Military Chaplains, Spiritual and Moral Guides Alongside Soldiers

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Rome, September 15, 2025 – This morning, a particularly significant meeting was held at the Army Officers' Club “Pio IX” between the Chief of Staff of the Army, General of the Army Corps **Carmine Masiello**, and a representation of **Military Chaplains** from all over the country. The initiative was also attended by the **Military Ordinary for Italy, Monsignor Gian Franco Saba**, along with the Episcopal Vicar for the Army, Father Gianfranco Pilotto, who introduced the proceedings.

An Indispensable Presence in the Units

The meeting represented an important moment of reflection on the role of Military Chaplains, figures that have always been fundamental to the life of the units. Not only spiritual guides but also moral and human points of reference for soldiers and their families, capable of offering support in times of difficulty, accompanying daily life, and transmitting those values that remain the glue of the military community.

Monsignor Saba emphasized the centrality of their presence in the units: a discreet but constant closeness, capable of giving meaning and depth to the service, strengthening the bond between the military and the ethical roots of their commitment.

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Values as the Army's Strength

In his speech, General Masiello expressed sincere gratitude for the work carried out by the Chaplains, recognizing their commitment and dedication. He reiterated that the Army draws its strength not only from training or technology but above all from the **inner values** that animate every soldier.

“The task of the Chaplains,” he declared, “is to keep alive the inner flame that drives one to serve with honor. It is not enough to teach; one must be consistent: words and actions must always go together.” A clear acknowledgment of the irreplaceable role of military priests, capable of supporting and inspiring those who wear the uniform.

A Strong and Shared Bond

The day concluded with a symbolic exchange of gifts, testifying to the **bond of collaboration** and mutual consideration between the Italian Army and the Military Ordinariate. A simple gesture, but with profound symbolic value, that seals the common commitment to serving the men and women of the Armed Forces.

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The meeting in Rome reminded us how, alongside the operational and technological dimension, the **human and spiritual dimension** remains essential in military life: Chaplains continue to represent a bastion of listening, faith, and hope for soldiers, in barracks as well as in operational theaters.

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