



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF CATHOLIC KNIGHTS

DUBLIN, IRELAND, SEPTEMBER 2011

POST CONFERENCE STATEMENT

Under the Chairmanship of President John Starmans (Australia), the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Council of the International Alliance of Catholic Knights (IACK) was held on 10th - 14th September 2011 in the Ely House, headquarters of the Knights of Saint Columbanus, at Dublin, Ireland. Delegates from ten of the fifteen member Orders were present and deliberated on a number of issues of concern to the Alliance, its member Orders, and the universal Church. Among the many matters discussed, the following matters were highlighted:

1. Since baptism not only signifies the universal call and promise of the Gospel but also incorporates one into Christ and at the same time into the community of hospitality, Christian formation must be encouraged, strengthened, and supported in an effort to facilitate the evangelizing and teaching mission of the Holy Catholic Church.
2. In view of the fact that we exist in an increasingly pluralistic society, we must engage with young people to build a more vibrant Church where our faith is celebrated with hope and joy.
3. The promotion of vocations to Holy Orders and the consecrated life is a task that belongs to each of us by virtue of our baptism. While vocations should be lifted up by prayer, we must also actively advance and cultivate vocations to serve Christ's Church.
4. We embrace the teachings of the Church regarding the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, recognizing the intrinsic value of each human life. Our faith demands that we engage in purposeful, pro-active, vocal, visible, and prayerful action.

5. Since attention must be given to the dignity of every person, we affirm that the Christian faithful must be ever mindful of our role in welcoming the stranger among us. Promoting blessed hope for the future, the faithful are called to provide an effective framework to aid in accepting, embracing, and welcoming migrant peoples.

At the closing Mass of the meeting:

Past Supreme Knight Vicente Barra of the Catholic Order of the Knights of da Gama (South Africa), was installed as President of the Alliance for the next two years.

Past Supreme Knight David Huppatz of the Knights of The Southern Cross (Australia) was installed as Deputy President.

The Most Reverend Barry Wood, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Durban South Africa, having been duly approved by the Pontifical Council for the Laity, was confirmed as International Chaplain for the biennium 2011 – 2013.

Niall Kennedy, Past International President of the Alliance, and Past Supreme Knight of the Knights of St. Columbanus of Ireland, was re-elected unanimously as Secretary General of the Alliance until the next meeting of the International Council to be held in Gambia in 2013.

The statement was signed on behalf of the Orders represented at the conclusion of the meeting by:

Stephen Feiler: Representing the Knights of Columbus, USA.

F. deKarlos Blackmon: Supreme Knight of the Knights of Peter Claver, USA

JonJo McDonagh: Supreme Knight of the Knights of St. Columba, United Kingdom

Seamus McDonald: Supreme Knight of the Knights of St. Columbanus, Ireland.

Billy Lee: Representing the Knights of St. Thomas More, Belgium,

Peter Lewis: Supreme Knight of the Knights of the Southern Cross, Australia,

Anthony Beale: Supreme Knight, of the Knights of da Gama, South Africa,

Derx Baffour: Supreme Knight of the Knights of Marshall, Ghana

Anthony Onuh: Supreme Knight of the Knights of St. Mulumba, Nigeria