



## **NEWSCHANNEL NUMBER 230 DECEMBER 2003**

### **International Council 2003**

[Summary of the Biennial meeting of the Council held in Lothe, Austria 19-26 Sept 2003]

#### **Messages to the Council**

An inspiring message was received from his Holiness Pope John Paul II, in which he bestowed his Apostolic Blessing on all the individual members of the Alliance and their families. This was read at the opening Mass and copies provided to Council members for circulation in each Order.

A message of greeting and thanks was also received from his Eminence Cardinal James Francis Stafford, as President of the Pontifical Council of the Laity.

The high point of the meeting was the address given by International Chaplain, Bishop Michael Cleary CSSp. on 'The Role of the Laity in the Church'. The full text of this wonderful address has now been distributed to each Member Order.

#### **Important decisions were approved by the Council concerning :-**

- Development assistance by the Member Orders to the Knights of St. Thomas the Apostle.
- Promoting further study of the documents of the second Vatican Council
- Member Orders appointing an International Alliance Liaison Officer.
- Promoting awareness and the attendance of young people at the next World Assembly of Youth with the Holy Father in Cologne, Germany in 2005
- Expanding the number of Councils, States, Provinces and Regions entering into the Alliance Inter-Order twinning scheme.
- That in view of the greater knowledge and co-operation developed between the Member Orders the use of accreditation certificates be discontinued. Production of a current receipt for dues of any Member Order should be regarded as sufficient identification.
- Promoting awareness and the attendance of young people at the next World Assembly of Youth with the Holy Father in Cologne, Germany in 2005

The next meeting of the International Council will be held in South Africa commencing on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

## **Prayers**

Your prayers are requested for Bro. Ken McQuillan PSK, Secretary for Finance, who is having hospital treatment. Our International Chaplain the Most Rev. Bishop Donal McKeown, will offer Mass for Brother Ken's speedy recovery and fraternal messages may be sent to him at 36 Nutley Avenue, Ballsbridge, Dublin, Ireland.

## **Christmas Greetings**

As we celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Redeemer, Jesus Christ may we be always grateful for the Fraternity which animates our service to Him as Catholic Knights. May his Peace bring you and your family every possible blessing for a Holy and Happy Christmas.

### ***Message from Alliance President Niall Kennedy [KCSG]***

Recently I had the pleasure of presenting Bro. James Eccles with a Founders medal on behalf of the Alliance. The presentation led me to think about the foresight of our Founder members. In founding the Alliance they brought together Orders of Knights which had their genesis in the vision of Fr. Michael J. McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus. It is his spirit and his ethos which permeates our activities as Catholic Knights. The long process towards his Canonisation is in progress and we should all pray for the success of this process. We can also do much to honour Fr. McGivney by putting thought and effort into our 5th objective, which is '*to extend the vision of Fr. McGivney by assisting each member to progress and grow and by promoting the establishment of new Orders of Catholic Knights*'.

In order to fulfil the first part of that objective, each Order in the Alliance should ensure that it has in place effective methods of ongoing Faith formation for its members. In relation to the second part, our Secretary General and I hope to progress some expressions of interest in establishing Orders in certain countries. It is a slow process which requires a lot of patience and perseverance. With God's help we will eventually succeed. I am optimistic. I am reminded of something George Bernard Shaw once said "Both optimists and pessimists contribute to society. The optimist invents the aeroplane, the pessimist the parachute"

By the time you read this our Secretary General and myself will have attended a General Assembly of the Conference of International Catholic Organisations in Rome. It is a long conference, eight days, and so Bro. Tony and I are splitting the I.A.C.K representation between us. The theme of the Conference is "make Human Society more Humane — Christian values leading from violence to peace". It promises to be an interesting meeting, in the course of which Bro. Tony and I will discuss our membership status with CICO.

I would ask you to bear in mind my request, made in Austria, that each member Order give public acknowledgement locally (i.e. nationally) to the Alliance, promote awareness and keep your members informed of our activities. Hopefully in the not-too-distant future we will have a well-developed website which will help to make the Alliance more relevant to all of our members.

May I take this opportunity to wish each of you a happy and peaceful Christmas. May the celebration of the birth of the Infant Jesus remind us all, of the "Mission" conferred on each of us at Baptism. May we be equal to the task.

***I pray Lord, for the needy of our world:  
Come among us as one who will help,  
And call us all to help the hungry and sick,  
The uneducated and homeless,  
Those who are victims of violence and war,  
The lonely and depressed  
May your coming this Christmas be for them  
A time of peace and of love;  
May we bring to them, in what way we can,  
The joy of your coming. Amen***