



APOSTOLAT MILITAIRE INTERNATIONAL

the Secretary General

Strengthening Christian Values Within The Armed Forces Worldwide

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Apostolat Militaire International

INVITATION TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE 2021

in Video Conference (VC) from your country

AMI 2018 – 2021

We serve Catholic. “Expanding circles”

Theme AMI 2021

“Perseverance”

15 September 2021

- **Invitation by the Secretary General**
- **General Information**
- **Registration form (see attached link)**
- **Program (draft)**

June 2021
by e-mail / newsletter

To the Catholic Military Bishops

To the Members and Friends of the *Apostolat Militaire International* (AMI)

Your Eminences, Your Excellencies, Reverend Military Priests and Deacons, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Members and Friends of AMI,

We continue to experience the effects of the Covid Pandemic, the direct reason to hold on 15 September 2021 our 56th General Assembly and Conference digital for the second year. Light is shining from above and in front of us, the situation will improve. The challenge is to overcome the drawback on a personal, organizational, national and even global level. Perseverance is what we need and what we show. In this conference we make time to share experiences coping with the effects/impacts of Covid. With the London declaration we look to the future, with the report on the execution of the action plan we show progress, and with the status on the Catholic Military Connect application (CMC app) we show what perseverance is. All in all an important gathering which can and will not replace the face to face meetings but it is a sign of organizational perseverance.

Perseverance (James 1:12) “Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him”.

Preparations for the conference

All delegations are kindly requested to submit in advance a paper for this conference with the latest developments in their countries. This exchange of information is of utmost importance in order to harmonise national activities and develop new initiatives. Of course, as decided two years ago in Austria, **we need your paper by the end of July 2021** in order to be able as AMI, to react to it and to discuss it during our Conference in VC, if necessary and if time is available.

Because of our very tight time schedule of only four hours, it is not necessary to prepare and deliver a presentation to the General Assembly. All reports/contributions should be prepared in English and they will be shared with everyone in advance by email.

As usual, the conference language during the VC will be English.

Participants

You are free to participate in the 2021 AMI Conference as part of the VC with a maximum of five delegates from your country or organization – preferably from one single location if possible. By specific request, AMI Executive Committee can consider

even more than five participants. Every year, we continue to emphasize **bringing in young lay people** involved in the Military Ordinariate and its organization from your country.

Registration and program

Please register **not later than 15 August, 2021** through the following registration form <https://forms.gle/p46zUj4nFJGXhy5dA>. Please let us know as soon as possible if we can welcome you to the video-conference. For organizational reasons due to VC software / app arrangements, it is necessary to know this at an early stage! Once we have received your confirmation and a completed registration form, I will send you, personally via e-mail, all the instructions required to participate in the video conference. You will need just your Smart-Phone or Tablet or PC or Mac and an effective internet service provider for the range of your signal.

Please fill in the registration form following the provided link

<https://forms.gle/p46zUj4nFJGXhy5dA>. In case of problems, send an e-mail to:

AMI Secretary General: **domenicodortenzi@gmail.com**

or AMI Treasurer: **damiano.pandolfo@live.it**

This early date for registration is absolutely necessary to help us in managing the video-conference through the selected application.

Please fill in the registration form at the following link not later than 15 August 2021, otherwise we cannot guarantee your participation at the conference!

<https://forms.gle/p46zUj4nFJGXhy5dA>

For the organization of the event and the definition of the beginning and closing time of the Conference, the AMI Executive Committee has considered the different time zones of the AMI delegates in the world. In particular, we go in a range of 12 hours, from -5 hours of the United States till +7 hours in the Philippines with reference to GMT (Greenwich Mean Time). For time zone map, please refer to <https://www.timeanddate.com/time/map/>.

The AMI Conference and General Assembly will take place in a single day and only for a few hours (approximately 4 hrs) according to the attached program.

Working Groups

Because of the tightness of the program, and the particular way of meeting in VC, again this year we are not going to have topics to share with working groups, even though:

- each delegation will be asked to share the community and personal experience during the Covid-19 pandemic in their own country;
- Prof. Fred van Iersel will present “The Declaration of London” prepared, studied and written within the specific Working Group of AMI. After this presentation, “The

Declaration of London” document will be ready for the endorsement of the General Assembly.

AMI Conference rotation scheme

During the last AMI Conference 2020 via video-conference and previously in 2019 in Reichenau (Austria), the so-called AMI Conference rotation scheme for the next ten years was defined.

Again this year, the British Military Bishop Msgr. Paul Mason offered to host the AMI Conference 2022 in London from 21 to 26 August, as part of the full involvement of British military Catholics in the cause of AMI. Moreover, with an official letter the Kenyan Chief of Defence Staff has confirmed their availability to host the AMI Conference 2024 in Kenya. Therefore, the General Assembly is called upon to give a further confirmation of the new rotation scheme (see attached file).

Elections of the new AMI President, AMI Secretary General and AMI Treasurer

After a three-year mandate of the Dutch-Italian Executive Committee and the decision of the Dicastery of Laity, Family and Life to prolong the mandate of the current office holders until the 2021 General Assembly, according to the AMI Statute art. 6.2¹, art. 7.1² and art 7.5³ (<https://www.apostolatmilitaire.com/statute/>), this year the General Assembly is called to elect the new AMI President, the new AMI Secretary General and the AMI Treasurer for the mandate 2022-2024. The Ecclesiastical Assistant, Brig. Gen. Dolan Fr. Patrick, was elected in the year 2019 according to the AMI Statute art. 6.2.

In this regard, please be ready to participate and vote by making new proposals and new candidacies in advance if desired.

In the light of the actions carried out so far and the willingness to accomplish all tasks outlined within the so called AMI Action Plan already launched with several new initiatives, the current AMI Executive Committee, consisting of the Dutch Presidency (Vice-Adm Matthieu Borsboom – AMI President) and the Italian Secretariat (Col. Domenico D’Ortenzi AMI Secretary General and Staff Sgt. Damiano Pandolfo AMI Treasurer) under the auspices of the Military Ordinariate of Italy, are willing to submit their candidatures for a further three-year term.

Please note that in case of re-election, they will continue with their mandate supported by the two already known Vice-Presidents (Capt. Frank Markus and WO1 Ferry

¹ “The Executive Council of AMI shall be elected for a three-year term of office by the General Assembly. ...”

² “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.”

³ “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.”

Thannhauser) and the current Deputy Secretary General (Cpt. Mario Ciccotti).

As already done in the previous elections, the new AMI Executive Committee for the mandate 2022-2024 will be voted following an open ballot procedure through the Video-Conference planned on 15 September 2021 during the 56th General Assembly.

Annual contribution

As it is well known, the promotion and spreading of AMI throughout the world has been significantly increased in the last four years through participation in conferences, meetings and opportunities for discussion. This initiative has also been maintained through the enormous strengthening of our organization's social media - with extremely positive feedback results in terms of both audience and viewing.

As one can imagine, the aforementioned increase of the AMI's "social media" capacity – including the App (Catholic Military Connect) - has led to an increase in expenses that would require a greater commitment in financial terms on the part of all "full members," but also of nations with "open membership" and "friend associates".

For these reasons, the General Assembly is called upon to express its opinion on a possible increase in the annual contribution to €1000 which, to date, stands at €800 per year since 2012.

Press release

At the end of the conference, we will vote on a joint AMI position regarding the conference topics and issue a press release and, if possible, we will publish it subsequently in 6 different languages as done last year (English, Dutch, French, German, Italian and Spanish). If any delegate wants to add a new language, he/she is more than welcome to propose it and help the AMI Executive Committee in translating it.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ,

Col. Domenico D'Ortenzi (Italian Army)
AMI Secretary General



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General Information for our participants

1. Conference topic

Perseverance.

2. General information on video conference (VC)

Once received your registration form, I will send you personally via e-mail, all the instructions required to participate at the video conference. You will need just your Smart-Phone or Tablet or PC or Mac and an effective internet service provider for the range of your signal.

3. Uniform and transportation

Service dress with jacket is to be worn during the video conference.

4. Annual Contribution

This year, it is not needed the payment of the Conference fee and everything will be arranged through a specific app / software.

Concerning the standing order (article XI) of the Apostolat Militaire International (AMI) statute, an **annual contribution of 800 Euro.-(€)** has to be paid to the AMI Treasurer by each member nation/organization. I would like to remind you kindly to pay the open invoice total of **€ 800,00** as soon as possible, but at least before the beginning of the conference 2021. The AMI Treasurer, Sgt. Damiano Pandolfo, will send you an invoice with all required information for a wire transfer. For any further assistance or support, please refer to Staff Sgt. Damiano Pandolfo or the AMI Secretary General.

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), continuous exchange of ideas and experiences (documents, periodicals, etc.) and our representation on international bodies. Therefore we need a financial background to do AMI job and to act in the spirit of the conciliar decree on the lay apostolate.

The account number of AMI is:

Banca Cambiano

Address: Via Giovanni Vitelleschi, 32 - 00193 Roma, Italy

IBAN: IT38I0842503200000031292519

SWIFT code (BIC): CRACIT33

Account Name: Apostolat Militaire International

5. Any other business

- a. The conference language will be **English**.
- b. As already pointed out in the invitation, please prepare your contributions in English send everything via e-mail the AMI Secretary General.
- c. **Register** using the link to the registration form (<https://forms.gle/p46zUj4nFJGXhy5dA>) as soon as possible (**no later than August 15, 2021**). In case of problem please contact via e-mail the AMI Secretary General (domenicodortenzi@gmail.com) or the AMI Treasurer (damiano.pandolfo@live.it).