



Even today the Catholic soldier has to regard himself as a servant of security and freedom of peoples

“Searching for Roots”

Theme of the 2017 Conference and General Assembly of the Apostolat Militaire International in Rome

Sometimes on the way it is necessary to stop, stand still and start thinking about what is going on at our planet – in our world.

We face a reduction, destruction, and minimization of what we call our values of our in Christianity rooted Western world.

Currently more wars, civil wars and internal hostilities are taking place than ever. Living with terrorism forms our daily lives. The so-called longest period of peace in Europe has ended. Openly we speak about the “third World War” which has already begun.

What is it caused by? How did this happen? A place we maybe never wanted to be and a situation we never wanted to be confronted with?

We should recognize and take into account a few reasons:

- The change of climate, even if not accepted by certain countries,
- The contrast between West and East (again), North and South
- Migration movements with a large number of peoples leaving their home countries,
- Over boarding capitalism, even in countries which we understood so far as not democratic ones,
- Growing hate (even or especially religious based hate) between people and peoples, caused by misunderstanding of the words of our Lord,
- Attempts to gain or expand territory, political influence and/or power, mineral resources on the cost of other peoples,
- Riots in many countries (starving, no future),
- Growing nationalism instead of cooperation between the states, as a simple answer to complex questions and challenges.
- The idea (there is no proof for it) of being able to solve problems (political, social, economic, cultural) as a state or country alone.

Raising the questions:

- Is our contemporary international system still working?
- Practically decreasing education of many people,
- No solution for the rising earth population, often in regions not really worth living in,
- The power and use of social media,

And the question to be solved: **What is Truth?**

Please, let me, as your president, elaborate on my questions and ideas!

- Is our international system still working?

Is it possible to solve all these mentioned problems and challenges as a country alone?

What is more important: freedom or peace – or both?

- What about “Truth”?

Which role should serious (mass) media play? How can the Truth serve as a basis for thinking and acting for politicians and soldiers?

Do we lose trust in our politicians if we are not correctly informed?

- How shall we deal with the fact (at least as soldiers) that International Humanitarian Law and International Law during Wars is not accepted anymore or treated as a means, used just when useful, and disintegrating in many organisations (not only by terrorist organizations, but even states, when starting military missions wherever?).

Many nations on all continents do have a grown and strong culture.

Regularly it is long lasting developments during centuries, that makes nations grow, like e.g. in Europe, Asia, America, Australia and Africa.

Over the centuries, no nations of autochthon people existed. All time there was influence of neighbours and neighbouring countries, given by trade, language, and cultural exchange.

Even already in the age of antiquity people were depending on each other, influencing each other, exchanging cultural ideas, goods, scripture, language and thinking, but also ideas on state building.

Look e.g. **“The Great Sea: A Human History of the Mediterranean” by David Abulafia.**

Since many centuries mankind influenced each other! That means what we own today is the result of a long lasting history.

Nations were and are built up more by economy, trade and culture than by nationalism.

Patriotism – the love for your country you live in and serve – is different from Nationalism. It includes to recognize and accept other ideas if they are righteous.

Belligerent changes are not allowed and not to be accepted. The killing of people to widen the own territory and to take possession of it is not to be accepted.

- How can we strengthen patriotism instead of Nationalism to build a world full of peace?

Can we find the truth in our Holy Scripture? Can we apply the 10 rules given by the Lord Father to Moses, for soldiers of today worldwide?

Let AMI contribute by **“Searching for the roots”** of our societies and the values they are based on.

Maybe AMI will find another approach on all these questions and contributing in this way to a more peaceful world!

Let us find the **“Ten Commandments”** for soldiers today, by **researching the roots of our Believe and Faith**, given to us as a guideline for soldier’s life in peace and during military missions.