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## ***Apostolat Militaire International***

### **INVITATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE 2017**

**September 17 till September 22, 2017**

**AMI 2015 – 2018**

**We serve Catholic.**

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

**Theme AMI 2017**

**“Searching for roots”**

**Let us find the “ Ten Commandments”, guidelines for soldiers, working for peace at home or on missions abroad, by researching the roots of our believe and faith.**

**Circolo Ufficiali “Pio IX” Barracks**

**Viale Castro Pretorio, 95, 00185 Roma, Italy**

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

To the  
Catholic Military Bishops

May 2017

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:

**Circolo Ufficiali "Pio IX" Barracks  
Viale Castro Pretorio, 95, 00185 Roma, Italy**

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 2017  
"Searching for roots"**

**Let us find the " Ten Commandments", guidelines for soldiers, working for  
peace at home or on missions abroad, by researching the roots of our believe  
and faith.**

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  
2017 AMI Conference in Rome.

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 and not  
later than July 1, 2017!**

**Please let me already know if you want to attend the conference and send  
your travel schedule later. Let us know as soon as possible if we can welcome  
you in Rome. For organizational reasons and booking the numbers of rooms it  
is necessary to know this at an early stage!**

Please send your registration by e-mail to the AMI Secretary General:  
[nellekeswinkels@onsbrabantnet.nl](mailto:nellekeswinkels@onsbrabantnet.nl).

This early date for registration is absolutely necessary because of the arrangements our hosts have to make at the **Circolo Ufficiali "Pio IX" Barracks**

The accommodation mentioned is **available from Sunday 17.09.2017** so if possible please travel to Rome on Sunday. If you are already arriving on Saturday, September 16, we need to know that as soon as possible.

If you wish to stay longer in Rome, please let us know as soon as possible so we can inform the hotel. The additional costs for lodging from Friday September 22 on, you can pay directly to the hotel at the checkout date.

**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 Rome 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. Afterwards we will put your contribution 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 Italy will, as usual, be English.

This year we will ask our speakers again to send us already a summary of their speech 3 weeks in advance. We will send it to you so you can prepare already the subjects we are going to discuss.

### **Working Groups**

There will be, as every year, three working groups to discuss the conference topics. We will have 3 working groups. All of them will be in English, to give us the opportunity for a dispute with different delegates.

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 2017.

### **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.

## **2017 Elections of the President and the Secretary General**

According to article 7 of our statutes we will have the election of the Executive Council this year. Both the president as well as the Secretary General resign and not seek re-election.

Candidate for the offices of Presidency is The Netherlands in the person of Vice-Admiral Matthieu Borsboom. Candidate for the offices of Secretary General is Italy in the person of Colonel Domenico d'Ortenzi.

You will find their Curriculum Vitae and a picture attached to this e-mail.

### **(Article 7: Election of the Executive Council)**

- 7.1 In the case of an upcoming election for the Executive Council, national delegations may present candidates for the offices of President or Secretary General to the General Assembly, to be elected in conformity with Article 5 of these Statutes.
- 7.2 The General Assembly will subsequently elect the Treasurer and the Ecclesiastical Assistant in the same manner. The General Assembly may also elect Deputy council members and/or members for other duties, including non-executive or non-voting members, if this is considered advisable.
- 7.3 The election of the Ecclesiastical Assistant requires confirmation of election by the Pontifical Council of the Laity.
- 7.4 The President, the Secretary General, the Ecclesiastical Assistant and the Treasurer are elected for a mandate of 3 years and may be re-elected twice, for a maximum of 9 years.
- 7.5 Organizations that wish to nominate persons for offices in the Executive Council notify the Secretary General two months before the General Assembly that has such election on its agenda).

**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](mailto:nellekeswinkels@onsbrabantnet.nl)

*Best wishes - Yours in our Lord sincerely,*

*Nelleke Swinkels vd Vorst*

***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:

**Theme AMI 2017  
“Searching for roots”**

**Let us find the “ Ten Commandments”, guidelines for soldiers, working for peace at home or on missions abroad, by researching the roots of our believe and faith.**

### **2. Important addresses**

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

**Circolo Ufficiali “Pio IX” Barracks  
Viale Castro Pretorio 95, 00185 Roma, Italy**

- **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](mailto:nellekeswinkels@onsbrabantnet.nl)

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

Colonel Domenico d’Ortenzi  
e-mail: [domenicodortenzi@gmail.com](mailto:domenicodortenzi@gmail.com)

## 1. **General information on the host nation Italy and Rome**

General information on Italy you can find at:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italy>

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/italy>

<http://wikitravel.org/en/Italy>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome>

<https://www.italyguides.it/en/lazio/rome>

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/italy/rome>

## 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.
- *It is not allowed to wear jeans and sneakers in the restaurant of the Pio IX Barracks. So if you are not wearing your uniform in the evening please wear trousers, jacket and tie during dinner. Ladies also take notice of the dress code in the officer's mess.*
- You can easily travel to Italy by car, train or plane to Rome Ciampino Airport or Rome Fiumicino Airport.
- Parking space is available at the Pio IX Barracks but we need to know your license plate number, colour and brand of your car.
- If you come by plane you will be picked up at the airport but please let us know as soon as possible your travel arrangements and at least **register before the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 17 and September 22, 2017.**

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, but at least at the beginning of the conference 2017.

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 Italy will make some arrangements for a separate spouses/partner programme in Rome.

A detailed program will be available in September.

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 Italian hosts will inform their embassies in the countries of our delegates so they will be informed. Ask Colonel d'Ortenzi (Telephone: +39 3922617692) for assistance.

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 2017**) and send it by e-mail to the AMI Secretary General [nellekeswinkels@onsbrabantnet.nl](mailto: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.