should be the result in the end.

Within our working groups happened a lot of work. Many excellent ideas came up. Again I kindly invite all heads of the working groups to work the results out as good as possible and send it to Nelleke or me, so that we are able, in strong contact with you, to bring things to life. Brian brought in the thought to proceed with the work of the working groups in the upcoming months, I propose until the end of November, to gain more precise results. I fully agree with this idea and kindly ask to do so if possible.

We did not yet find time to write down a press release. We have to do it afterwards, but near to the end of our conference. I am convinced that, even in the light of the results concerning the future of AMI, the press release is one instrument to make AMI and its work visible.

From my point of view I am satisfied that it was possible to interest more countries for our work. I am glad about the delegate of Croatia, Col Dubravka Filipovic, Lady Jane Gottardi from the USA, our friends from Spain whom, I feel, returned into our organization.

It was great to have two Military Bishops with us, our former ecclesiastical assistant Dr. Werner Freistetter and Archbishop Santo Marciànò, who gave an impressive lecture about mercy.

Happy that Nigeria found the way to Vught this morning and is able to share our thoughts and ideas.

With father Patrick Dolan we elected a new ecclesiastical assistant. I am grateful that he accepted and fortunately so did his Diocesan Bishop Archbishop Kurtz.

We found a new auditor for our finances in the person of first lieutenant Erik Vojar from Slovakia and of course I will inform his Military Bishop Mons Rabek.

I even see that people are stressed of work at home and the situation for Catholics does not become a better one. For this I have to thank all ChodS and Military Bishops having made it possible that you are here.

Let me come to an end. Last years work became more and more difficult and exhausting to different reasons.

The first is to hold AMI alive, because AMI are we all.

The second is the will to engage in our work. Without your support the work of the executive committee becomes impossible. And I dislike doing missions impossible. Therefore I decided to ask all delegations to make more clear sighting about the future of AMI and that we need the support of all of you to go on.

The third, the attempts of the Secretary General and the Presidency to broaden our organization cost a lot of force.

Today I am more optimistic than five days ago.

I am grateful that Archbishop Marciànò is willing to host our next conference. It shall take place September 2017 in Rome. – And hopefully we can already define the date of it after our visit in Rome in November 2016.

Maybe we found this time already a member country willing to host us 2018. More than I expected. - We will try to support an upcoming new presidency still by finding places for the next following years.

I say thank you for the extraordinary hospitality of our Netherlands friends of ACOM, The Armed Forces and the Military Bishop given to us. Vught and the Landhuis Huize Bergen were excellent premises for holding our conference.

I say thank you to all people supporting us in organizing the conference.

And I say thank you to my team that cooperates in a strong way together with me.

Thank you Herman, Markus, Fritz, Jan and especially you Nelleke. You did a splendid and marvelous job, which cost you a lot of time.

Thank you all.

And herewith I close this year's conference.

Thank you and see you in Rome 2017!

Have all a safe journey back home and do not hesitate to contact me if you wish!