



**NEWSCHANNEL NUMBER 245  
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**CHRISTMAS MESSAGES**

Jerusalem - November 2006

Dear Friends,

As I sit at my desk at "Ecce Homo" Centre in Old Jerusalem, I realize that the course I'm on: "Sojourn in the Holy Land" is already halfway along and it is time to begin gradually thinking of Christmas approaching – in order to greet you all in good time. This also gives me a chance to convey, on behalf of the Church, our thanks to Brother Knights everywhere for the sterling work you have done for the preservation of our faith and for the upliftment of less fortunate members of our world community, during this past year.

The first six weeks of Sabbatical time has been such a great gift – we have truly dedicated lecturers and guides and so have been given some deep insights into Jewish and Muslim culture as well as our Christian and Catholic Roots – last night we met a multi-Christian group of De La Salle graduate students who shared their great difficulties and diminishing numbers (Jerusalem and Israel have less than 1% Christians now). Many – especially young people – are leaving. This morning we had Mass in the Crusader Church of St. Ann at the Pool of Bethsaida – and prayed for all Sodalities, especially all Women of St. Ann.

Last week we spent a few days in the Negev and Sinai Deserts, stayed under the stars (millions of them!) in the open desert and also in the VI<sup>th</sup> Century Monastery at Mt. Sinai – which we climbed ( $\pm$  7200 feet), starting at 3.00 a.m. – partly with the help of camels – and had a (very cold) memorable Mass at the top, recalling Moses and the Ten Commandments and I prayed for you all.

May this Advent and Christmastide deepen our Faith in the Lord God who sent us His Beloved Son, born of Mary, to save us from our sins.

With Love and Blessings to you and your loved-ones

*+ Michael Coleman* JACK CHAPLAIN

Dear Brother Supreme Knights and Brothers of the Alliance.

Recently it was highlighted to me the huge and powerful potential we have in the Alliance when I asked for the Orders to join in a Rosary Bouquet to be offered for our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI. The response was positive and very heart warming to realise that all Brothers throughout the world were backing our Pope in his time of need. With a barrage of prayer like that Our Lady would have no problem in getting her Son our Saviour to answer us positively. I thank all those Orders who responded so generously and positively. I have forwarded the Bouquet to Rome. It was also interesting to see that the Knights of Columbus also sent a special message to the Pope on the occasion of his proposed visit to Turkey. Another highlight was the fact that two Orders, namely St Thomas More of Belgium and Le Chevaliers de Marie Riene de La Paix of Mauritius have taken the Knights of Da Gama campaign "Put Christ back into Christmas" theme to heart and are actively promoting the theme. Further the Supreme Knight of the Knights of the Southern Cross, David Huppatz, has offered his services to the Knights of Da Gama in a project they are considering. I am sure there are many more instances amongst other Orders in the Alliance and I would be grateful if you could keep me posted. One other example was the fact that the Order in Pakistan advised us of the difficulties they were experiencing so they shared in this wonderful brotherhood that we have as a problem shared is a problem halved. Our Reverend Chaplain has been on sabbatical in Israel for the last three months and from what he sends back to us it has been an experience beyond all expectations. Hopefully we can get him to give us a picture of his three months experience. It remains for Ren and I to wish you and yours a peaceful and holy Christmas and may the new born Saviour bring the real joy of his birth to you all.

Fraternally

**Frank Wightman - President - International Alliance of Catholic Knights**

Dublin, December 2006

Dear Brothers, I wish to join with our president and chaplain in wishing you peace and happiness at this blessed time. I concur with the sentiments expressed by Brother Frank in his references to the Rosary Bouquet. I wish also to congratulate the Knights of Columbus for their wonderful concept of joining in prayer with the journey of the Holy Father in Turkey. My congratulations go also to the Knights of the Southern Cross in Australia for picking up on it so quickly and helping to spread the word. As we approach yet another year we must constantly strive to live up to the ideals we have set ourselves as knights. We must always remember the stirring words of the Pope John Paul the Great when he told us that we are "the apostles of the third millennium" Pat joins with me in wishing you and your members and their families the joy and peace of Jesus Christ this blessed Christmas.

*Niall M Kennedy*, KCSG Secretary General

## **MICHAEL BELL MEMORIAL AWARD**

Three applications were received for this award. The International President has appointed adjudicators and their decision will be announced in the New Year.

## **AUDITED ACCOUNTS**

Four member Orders returned their Ballot papers all voting in favour of adoption. In view of the debate engendered by the Accounts it is surprising that more votes were not received.

## **THE WAY FORWARD**

Again, four Orders have submitted comments on the recommendations sent out previously. All were in favour of adopting the recommendations.

## **EXPANSION**

I have no further news regarding the possible establishment of an Order in Portugal but these things take time and communication can sometimes be slow.

## **UNUM OMNES**

The triennial General assembly of Unum Omnes took place in Ghana in September. I have almost completed a comprehensive report which will issue to each Order shortly.

## **PRAYERS**

Your prayers are requested for Brother Jean Migneault, Immediate Past Deputy Supreme Knight, Knights of Columbus USA and Brother Colin Walsh, Knights of the Southern Cross, Australia. Both Brothers are ill at this time.