



## **INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF CATHOLIC KNIGHTS**

**NEW ORLEANS, USA, AUGUST 2009**

### **POST CONFERENCE STATEMENT**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> International Council Meeting of the International Alliance of Catholic Knights was held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> August 2009. Delegates from 10 of the 15 member Orders were present and deliberated on a number of issues of concern to the Alliance and its member Orders. The following areas were highlighted:

1. Since service to the poor, needy and disadvantaged is at the heart of Catholic Action, when reporting on their activities, Orders should reflect not only the material resources and moneys raised and distributed, but also the hours devoted to charitable activities.
2. The Alliance recognizes that almost 3% of the world's population lives outside their country of origin, either as economic migrants or as refugees and others seeking asylum. As this is having disastrous repercussions for a substantial and increasing proportion of the human race, and affects countries supplying as well as countries receiving migrants, the Alliance should address this issue on a sustained and regular basis.
3. The Alliance expressed concern at the decline of the practice and observance of Christianity in relation to other religions, as well as the growth of secularism, and proposed that every effort be made to reverse this trend and to redouble efforts to spread our Catholic Faith.

4. The Alliance reiterated the position of the Catholic Church that simultaneous or dual membership of the Catholic Church and Freemasonry is not permitted, in view of incompatibility of the teachings of Freemasonry with those of the Catholic Church.
5. The Alliance acknowledges the need for all people to respect Life, from conception to its natural termination, and proposes renewed efforts to promote legitimate Catholic action to promote Life.

At the close of the meeting, Past Supreme Knight John Starmans of the Knights of the Southern Cross (Australia) was installed as President of the Alliance for the next two years. Supreme Knight Vicente Barra of the Catholic Order of the Knights of da Gama, South Africa, was installed as Deputy President. The Most Reverend Bishop Emeritus Ronald A Mulkearns of Australia, having been duly approved by the Pontifical Council for the Laity, was nominated and confirmed as International Chaplain for the biennium 2009 – 2011. Niall Kennedy, Past International President of the Alliance and Past Supreme Knight of the Knights of St Columbanus, Ireland, was re-elected unopposed as Secretary- General of the Alliance until the next meeting of the International Council, to be held in Ireland in 2011.

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

Gene Phillips Snr. Supreme Knight, Knights of St. Peter Claver, USA

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

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

Billy Lee, representing the Knights of St. Thomas More, Belgium

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

Vincente Barra, Supreme Knight, Knights of da Gama, South Africa

Anthony N’Jie, Supreme Knight, Knights of Ss. Peter and Paul, The Gambia

Anthony Kemavor, representing the Knights of Marshall, Ghana.

Chief Anthony Onuh, Supreme Knight, Knights of St. Mulumba, Nigeria

New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, 6<sup>th</sup> August 2009