



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of CIVIL AVIATION CHAPLAINS

IACAC NEWSLETTER

December 2018

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

"It was only multi-faith because I was there." So said a UK colleague about their experience of a recent conference they'd attended.

It was a phrase that could be taken in several different ways, but as we look forward to our next conference in Melbourne (from Sunday 13 - Friday 18 October 2019), let's hold that thought (whatever our faith tradition) for a moment...

One of the questions in last summer's IACAC members' questionnaire asked about your motivation (or demotivation) to attend (or not attend) a conference. The answers focused strongly on whether you would feel represented and engaged by 1) the content and 2) the 'feel' of the conference. ***"If I'm going to be the only (—) there, what's the point?"***

If that reflects your answer (or your thoughts), then, *ironically*, you are not alone!

The IACAC Exec. Board is responsible, both for communicating to members through the newsletter and website, and any other means, and, not only for the content, but more importantly the culture (the feel) of our conferences.

So, as the current President of the Association I offer my apology to anyone who has felt excluded or marginalized (I hope, almost certainly, unintentionally) by the experience of meeting up with, or hearing from, other members of the Association.

It can be particularly difficult, if you find yourself the only (***insert significant identifier here***) at a gathering - whether that primary identifier is your faith tradition, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, language, culture, or age - it is always hard to be **the only one**.

But it is also why it is **so important that you are here**.

You will know this from your own experience of airport ministry. Because you are 'here', when someone else who sees themselves reflected in you (and it may not matter if you look, or sound, or are, exactly like them, it's more important that they can see themselves reflected in you) - they will come again: they will stay, they will come back - and they may even bring others.

A key purpose of our meeting together (whether in our networks or as the global IACAC) is to **encourage**,

strengthen and resource one another: we all must ensure that this continues to be the case for all - not just those like us.

And I want to ensure that we (all) continually seek to strengthen the ambition of the Association, expressed so strongly by the membership at every Annual Business Meeting (*certainly since I joined in 2012*) for the IACAC to grow by becoming ever more inclusive and reflective of the diversity of the workforce and passengers we serve.

As I write, I am thinking of various specific chaplaincy colleagues from my own British Isles and Ireland network, as well as from around the world, who demonstrate that inclusivity and diversity in reaching out far beyond the comfort zone of their own faith tradition or culture (for example, a Muslim chaplain I know who ministered to a Roman Catholic lady from the DRC by leading her in reciting the Lord's Prayer.)

I recently had the pleasure and honour of praying for God's blessing on a new route from Manchester to Mumbai. Jet Airways (India) asked me to bring together Sikh, Hindu and Muslim colleagues to pray our own words of blessing, and in doing so, we each connected with delighted members of our own communities among staff (and passengers as they queued) around us.

The Christian story of Jesus' birth (December/January) brings together traditional Jewish religious belief and practice, shepherds from the fringes of respectable society, and eastern astrologers/mystics. The main characters become, effectively, rough-sleepers, refugees and displaced immigrants in a foreign land - and the whole story is set in the context of a complex series of journeys which begins in the characters' home-town and takes them to foreign and unfamiliar places.

There is room for everyone in that story; and as we tell our own stories (and even more importantly, as we listen to and make space for other people's stories) we each find ourselves represented in one-another's stories, too.

October 2019 may seem a while away, but it's never too early to start to seek funding for your place at our 52nd Annual Conference in Melbourne - the theme of which is **DIVERSITY – Embracing Differences as a Gift**

And, if you have chaplaincy colleagues who are of a different faith tradition from you, whether or not they

receive this newsletter, would you please encourage (and even assist) them to seek funding so that they can attend?

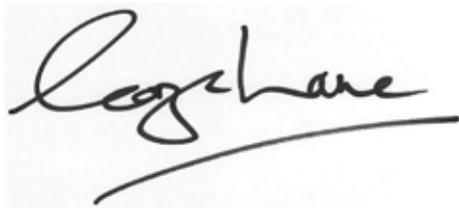
Have you held that thought...?

"The IACAC conference was only multi-faith because it was there."

The next conference will only be (*anything*) because you are there. Your presence at conference - not only makes a difference to you - not only makes a difference to the Association as a whole, but also makes a big difference to those of our colleagues around the world who see something of themselves in you: **those for whom you are exactly the person they need to see!**

May God bless you through these Winter (in the northern hemisphere) and Summer (in the southern hemisphere) months, and the many festivals that take place at this time of year. May 2019 prove to be a year of peace and success for you, your colleagues, and those whom we serve.

May this be a Blessed and Holy Christmas, a restful holiday season and a wonderful New Year for each of you according to your tradition.



The Revd George Lane
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International Association of Civil Aviation Chaplains
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News From President, National Conference of Catholic Airport Chaplains

Dear Fellow Members of IACAC,
We had some excellent presentations and a wonderful time in Charlotte at this year's IACAC Annual Meeting. Deacon George Szalony and his team are to be commended for hosting a truly World Class Conference!

One of my responsibilities as President of the United States National Conference of Catholic Airport Chaplains (NCCAC) is to organize an Annual Meeting of our members. This year we combined our Annual Meeting with the IACAC meeting in order to give our chaplains who are not members of IACAC a chance to meet other chaplains from around the world. Like IACAC, our Annual Meetings are about 4 or 5 days long, and include presentations, small group discussions, prayer time, and unstructured time for visiting and learning from one another. That unstructured time is quite valuable for chaplains from similar size airports or ministries to seek guidance and wisdom from each other.

In the last few years we have had meetings centered about Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM), where our chaplains and volunteers received Certificates of Completion of the CISM Pastoral Care I and II courses. Some meetings were centered on practical things such as Emergency Planning. Other meetings focussed on the Spirituality of a Catholic Airport Chaplain and they were structured more like a retreat than a classroom-style meeting. Our future topics include Airport Chaplain Emergency Response planning and management, establishing and growing our chaplaincies, & chaplain networking and education.

From time to time the Vatican Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People would invite Roman Catholic airport chaplains to Rome for a weeklong meeting. The president of IACAC was typically invited to these sessions. While the topics were generally theological and philosophical, it afforded us all the chance to receive input from theologians, professors, bishops and cardinals. The Holy Father would grant us an Audience where he would give us words of encouragement, thank us for our ministry, and impart his blessing.

God has blessed us with this special ministry to the airport workers and travelers. Let us pray for each other as we continue to grow in wisdom, patience, and spirituality.

May Almighty God bless you and your chaplaincies,
Fr. Michael G. Zaniolo
President, National Conference of Catholic Airport Chaplains
Administrator, Interfaith Airport Chapels of Chicago

A Note For Your Diary

The 52nd IACAC Conference - Melbourne 13th-17th October 2019

A Reflection for December

It is important to make a difference in the world. It is important to help people, but we have to start with ourselves. If you are looking outside yourself to find out where you fit in or how you can create an impact, stop and look inside yourself instead. It's that time of the year when we review things and so let us review ourselves, our current lifestyle, what makes us feel alive. Then nurture these and make positive adjustments until we can no longer contain them, enabling us to move and grow beyond our current circumstances.

As someone said: ***Don't limit yourself, many people limit themselves to what they think they can do. You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe you can achieve.***

Thought For The Month

Nothing in life is more exciting and rewarding than the sudden flash of insight that leaves you a changed person – not only changed, but for the better.

G.K.Chesterton 1874- 1936.

English critic, novelist and poet.