



AMASC 2022-2026

Association Mondiale des Anciennes et Anciens du Sacré-Cœur AISBL

*One Heart moving forward with Courage and Confidence...
Un Seul Cœur qui avance avec Courage et Confiance...
Un Solo Corazón avanzando con Coraje y Confianza...*

August, 11, 2026

Dear Members of the AMASC Community,

I write today with sincere appreciation for your commitment to our global Sacred Heart mission and with an important update regarding the 2026 General Membership Meeting and Congress.

After careful and prayerful deliberation, the AMASC Board voted unanimously to terminate our agreement with the Hilton Ponce and to cancel and rethink our General Membership Meeting in Puerto Rico in November 2026. This decision was deeply disappointing to all of us. Even so, we are confident that it was the responsible and necessary course of action under the Impossibility clause of our contract with the hotel. We will convene a virtual meeting in the fall to conduct all the essential AMASC business required for this year, including our elections and other matters that must be addressed. We hope to reschedule an in person gathering when circumstances allow.

Why the Congress Cannot Proceed as Contracted

Several severe and escalating global and regional conditions now make it impossible — legally, logistically, and practically — for AMASC to bring our international delegation to Puerto Rico in November 2026. In summary, these include:

1. Major disruptions to international travel due to global conflict

The ongoing war involving Iran has led to widespread aviation restrictions, rerouted flights, cancellations, and heightened security concerns across multiple regions. Delegates from Europe, Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East are already experiencing significant travel obstacles and understandable hesitation and cancellations. These disruptions meet the contract's definition of a curtailment of transportation that would prevent a substantial portion of our attendees arriving.

2. Public health restrictions related to the global Ebola emergency

The resurgence of Ebola has prompted new travel warnings, mandatory quarantines, and strict screening measures. Several countries have limited outbound travel, and the United States currently restricts entry for individuals from designated Ebola-affected nations. For many of our members, especially in Uganda and DRC, attendance has become legally impossible.

3. New U.S. visa bond requirements and severe visa processing delays

The permanent implementation of the U.S. Visa Bond Program now requires nationals of fifty countries to post bonds of \$10,000–\$20,000 to obtain a visitor visa. This sudden financial burden is prohibitive for many of our members, including religious communities and educators. At the same time, new US policies which require in-person visa interviews have created very long, prohibitive waiting times for visa appointments. Some regions are waiting several months for appointments. Additionally, availability has sharply decreased and approval rates have dropped. Many members cannot secure a visa in time — or at all.

4. Escalating drought conditions and mandatory water rationing in Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico is experiencing a severe drought, with mandatory water rationing in San Juan and surrounding municipalities. Although our lodging is in Ponce, several Congress activities were planned in affected areas. Forecasts indicate worsening conditions, raising concerns about the feasibility and safety of hosting an international convention.

5. Combined effect: Impossibility of performance

Each of these circumstances independently qualifies under the Impossibility clause. Taking together, they create a situation in which AMASC cannot reasonably, safely, or legally proceed with the Congress as contracted.

Financial Stewardship

Leaving the agreement intact could expose AMASC to a significant financial loss — a risk we cannot accept on behalf of our global membership. Under these circumstances, termination was the only responsible option, and we saw no other viable path.

Next Steps

We are still awaiting the hotel's response, and we pray for a favorable outcome for both AMASC and the Hilton Ponce.

We will inform you of any next steps that may be necessary for you to take, if any. For those of you that have registered for the Congress, we will be refunding your fees. I am not sure whether the hotel will automatically cancel your reservations. If you have hotel reservations, I would contact them to formally cancel them to ensure your refund. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

As soon as decisions are made, you will receive instructions regarding next steps and additional details about our fall gathering. We look forward to meeting virtually to conduct our AMASC business, hold our elections, and discuss plans for gathering in person as soon as circumstances allow.

Thank you for your understanding, your patience, and your steadfast support. Our global Sacred Heart community remains united, resilient, and committed to moving forward together.

In one Heart,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosalie Bellanca Posselius', written in a cursive style.

Rosalie Bellanca Posselius
President, AMASC