



**NEWSCHANNEL NUMBER 237
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Letter from Pope John Paul II

A letter has been received from the Holy Father expressing his thanks for the greetings we sent to him on the 26th Anniversary of his Inauguration and a copy is enclosed with this newschannel. As his Holiness imparts his Apostolic Blessing to all members of the Alliance it is hoped that all members will be made aware of this wonderful gesture

Pontifical Council for Laity opens New 'Church and Sport' Section

A copy of the Councils Bulletin number 9 is enclosed for members of the Alliance International Council. This contains an important letter from the Councils President, the Most Rev.Mgr.Stanislaw Rylco. This should be studied by Member Orders and copies distributed to members. It also details the decision of the Holy Father to institute a new 'Church and Sport' section of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, with the remits –

- 1) to be a benchmark in the Church for national and international sports organisations
- 2) to sensitise the local churches to the importance of the pastoral ministry to sports environments, while reminding them of the need to encourage co-operation between Catholic sports associations
- 3) to foster a sports culture as a means of bringing about holistic growth of the individual person at the service of peace and brotherhood between all peoples
- 4) to promote the study of specific issues relating to sport, particularly from the ethical point of view
- 5) to organise and support initiatives encouraging Christian witness by sportsmen and women

A young American Priest Fr. Kevin Lixey has been appointed to head this new section and the Council hopes the institution of this new section will provide an opportunity for all who work in the world of sport – officials, fans and athletes – to give a new creative impetus to their commitment, in what is now considered to be one of the frontiers of the New Evangelisation. The healthy practice of sport is capable of reconciling complex demands currently raised by cultural and social changes, with the unchanging needs of the human being - and can be a school of virtue, capable of educating people in the values that lie at the heart of living together in solidarity and peace. It offers wonderful new opportunities to all Knights in their role as 'Apostles of the Third Millenium'

Congratulations

The congratulations of President Niall Kennedy and all members of our Alliance have been conveyed to Bro, Charles McDonald S.K. on being created a Knight Commander of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great, by Pope John Paul II. Messages may be conveyed to Brother Charles at Larchfield house, Ballyroan, Port Laoise, Laoise, Ireland.

International Directory 2005

All Member Orders and individual members whose names appear in the present directory, are requested to check their present entries and forward any corrections or amendments to the Alliance Deputy President, Brother Frank Wightman, before December 31st 2004. The new directory will go to print on January 1st 2005.

Christmas Greetings

Dear Brothers, I thank every one who has made the work as your Secretary General such a privilege and a pleasure. Frances and I pray that you and your families will find the tranquillity and peace that flows from our Lords Nativity.

Tony Rouse KCSG Secretary General