

REPORTS FROM REGIONS

EVENTS – FINANCES – FUTURE PLANS

NO. 74 ADVENT 2016

Australia and New Zealand

no message

Austria and South-Eastern Europe

no message

Czech Republic

no message

Bavaria

Nothing new to report.

Dorothea Humérez

Central Germany

Nothing new to report.

Albrecht Schwenk

Eastern Europe

no message

Great Britain-Ireland

no message

Japan

no message

Netherlands and Flanders

Two-days-course on the profession of a priest and its training: On the 5th and 6th January we'll hold a two-day-course in the Andrieskerk in Amsterdam on the priest's profession and on the training in our Seminaries in Spring Valley (USA) and Germany. This course is thought for all people older than 17 years who are interested in a training in the Seminaries of the Christian Community, because they want to study perhaps in the Seminary or because they want to support others thereby. The course will be attended by Bastiaan Baan (manager of the Seminary in Spring Valley), Mari-
anne de Nooij (priest in Amsterdam) und Ernst Terpstra (lenker of the Region Netherlands and Flanders).

International Whitsun-conference 2017: The countdown has begun: The organisation of the International Whitsun-conference keeps us very busy, of course, in our Region. In only half a year – then there it is. Then we gather as members and friends of the Christian Community in the *Congrescentrum 1931* in 's-Hertogenbosch for the International Whitsun-conference. A limited number of people uses a huge amount of time on preparing this conference; they are confident, but the organisation of such a conference needs a lot!

The organisation and the programme are almost clear. There are groups who are busy preparing all things for the services, the programme, the equipment of the halls, the transport, accommodation and catering, the website and many more things. We have the absolute necessary support by experts, but most of the work is done by volunteers, not only because it is appropriate for the Christian Community and because there are people who are highly motivated and enjoy to do their utmost, but also because otherwise it were far too expensive.

You know perhaps that last summer we suddenly had to give up our original location, Ahoy Rotterdam. That, of course, created quite some annoyance, but the organisers are very satisfied with the new location *Congrescentrum 1931* in 's-Hertogenbosch. The halls are more convenient for our purposes than in Ahoy, and 's-Hertogenbosch in fact no metropolis but definitely a lively, pulsating place, which also has an interesting relation to the painter Hieronymus Bosch, the famous son of this town.

One of the main speakers in the conference is Otto Scharmer. He is lecturer at the famous Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and deals with the question which is most relevant for the Christian Community, too: Are we able to “pre-sense” what will be born into the world, and to work at it? The book wherein he developed his ideas together with his co-author Katrin Kaufer has the title “Theory U, *Von der Zukunft her führen*”. If you want to get to know Otto Scharmer and his ideas you may visit his website www.ottoscharmer.com. In this website are several videos, where he speaks about his ideas.

Ellis Booi

North-America

Rafal Nowak joined the North American priest circle at the end of the summer, and is settling into congregational life in Sacramento, California. Further south, the Los Angeles congregation just received the news that Cindy Hines, their priest of 20 years, will be retiring in the summer of 2017 and moving to the Philadelphia area. As of today, we do not have a priest who can be sent to Los Angeles, and it appears likely that we will have to bridge the gap with regular visits from nearby priests until we have the person to be sent to Los Angeles. Rev. Sanford Miller will be coming regularly from Sacramento, and there will also be an occasional visit from one of the other west coast priests. We envision that either Sanford or one of the other priests would be in the community every second weekend.

In recent years, other communities have gone through several years of having no resident priest, often with surprisingly positive effects. San Francisco, Denver, Vancouver, and the Taconic-Berkshire community have been faced with this challenge, which can be an opportunity for the congregation to become more active and aware of itself and its importance in that part of the world.

Finally, in September, the regional board hired Kate Kennedy as the Executive Administrator/Legacy Giving Coordinator for the region. She will assist the lenker, Oliver Steinrueck, and the regional board in their various administrative tasks as well as manage our legacy giving program, which aims to raise consciousness region-wide of leaving money and/or assets to the Christian Community when one passes away, ensuring the future of our movement.

Oliver Steinrueck

Northern Germany

From the *Realm of Light, the Baltic Sea – Ljus Över Östersjön to HOPPET OM GEMENSKAP* – Hope for community: In 2015 as well as in 2016 we held common conferences in Davide on Gotland, a beautiful plot of land on the east side of Gotland, in 350 m distance from the beach. 2 ½ hectares big, grown over with juniper bushes, pines and countless orchids around Easter, also that piece of jewellery at the end of the area, a most beautifully built wooden chapel. Rudolf Steiner wrote many times about this biotope the Baltic Sea, the people living there, the ethereal particularities of the northern regions, as well as the mythology of the Edda and Kalevala, posing thereby a plenitude of questions which must be solved, understood and, first of all, need to be experienced.

Searching for a new community which doesn't depend on nationalities but on the interactions of their characteristics provides for an interesting and exciting challenge. The inner attitude “Not I, but ...” shall lead us during the period of the second Coming of Christ in the ethereal realm to a new clairvoyance which surpasses the evolution of the earth. In August 2015 we had two conferences with altogether 100 Participants, in 2016 a conference with 70 people from Germany, Sweden,

Denmark, Norway, Finland and Russia, together with the priests from their respective countries. The study groups are multi-lingual, but at least in German and Swedish. During the conference the priests celebrate and preach, if possible, in all languages of the area of the Baltic Sea.

Now there will be again a conference between the 16th and 20th August 2017 with the theme “Hope for Community – *HOPPET OM GEMENSKAP*”. We hope that this time people from Poland and the Baltic states will come too.

We feel obliged to be most thankful for the generous donations by the Mahle-Stiftung Stuttgart, the Berneburg-Stiftung Hannover, the Vidar-Stiftung Järna, the Stiftung Freies Geistesleben Hamburg, and last but not least the Foundation of the Christian Community. They made it possible for us on the one hand to maintain the buildings on our premises properly, to put up additional simple wooden lodgings, and on the other hand to keep the costs for the preparation and the conference on an affordable level for the participants. The cultural rich land of this wonderful island with its countless tombs, churches and stone circles contains so much mystical nourishment which fills us during each conference anew and thus lets us partake in the forces of evolution of the earth and human being.

Gerhard Ertlmaier

Romania

After many years of preparing we'll reach our aim: The Christian Community will be founded in Romania too. Sometimes I ask myself: Just at this time when more and more people are leaving the church and the churches remain empty – at this time we want to begin anew? And the answer is explicit, for just the need, the burning question – how can we dignifiedly approach and meet Christ today – induces us to act.

When in October 2016 for the first time a synod of priests who are working in eastern Europe (from Czechia to Georgia) took place in Bucharest, our aim became clear: **The inaugural celebrations of the foundation will take place between 6th and 8th October 2017 in Bucharest.** And, as it is usual with us in the East, that at a baptism, at a wedding all relatives, friends and neighbours are present, we are looking forward gladly to see you all. You are invited to attend this festival and to make it thus to a special event from where further necessary steps can follow. More pieces of information you may find on the web site www.comunitateacrestinilor.ro and in the flyers you find in your congregation.

Monica Culda

Northern Countries

no message

Southern Africa

no message

South America

no message

South-West Germany

Task of Europe: Awaking – Liberating – Transforming

On the first Michaeli-weekend the regional Michaeli-conference of the south-west-German congregations in Überlingen had this theme. During the preparation we found a new looser structure of its course: many artistic activities alternating with talks in groups and contributions with special contents. In addition three vespers for the organ before the evening meal formed the ritual reciprocal pole to the Act of Consecration of Man in the morning. The theme came about through the actual challenge of the European society through the inflow of people on the flight, caused by war and persecution; some of them had taken part directly: Christian Irani, who had found a new home in our congregation in Konstanz.

The artistic activities: singing together, eurythmy, Bothmer-exercises, designing in colour, and folk dance make it possible for the group to experience themselves, to perceive the other person and to unite with all of us – beginnings of an awareness which could and should become effective thera-

peutically not only for the small community but for whole national interrelations. In the same composition the artistic activity then lead in an animated process of talks to the contents of the lectures and short speeches. On the first evening we spoke about the fruits of Christianity by means of personal experiences, the three short addresses from Saturday morning about the challenges mentioned in the sub-topics recalled and made us aware that we often still sleep, even during the day's alertness and have to awake to the consciousness of the spirit. Then we looked from another point of view at the attachment to the matter, of which we have to extricate ourselves by connecting with the spiritualised matter in the sacraments.

Finally we linked up with the changes in Europe at the end of the 20th century: overcoming the division of Germany and Europe. Thereby we related to the central motive of change in the Act of Consecration of Man, the transubstantiation or "change of the being", in the sphere of love and peace. On Saturday evening the performances were finished with the perspectives of Christianity, developed since long ago: by looking at Jan Hus and Novalis. We have to enliven these perspectives with the necessary patience and endurance, well knowing that we still have to do the main work.

Hellmut Voigt, Überlingen

Theory U and Presencing – BodenseeULaboratory

(Theorie U und Presencing BodenseeULaboratorium – From a report for the newsletter of the U.Labs 2016)

Again and again we noticed in our congregation that there are actually the questions about the small and the big ego – what is the human being? Who am I? What is my task? – and the question about the social change in the society, the key questions of today's life.

Some people knew already the meta-theory of the "U" through their lecture of Otto Scharmer's books, others had also tried to take part in the online-course 2015. Over and above that, priest Ilse Wellershoff-Schuur had been able to take part in the basic course in Nauen during June 2016. This topic had sometimes emerged in a study group about non-violent communication, so that the decision to take part together in the online course 2016 and to set up a workshop (a "hub") in the congregation, was obvious for many reasons.

Then this was announced on the website of the Presencing Institute. During summer Mrs Wellershoff-Schuur disclosed her experiences in a public lecture, where many people attended who you don't see often in the congregation. Here the question was how working on the Theory U could be considered as a continuation or a new version of the concept of the threefold social order, which in 1919 Rudolf Steiner had developed for the advancement of the social life. Soon more than 30 people inscribed their names in the list of interested parties, some of them attacked the technical hurdles together and helped each other to overcome the inhibitions. The great challenge was already the range in the online pre-course between "digital natives" and "computer illiterates" as well as between people who virtually work with English, the language in the course, as their native language and those who need to get everything translated. Otherwise there are physicians, therapists, curative pedagogues, curative pedagogic nurses, engineers, teachers, gardeners, charwomen, old age pensioners ... and even a priest together! Some of them are really connected to our congregation, others don't hardly know what else there is going on and don't rarely come to our church. Some of them take part in the course for themselves and don't join the coaching groups, others do that for their institutions or workplaces (Camphill, geriatric care, circles of artists etc.) or initiatives. Some of them attend ever Tuesday, others want to be in contact only by e-mail or attend only the "Live-Sessions". Some of them take part only in special groups of the online community – non-violent communication, Red Cross, work with handicapped people etc. – a special way to get in touch worldwide with like-minded people! On Tuesday evenings we try to help each other to understand the contents of the course, to do the exercises, to exchange experiences in the four local coaching groups and the online groups, as well as about the empathy-walks, exercises in perception, Social Presencing Theatre, writing exercises, interviews, study trips (every one for themselves ...). During the last weeks we dealt with case treatments and newly arising prototypes in different areas. Finally,

the statement that the weekly effort must be estimated with five to ten hours for this course, where one really wants to learn something and not “talk only about a book”, is realistic, but not possible for everyone or even wanted!

After the end of the course it should go on somehow – there is a new interest in the congregation and the thrilling question is how we can succeed in integrating the different states on the way ... And which projects for the congregational work may arise?

So the word from the gospel “Not I, but Christ in me” can be understood in a new way: What, if the area of love were the area of very best future? “Presencing“ means realization of this area, and that needs letting go – of every narrow and dogmatic understanding of religion as a kind of collection of standards of conviction or behaviour... or a tradition into which someone is born. Then the power of love can approach man anew, and they can connect themselves to it of their own accord, to the very best image of humanity – to man as the image of God and His simile on earth. The congregation can perhaps recognize by working on the Theory U and the “Presencing” a new significance that takes the cooperation with the transcendental serious in everyday life, too.

Ilse Wellershoff-Schuur, Überlingen

In the economic field there were only few but important themes that defined the work of the responsible committee. There we have to deal with the theme “Raising of funds for the priests’ income during the next years”. During the year the discussions were intensified by the regional synods, regional meetings, get-together of the cashiers and single congregations and they followed up the activities of the Deutsche Konferenz (DK). The multiplex aspects of this theme and the will of the German committees to scrutinize all old procedures without provisos and to follow even unconventional approaches enlivened the talks and strengthened the readiness to help as much as possible. That expresses itself in the field of finances that the raising of additional funds for the income of the German retired priests in the regional meeting, and the brotherly distribution of means between the congregations after intensive talks could be brought about. That, however, was made easier at least because one congregation had decided to place all its not insignificant reserves at the Region’s disposal for future clearing of congregational deficits in income payments. That makes it possible for the Region to help in financial shortages in the Körperschaftsverband (German priests’ retirement fund) (KV) with more than the measured out amount in future.

In Karlsruhe the vicarage, which we had bought recently and can be reached on foot from the church, was completely refurbished and the first family of a priest could move in. The congregation in Freiburg is proceeding with clearing the use of a third small plot of land that borders our premises and would create some problems if it were sold to an unknown buyer. The congregation needs more space urgently, but which could hardly be financed at the moment. Therefore they have the slight hope that by going together with an investor who wants to build flats suitable for elderly people on this site they might get additional rooms for the congregation.

Thomas Gerber

Switzerland, Italy, Hungary, France, Spain and Portugal

Building our church in Colmar now started at the end of August, it “grows” out of the earth more and more, week by week. Every now and then on Sunday we organize a visit for interested members and friends after the service, and all enjoy the rooms which come into view one after the other on the different storeys. The roof timbering will be erected finally in February, the building should be weatherproof in March/April. The date of the opening ceremony and the consecration of the church agreed on since some days: the third Sunday of Advent, 16th and 17th December. You all are invited cordially.

Christine Krüger

Our building application for the congregation of Geneva was agreed by the authorities, so that an essential building aggregation on our property may be possible, thus perhaps freeing the congregation from its debts, for we shall get the right to build on the plot.

The beautiful parish house in St. Gallen has been reconditioned and reconstructed extensively during summer, it now appears in unostentatious elegance. How much of the costs of renovating the storefronts will be covered by the city's office for the preservation of historic buildings and monuments is still open.

This year in February a second person speaking the Hungarian language was ordained as priest. Now the friends in Hungary hope for a quick induction into their country and they worked hard during the last weeks to make the necessary financing possible. In a "post-socialistic" state that means an enormous challenge; but now we are pleased to notice an increase of promised contributions.

Christine Jost

Foundation

Evaluation of the Priests' Training in the Christian Community

In May 2016 we planned in the *Extended Conference for Training* (Circle of Seven, Executive Committee, Management of the Seminary) to order the Company for Training-Research and Professional Development (Gesellschaft für Ausbildungsforschung und Berufsentwicklung GAB München) to carry out a survey which would give the basis to develop further the training and advanced training of priests for the future in the Christian Community.

After guaranteeing the finances of the project (mostly by donated money), in the coming weeks we will agree on the concrete assignments, which, during the next year, shall render possible the world-wide evaluation of the priests' training. We will inform you which proceeding we'll plan, as soon as the detailed concept between the GAB and the *Extended Conference for Training* has been formulated.

We think of a process in three steps: At first we'll question people who are occupied with training and advanced training in pro-seminaries, seminaries and in further training generally. In a second step the questions are aimed mostly at all priests, co-workers and members of the congregations in our Regions world-wide, to grasp which perceptions, wishes and suggestions with regard to training and advanced training of priests exists in places where to the newly Ordained are sent. In a third step we plan a moderated common evaluation of the results by the co-workers of GAB in the Extended Conference for Training.

We hope for multiple dialogues about the existing structure and quality of the training as well as helpful suggestions for their further development by a numerous participation in this research – in one-on-one interviews, group-discussions, consultations and written questionnaires.

For the *Extended Conference for Training*: Anand Mandaiker (Circle of Seven), Christian Maclean (Executive Committee), Alexander Lerch (Finance-group of the Stuttgart Priests Seminary), Ulrich Meier (Management of the Seminary Hamburg)

West-Germany

no message

Wuerttemberg

no message

Seminaries/Stuttgart

Let us begin with the more favourable news. Just now (7th December) the Circle of Seven informed us that all twelve participants are admitted into the preparation course for the Ordination. For this group the Ordination will take place in three different cities: on 25th/26th February in Stuttgart, on 4th/5th March in Hamburg, and on 11th/12th March in Forest Row (GB). The twelve candidates represent ten nations. For the first time an Israeli and a Lithuanian lady prepare for the Ordination.

Two Greek ladies have their roots more in Germany and in Australia. An Italian lady from Germany tries to clear her own relation anew to the native country of her parents.

Nine participants are studying in their first year, three of them come from the congregation Buenos Aires/Argentina, two from Austria. Germany is represented with half a student (his other half represents the USA). Twelve people are in their second year. They are an international group too; their members hail from Colombia to Japan. Nine of the participants of both study years are younger than 30 years, three have reached their 50th year a longer or shorter time ago. All together create a harmonious atmosphere for studying, which we can enjoy again and again.

There is one question still unanswered: whether we'll succeed in interesting more German people for this study or whether the tendency will continue to load the priestly task in Germany more and more on the shoulders of members from other nations – at present, for instance, are nine priests working in four congregations in Stuttgart; four of them come from foreign countries. The more painful news relates to the situation of the management of our Seminary, which is reflected in the following message of the Circle of Seven:

Message of the Priests' Seminary in Stuttgart, 28th November 2016

Since several months we had some difficulties in working together in the management of the Seminary. Efforts to deal with the situation unfortunately didn't lead to a real improvement of the state of affairs. During the last weeks the difficulties escalated. Even advisory talks with several members of the advisory committee of the Seminary couldn't overcome the conflicts. Françoise Bihin meanwhile asked to be acquitted from her task as manageress of the Seminary. The Circle of Seven agreed with this petition. This evening the students were informed about the end result. Mrs Bihin will take a time of convalescence of three or four weeks before we begin talks about her future. We couldn't decide on the future addition to the management of the Seminary so quickly.

We regret that we have to acquaint you with this fact, which is painful for us too, and ask you bear with us in this situation.

On behalf of the Circle of Seven: Christward Kröner, Gisela Thriemer

Therewith we have a similar personal situation as we had four years ago, when Joachim Knispel was unable to bear the responsibility not any more. We'll ask colleagues from our Region for the winter-trimester, to fill the vacancies and meet great helpfulness, so that the daily studies won't suffer from Mrs Bihin's withdrawal. Of course, we hope to find soon an efficient replacement for the managerial tasks, especially for assisting our students.

Georg Dreißig

Seminaries/Hamburg

We are looking gratefully at the fact that 25 new students found their way to us in 2016. Somehow we are still unaccustomed to experience both different groups of students as one community of the Seminary: At the moment there are six students in the first semester of the full time studies, and 19 students in the sandwich course "Studies for people at work" – together with the students of the third year. The continuity of regular studies, where in Advent after the beginning of their practical work experience the students of second year are absent (we had no new group of students in autumn 2015), was completed by some kind of "Conference-community", that keeps us busy almost all days but is only once per month for one weekend or quarterly for one whole week with us together. It is gratifying to see how quickly and intensely the students of the course "Studies for people at work" found a comprehensive and deep method of learning. Even their way to forming a community exceeded our expectations positively.

The last year is characterised especially by our move into new premises and the personal changes. The reaction to our autumn magazine "Impulses. Plans. Perspectives" is gratifying: a noticeable increase in numbers of friends and sponsors. Next year we expect not only growing revenues from study fees but also the discharge of our budget for premise expenses – a development

that was crucial for the decision to move. We applied successfully for financial support from several foundations for the necessary reconstructions, as well as for the “Studies for people at work”.

This year, too, we prepared a “Gift at Christmas” for the friends and sponsors of the Priests’ Seminary in Hamburg. Our co-worker Mathias Wais wrote an essay on “Family departing – In the quest of new images”, which we recommend with the following foreword: We are most grateful that since some years Mathias Wais offers the course “Working on your biography” for our students in the Priests’ Seminary in Hamburg. In a shorter or longer series of individual talks, whose contents, of course, are treated strictly confidential against the management of the Seminary, obtain the students motivation and support by carefully considering their own biographies to find the appropriate basis for their proficiency in pastoral care.

With his question for the renewal of the image of the family he takes up a central biographic theme in his essay: The parentage family is the place where every person begins his development to an autonomous life. At the same time it is this environment above all where we as children wanted to be perceived and esteemed. Much of our later biography depends on the success of the connected constellations.

Mathias Wais makes an imaginary journey with his readers; at its stops concrete images appear how to widen the tight frame of the traditional small family. Thereby he proceeds from the question how the “Holy Family” from the Bible and its story of conception has changed at least partially into some questionable myth. He describes graphically with help of examples which elbowroom families may have in their development. At the end there is, of course, no prescription – that’s prohibited by the fact that today each biographic question must be checked whether it will serve the individual striving for freedom. The end of the essay encourages us to go the first steps towards the “Family departing”.

This booklet can be ordered at the price of 5 € (plus forwarding expenses): Priesterseminar Hamburg der Christengemeinschaft | Johnsallee 17 | 20148 Hamburg | Telefon 040-33 45 55-80 | Email: info@priesterseminar-hamburg.de

Ulrich Meier

Seminaries/Spring Valley

Nine students are studying at the Seminary in North America this semester. With a tenth student from Australia joining us in January (their summer), we will have five seminarians in each of the first two years of study. In addition to the harmonious intensive study of the students, the seminary receives guests each semester, who arrive from all points of the compass to join our Open Courses. Many guests develop a deep connection with the Seminary to become regular Open Course participants - or even seminarians!

One year ago, Patrick Kennedy arrived from the Washington DC congregation to the Spring Valley congregation and began taking up the role of a Seminary Director, part-time, at first. This fall, at The Christian Community Annual Delegates Meeting, Lenker Oliver Steinrueck announced that the Circle of Seven appointed two priests, Julia Polter (Boston congregation) and Jonah Evans (Toronto congregation), to work together with Patrick in the coming years to develop a kind of strategic plan for the future of the seminary, encouraging them to create something totally unique in the landscape and history of the priest training in our movement. These three will carry the leadership for the planning and development for the future.

During this development period, Bastiaan Baan will continue his work at the Seminary as a Director until the new plan is ready to be implemented. Bastiaan was sent to North America for a period of five years, until November 2017. This period will be extended a few more years so that the transition towards new forms for the priest training can take their time to ripen and unfold.

The Seminary is especially looking forward to participating in the international conference of The Christian Community in Holland, traveling with its students at the end of May. Experiencing the spirit of the whole movement for religious renewal is an essential part of what the training

should facilitate and attending an event that lets the world-wide character of The Christian Community come to expression can be a strong way to encounter it.

To learn more about what all is happening at the Seminary these days, look for the Seminary Fall Newsletter on the Seminary's web site www.christiancommunityseminary.org.

Bastiaan Baan

Körperschaftsverband (KV)

no message

Verband der Sozialwerke

no message

Haus auf dem Berge

no message

Publishers/Floris Books

The last twelve months have been exciting for Floris Books. Just before Christmas last year we moved to a larger and modern office, as we could not fit any more people into the old building. In March one of our Scottish children's books, *The Nowhere Emporium*, won the Blue Peter Best Story book award, the first time we have won an award outside Scotland.

Then in summer we celebrated our 40th birthday with a large party for some 200 authors, illustrators, journalists, booksellers, printers and foreign publishers with whom we work. And just last month we won the Saltire Society's Scottish Publisher of the Year award, and Leah McDowell, our production and design manager, won the Emerging Publisher of the Year award.

All this is thanks to a wonderful team of 14 people who have edited, produced and marketed our books, so that sales have grown to almost £1.3 million.

Christian Maclean

Haus Freudenberg

Nothing new to report.

Jutta und Dietmar Reisch

International Whitsun Conference of the Christian Community

With this report we want you to partake in the progress which we make in preparing the international Whitsun-conference 2017.

Service

At the end of November we decided to install five instead of four altars for the Act of Consecration of Man. The fifth altar will be installed in the big tent in that part of the site where the meeting of the youths will take place. Within the next time we'll ask each priest who comes to Den Bosch whether he will celebrate, con-celebrate and/or preach there and also whether servers from his own language area will come with him. We need 24 celebrants, 20 con-celebrants, 24 preachers, and there will be 44 places for servers on the whole.

Programme

Now the timetable for the conference with all details can be found on our website. We assume that in the middle of January the speakers for the evening plena as well as the speakers for the morning lectures can be found on the website with the headings and summary of their lectures. We also hope that in February our study groups will be mentioned there. Then you may enrol for the morning lectures and study groups.

Market for Fireplaces

Now is the time to register a project from your Region or congregation for the Market for Fireplaces. Everywhere in the world initiatives spring up inside or in co-operation with the Christian

Community which show how the religious renewal can be an impulse for renewal in different areas and is effective. Such an initiative can take place for instance in the congregation, or it can be active outside and induce something in the world. Don't think too quickly that what in your surroundings exists is "too small" or "nothing special". What isn't special for you may be for a visitor from another county or even continent be surprising and inspiring

Regional Introduction

Encounter with the Christian Community from other countries or continents is an important aspect of this conference. If you would like to show or introduce something from your Region, you can announce that via the contact form on our website.

Youth-conference

Now the Programme of the youth-conference is known in broad outline and is to be found on our website. The speakers for the days are introduced on the website. Shortly an overview will follow for the workshops from which you may choose.

Children's camp

Years of experience we gained in the Netherlands with organising children's camps will be applied to give children between ten and fourteen years an unforgettable experience. The children go by bus to the children's camp Berka that is situated in the province Drenthe, and will also be brought back. The children's camp is attended by a Dutch and a German priest.

Accommodation

You find every information on travelling- and overnight stay-possibilities on our website. For rooms which members and friends of the Christian Community hold at your disposal we arranged Bedplaza. We asked congregations which are in reasonable distance to 's-Hertogenbosch to provide rooms. This offer will appear on our website soon. You find also on this website the camping place for the conference, hotels, accommodation for groups and booking.com.

Travelling

You find travelling information on our website. There you can read everything about rebate on flight tickets which is available from Air France and KLM.

Booking

To install the booking portal on our website was more difficult than we had expected. The problems have been solved by now and we expect that booking through the website is possible for you now when you read this.

Donations

We received around € 3,000 donations on our account for the Whitsun-conference in November. Donations are necessary to be able to help people who lack the means to partake at the conference. The bank account for the conference is NL14 INGB 0007 554 710, name: De Chr. Gem. schap Whitsun 2017, **BIC** INGBNL2A. When booking you still have the possibility to give a donation.

Ellis Booi

The End

Translated by M.-E. Förster – many thanks to her!