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Post-Conference Statement

The twenty-first meeting of the International Council of IACK was held in Berg-en-Dal, Kruger National Park, South Africa from 19 to 23 September 2005. Member Orders from Australia, Belgium, The Gambia, Ghana (encompassing councils from Togo, Benin and Liberia), Great Britain, Ireland and South Africa attended.

Unfortunately a number of Orders were unable to attend, for a variety of reasons. The most calamitous was the effect of Hurricane Katrina in the United States of America causing the Knights of Peter Claver to prioritise their relief work at home. Prayers and messages of sympathy and support for the victims of Katrina were sent from the meeting.

The meeting was unanimous in its support of the campaigns to protect the Holy Name of Jesus and to emphasise the central position of Christ in Christmas. Furthermore the meeting was concerned about the ongoing spiritual integrity of Easter and other Christian feasts.

The meeting discussed strategies to inspire younger men to become members of Orders of Knights around the world as a means of further encouraging young participation in the church.

The meeting welcomed the document of the Pontifical Council for the care of Migrants and Itinerant People called "The Love of Christ towards Migrants". It was agreed that a study guide would be made available to member Orders to enable them to respond appropriately to the needs in their own particular areas.

During the meeting a vote of thanks was passed to the retiring Secretary-General Tony Rouse KCSG for his twenty-five years of dedicated service to the Alliance. The incoming Secretary General is Niall Kennedy KCSG of Ireland, who has completed a two-year term of Office as International President of the Alliance. Frank Wightman of South Africa was installed as the International President for 2005-2007. Sam Barnes of Ghana was installed as Deputy International President.

Bishop Donal McKeown of Down and Connor, Ireland, who has served the Alliance as International Chaplain since 2003, stressed in his keynote address the need for member Orders to continue striving to be part of the living Church in an ever-changing world. Bishop Michael Coleman of Port Elizabeth, South Africa, was appointed International Chaplain for the next two years.

The meeting reaffirmed the filial loyalty of the Alliance to the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI.

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Niall M Kennedy KCSG Secretary General