

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF CATHOLIC KNIGHTS



NEWSCHANNEL NUMBER 227 APRIL 2003

Election of International Alliance President for 2003 /2005.

With much pleasure we are able to inform members that our serving Deputy International President Brother Niall Kennedy been elected unopposed as International Alliance President for the period 2003 – 2005. The congratulations and assurance of the co-operation and prayerful support of all members of our Alliance has been conveyed to Brother Niall who will be installed in his new office at the conclusion of the meeting of the International Council in Austria.

Election of International Alliance Deputy President 2003 – 2005.

Five valid nominations for this office were received and ballot papers have been circulated to all voting members of the International Council with copies to their liaison officers. All members will be notified of the result immediately the voting has been concluded,

Welcome

We welcome Brother Francis Sarr newly elected National President of the Fraternal Order of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, into membership of the International Council.

Meeting of the International Council

September 20th – 26th. 2003.

Hochmoos Hotel St Martin bei Lofer,
Salzburger Land. Austria

A booking form and Programme for the forthcoming meeting of the International Council is enclosed with this Newschannel and members can view the Hochmoos Hotel by going to its website, which will be found on <http://www.hochmoos.au>

Any member of the International Alliance may attend meetings of the International Council, subject to obtaining the prior permission of the Alliance President and the availability of accommodation. The Hotel charge is £36 per person per day full board and the conference fee is £100 per person. Requests to attend this meeting should be forwarded to the Secretary General as soon as possible as the available accommodation is on a first come first served basis.

Prayers

Prospective Alliance President Niall Kennedy has now returned home after a short stay in Hospital for a minor operation. Please give him the benefit of your prayers for a complete and speedy return to full health.

Brothers are also requested to continue their prayers for Miss Theodora Bai, daughter of one of our brothers of the Knights of Saint Mulumba in Nigeria, who is being treated for Leukemia at a London Hospital. Bai who has been visited a number of times by Knights of St. Columba and her family have expressed their appreciation for our concern and assistance.

Message for Easter from the International Alliance Chaplain, Right Rev. Michael J. Cleary CSSp,

Dear Brothers in Christ,

Here with a few thoughts on the dignity of the Lay Faithful.

The lay faithful are not simply labourers who work in the vineyard. As members of the church, they are branches of the vine. All baptized share a common dignity from their rebirth in Christ. The secular world is above all the place where the lay faithful receive their call from God.

The Lay faithful participate in the life of the church in many ways, first and foremost in the local church. The parish is where the church locally finds its most immediate and visible expression. The parish is our Eucharistic Community.

Every Lay Person has a unique apostolate which only he or she can fulfil. There are also group forms of participation. It is the responsibility of the lay faithful to testify how the Christian faith constitutes the only fully valid response to the problems and hopes that life possesses. To bear witness in this way. The lay faithful must know how to overcome in themselves the separation of the Gospel from life, so as to take up an integrated approach to life in their daily activities in family, work, and society. The essential task which the whole church must render to the human family is to rediscover and make others rediscover the inviolable dignity of every human person.

The right to life is the most basic and fundamental right and the condition of all other personal rights and it must be defended. The human being is entitled to this right from conception until natural death, whether healthy or sick, whole or handicapped. Some lay faithful have a particular responsibility here, such as parents, teachers, health workers and the many who hold economic and political power.

The family is where the duty of the lay faithful to society begins. The family is the basic cell of society. It is the cradle of life and love, the place in which the individual is born and grows. The duty of Christians is to take part in public life – that is, in the many different economic, social, legislative, administrative and cultural areas which are intended to promote the common good. In our spirit of service, the lay faithful must bear witness to those human and gospel values that are intimately connected with political activity itself, such as liberty and justice, solidarity, faithful and unselfish dedication to the good of all, a simple lifestyle and a preferential love for the poor and the needy. The fruit of sound political activity is peace. The fruit of sound political activity is peace. The lay faithful cannot remain indifferent or be strangers and inactive in the face of all that denies and compromises peace, namely violence and war, torture and terrorism, concentration camps, miniaturisation of public life, the arms race and the nuclear threat.

With these thoughts go my prayerful best wishes for Easter and the Paschal season

Michael J. Cleary CSSp
Bishop of Banjul