

**REPORT ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup> BIENNIAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF CATHOLIC KNIGHTS.HELD AT THE HILTON RIVERSIDE HOTEL, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, USA, AUGUST 1 – 7, 2009**

**OVERVIEW**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Meeting of the International Alliance of Catholic Knights (IACK) was held at the Hilton Riverside Hotel, New Orleans Louisiana, USA between 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2009.

The IACK meeting coincided with the 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Knights of Peter Claver (KPC) Convention. Indeed, this convention was a Celebration of 100 years of the existence of the Knights of Peter Claver . The KPC Convention was held at the same hotel as the IACK meeting. This afforded the IACK members present the opportunity of joining them in some of the celebrations such as mass and meeting dignitaries such as the Mayor of New Orleans.

**ATTENDANCE:**

The IACK Conference was represented by 10 out of the 15 Member Orders of the International Alliance. The Knights of Marshall was represented by W/Bro Anthony Kemavor, DSK.

Also in attendance were 8 individual members of the International Alliance. Individual members from the Knights of Marshall were W/Bros. Isaac Somuah (ASP) and Andy Agyekum (SPO).

The meeting was chaired by our own Sir Knt. Bro. Sam Kweku Barnes, President of the International Alliance with the support of the Alliance Chaplain, His Lordship, Most Rev. Joseph Osei-Bonsu.

**REPORT FROM THE KNIGHTS OF MARSHALL**

The report from the Knights of Marshall for the period September 2007 to June 2009 was read on behalf of the Noble order by the DSK. The DSK also presented a Power Point report on the eligibility criteria for membership into the Noble Order. After the report was warmly applauded, discussions on the contents followed.

Some of the suggestions that came up were:

- The report did not capture the **total sum** representing charity works of the Noble Order for the period.
- The maximum age for membership eligibility of 60/65 could be reviewed leaving it uncapped.

**REPORTS FROM OTHER MEMBER ORDERS**

Reports were available from 13 of the 15 members. Two member Orders did not submit reports. Members of the Alliance expressed their displeasure on the matter. Reports were also submitted by the President and Sec. General. The Alliance Chaplain Most. Rev. Joseph Osei-Bonsu also gave a talk on Freemasonry.

For all the reports and the subsequent discussions that ensued, a Post Conference statement was issued for the consumption of the press. The DSK representing the Knights of Marshall was one of a 4-member committee nominated to prepare the release.

Key issues in the release were in the areas of:-

- A medium of quantifying the contribution of brothers to church activities using hours devoted to church activities.
- Pro- Life issues
- Migration and Parish partnership support
- The threat of Islam.
- The incompatibility of Freemasonry to the catholic faith.

Attached is the full text of the Post Conference statement.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **Changes in Alliance Prayers**

Essentially, the IACK has within its members 2-standard prayers. These are

- The International Alliance Prayer and
- Prayer for Africa

Changes were effected to both prayers thus:-

#### The Alliance Prayer.

Changes were made to the first and last lines of the prayer.

The first line will now go; **O God, Father of all** instead of “O God, Father of all mankind”

The last line will say:- **Mary, mother of God**, have us always in your keeping instead of ‘Mary our mother, have us always in your keeping’.

The rest of the prayer remains unchanged.

#### Prayer for Africa.

The entire prayer for Africa was withdrawn and replaced with a “**Prayer for the world**”

The prayer reads:

Almighty and Eternal God, Creator and Father of all, you have given us one common origin and called us all into one family with you. Fill everyone with the fire of your love and teach us to desire justice and peace for all brothers and sisters everywhere. Show us how to bring an end to all divisions that afflict our world and by sharing the good things we have,

may we secure justice and peace for all peoples and establish a society based on your love; we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Resolution from the Knights of St. Columba, Great Britain to the meeting of the International Council of the Alliance.**

The proposed resolution read:-

*That this International Council agrees to note and confirm that any Member Order with Councils, Groups or Cells established within the jurisdiction of another Member Order desist from any further expansion or **recruitment**.*

*Furthermore, to pledge and affirm that no Member Order shall extend into the country of another Member Order without the full agreement of that Member Order.*

The proposed resolution was dropped on the grounds that Section 1 of the Alliance accord of the Constitution of the IACK had addressed this concern. The Section under reference states:-

*“Should a Member Order wish to extend its work into a country in which another Member Order is already established, no steps will be taken to effect such an expansion without first conducting a meaningful process of consultation with the established Order and the International President”.*

**OTHER MATTERS**

**Application for IACK membership**

We were informed by the Knights of Mulumba, Nigeria that they had received a request from the KSJI, Nigeria for membership into the IACK .

After discussions on the request, it was decided that a reply be sent to KSJI Nigeria indicating the inability of the IACK to deal with the request at national level. It was agreed that should the International body of KSJI apply for membership, the IACK would review and discuss the request more critically.

**Proposal for inclusion of ladies in IACK**

Upon an enquiry from a member why our lady counterparts could not be members of the IACK, several arguments were adduced for their inability to become members.

Some of these arguments were that the various Noble Orders were already represented at the IACK. Furthermore, they were said to be ladies and not Knights. We were reminded the meeting was for Knights and not Knights and Ladies.

### **Administration of the IACK**

The term of Sir Knight S.K. Barnes of the Knights of Marshall as President of the IACK had come to end. Concurrently, the tenure of office of the IACK Chaplain had also expired. The new team elected for the next two years were:-

- President**     ;-     Bro. John Starmans, Knights of the Southern Cross, Australia.
- Vice Pres.**    ;-     Bro. Vic Barra, Knights of da Gama, South Africa
- Chaplain**     :-     To be appointed by the Knights of the Southern Cross, Australia
- Sec. Gen.**     :-     Bro Niall Kennedy, Knights of St Columbanus, Ireland *Retained*

It was also decided that to enhance the administration of the IACK member Orders should note and adhere to the following.-

- Appoint a permanent liaison officer who will be the point of contact between the IACK and the Member Order.
- Member Orders are to notify the Sec. Gen. of all changes in leadership as well as changes in addresses.

### **Future meetings of the IACK**

Future meetings of the IACK were scheduled as below;-

2011	24 <sup>th</sup> Sept – 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Dublin, Ireland
2013	June	Banjul, The Gambia
2015	May	Australia

*Prepared and submitted  
to the Supreme Council  
Knights of Marshall*

(W/BRO. ANTHONY KEMAVOR)  
Supreme Knight

**Dated: 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2009**