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Apostolat Militaire International

INVITATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE 2016

September 18 till September 23, 2016

AMI 2015 – 2018

We serve Catholic.

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

Theme AMI 2016

- **The consequences of armed conflicts, especially for Catholic soldiers and their families in the background of LaudatoSi';**
- **Mercy in Military Life;**
- **Future of AMI.**

Landgoed Huize Bergen

Glorieuxlaan 1, 5261 SG Vught, Netherlands

E-mail: welkom@huizebergen.nl

Tel: +31(0) 73 658 04 00

<http://www.joanneshospitality.nl/en-GB/landgoed-huize-bergen1>



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To the
Catholic Military Bishops

May 2016

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:

Landgoed Huize Bergen

Glorieuxlaan 1, 5261 SG Vught, Netherlands

E-mail: welkom@huizebergen.nl

Tel: +31(0) 73 658 04 00

<http://www.joanneshospitality.nl/en-GB/landgoed-huize-bergen1>

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 2016

- **The consequences of armed conflicts, especially for Catholic soldiers and their families in the background of LaudatoSi’;**
- **Mercy in Military Life;**
- **Future of AMI.**

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 2016 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, 2016).**

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 Vught. 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 **Landgoed Huize Bergen in Vught.**

The accommodations mentioned are **available from Sunday 18.09.2016** so if possible please travel to The Netherlands on Sunday. If you are already arriving on Saturday, we will try to accommodate you.

If you wish to stay longer in Vught, please let us know so we can inform the hotel. All additional costs will have to be paid directly at the Conference Secretariat by the persons/delegations concerned.

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. 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 The Netherlands will be English.

This year we have the intention to ask our speakers 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 2016.

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.

Upcoming Elections of the President and the Secretary General 2017

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

(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

Best wishes - Yours in our Lord sincerely,

Nelleke Swinkels van de 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 2016

- **The consequences of armed conflicts, especially for Catholic soldiers and their families in the background of LaudatoSi’;**
- **Mercy in Military Life;**
- **Future of AMI.**

2. Important addresses

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

Landgoed Huize Bergen

Glorieuxlaan 1, 5261 SG Vught, Netherlands

E-mail: welkom@huizebergen.nl

Tel: +31(0) 73 658 04 00

<http://www.joanneshospitality.nl/en-GB/landgoed-huize-bergen1>

- **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 the Netherlands is:**

Jan Kleian, ACOM
e-mail: jan.kleian@gmail.com

1. General information on the host nation the Netherlands

General information on the Netherlands you can find at:

<http://www.holland.com/global/tourism/holland-information.htm>

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

<http://www.hollandisbeautiful.com/aboutholland.php>

<http://www.interklasa.pl/portal/dokumenty/ue108/indexang.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.
- You can easy travel to the Netherlands by car, train or plane to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport or Eindhoven Airport. Coming by train you will be picked up at the railway station of 's-Hertogenbosch or Vught.
- Parking space is available at the hotel.
- 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 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 18 and September 23, 2016.

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 the Netherlands have already planned a separate spouses/partner programme.

A detailed program will be available in Vught.

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 Dutch hosts will inform their embassies in the countries of our delegates so they will be informed. Ask mr. Jan Kleian (Telephone: 0031 6 53551703) 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 2016**) 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.