

REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

EVENTS – FINANCES – FUTURE PLANS

NO. 91 EASTER 2021

no message from

[Australia and New Zealand](#)

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There is no report from Bavaria this time. We wish all a happy Easter.

Dorothea Humérez

[Central Europe](#)

This time we focus on one of the four countries in the region: **Romania**.

During the past year 2020, we have tried to maintain the greatest possible normality of our community life in Cluj and Bucharest, despite the restrictions due to the pandemic. The visits to Timișoara, Oradea, Pitești and Brașov took place regularly notwithstanding some restrictions. However, 2020 allowed for some other things to happen. Lockdown gave us time to work on several projects, e. g. the administration via internet, which was revised and updated. The Sunday sermons were circulated via e-mail and Facebook. To deepen aspects of individual topics, contributions on Novalis, Raphael and the Lord's Prayer were shared.

Since the beginning of lockdown, the Act of Consecration of Man in Bucharest has been celebrated on two days a week, Tuesday and Friday, which we will continue to do. This is how we celebrated throughout the year. On Sundays there were always between 14 and 20 people present. This was followed by talks or discussions on the Gospel of Matthew. After we had moved the sacristy into another room, a larger chapel area was created and artistically redesigned in colour by a painter.

The summer camp in Beliș in the mountains took place but with fewer participants, which was very relaxing and also stimulating for everyone. The Nativity play was rehearsed and performed in Cluj, while in Bucharest the development of Christianity between the 9th and 12th centuries was the theme during the 12 Holy Nights and Days. Since July 2020, the Act of Consecration of Man has been celebrated in Pitești, a two-hour train ride from Bucharest. Every two months Ms Hasselmann visits the congregation for two days. In Brașov, a group of people is working intensely to prepare for such a similar arrangement.

In Timișoara, a group is working on the idea of building a place for older people out the spirit of anthroposophy and the Christian community. It would support people holistically, artistically and medically in old age. We are at the beginning, but looking at this project in the future with hope. In August 2021 (31.7. to 8.8), an International Youth Conference will be held in Beliș for the first time (www.simpozion.org). The finances of the congregation are not yet sorted, an issue that will continue to occupy us. But we are hopeful!

Armgard Hasselmann

Great Britain-Ireland

Like many of us, I am living into the early spring months of this year with clear memories of the last one: my final trip to Germany to attend the Ordination of Lucienne van Bergenhenegouwen in early March, our last Act of Consecration of Man before the first lockdown in Forest Row on 25th March, which just happened to coincide with our Annual Congregational Meeting; those early days of the lockdown, when the world seemed to be holding its breath as normal life was suspended.

Whilst the crisis is far from over, we may be emerging from the most acute phase in Britain at least. The events of last year are now something to look back on, and our attention turns to the future. In many conversations I have perceived a wish to engage deeply with the many questions that the future holds. I have been most moved by conversations where it has been possible to include and even embrace a variety of viewpoints; one thing that the crisis has bestowed on us is an awareness that we will not be able to progress as humanity if we go further into our 'silos'.

Throughout the crisis, our altars have remained centres of spiritual life, in the different circumstances that the outer conditions have allowed. For priests and members alike, it was clear that we would support the celebration of the Act of Consecration of Man, whether that be in person, perhaps together with a smaller congregation than normal, or from afar. Many members have described how their participation grew more intense, as their awareness of the world's needs grew. If we imagine how the angels and yet higher beings perceive a year of challenge and opportunity such as the one we have just experienced, I am quite sure that what has happened at our altars shines out with a special radiance.

A small group in County Clare is working on plans to create a new chapel and community space, as well as some accommodation for people who wish to live in an intentional community on the grounds of The Christian Community. We hope in this way to secure the future for our work in Ireland.

It is good to be able to report that we will hold three Confirmations in the Easter time.

Tom Ravetz

Netherlands and Flanders

Casting the second stone...

In the Dutch-speaking region, we can gradually let the dust settle that was caused by the high expenses of the Pentecostal Conference in 2017 and the reallocation of priests in 2018 to 2019, which messed up our budgets. The financial crisis and the subsequent mistrust have together led to a renewed confidence, better communication and a healthy financial budget. This releases energy to increase discussion on important issues and to examine together what the spirit of the time demands of us.

We draw strength from the Act of Consecration of Man, which could be celebrated almost everywhere in the past year. The different opinions on the implementation of governmental measures remain a challenge for our local councils. As opportunities to meet have become less natural, we have become more aware of the value of conversation over coffee and lectures.

The camp staff are preparing with hope for another summer camp. They are resourceful and adamant in developing new strategies in order that the camps can continue under any circumstances. Looking to the future, we are now preparing for the 100th anniversary of our Christian community. Discussions are taking place in every congregation about how the second century of our movement will shape up. Obviously, it depends on us the people of this time. Can we form ever larger circles, each member with their individual competence and each congregation with their own identity and with appreciation for the diversity within the various organisational areas?

Laurien van der Laan de Vries

North America

On 7 March Liza Joy Marcato took up her new posting to New York City. This marks the retirement of Gisela Wielki. Ann Burfeind is working in the Vancouver community, in the far west of Canada. However, her initiative for new forms of camp life stretches across the continent. No less than five new camps for children and youth are to take place next summer. You can hike in New York, co-create a youth convention in Georgia, canoe in Wisconsin and even do hang-gliding! More info is available at: <https://www.thechristiancommunity.org/>

In Denver, a new priest's residence is slowly being built on the grounds of the church. The congregation is hoping to eventually welcome one of the newly ordained priests. James Hindes will then retire. To report on newly ordained priests and other training possibilities, I am happy to pass to Patrick Kennedy.

Craig Wiggins

The **seminary** in North America is growing and thriving – despite the incredible limitations and challenges of the current world situation. With 19 students in all levels and phases of the training – and in three different locations! – Revs. Jonah Evans and Patrick Kennedy are doing their best to navigate the seminary into the future.

This year we especially look forward to celebrating the ordination over the weekend of May 14-16 of our eight students in the Preparation Group. They are in Spring Valley, NY, another group is in Hillsdale, NY, two hours away and the third is in Toronto, Canada. Borders are closed, but the spirit is open to the good will of these committed individuals. At the same time, Jonah and Patrick are guiding an additional 20 other students in a distance learning program that was begun in 2019. This acts like a 'preliminary year' to on-site training.

You can get a good window into our life at the seminary on our new website: www.christiancommunityseminary.ca. Our seminary blog (on the website) has beautiful pieces by our eight candidates that you will enjoy. And if you are interested to get to know the seminary directors and their work, check out their podcast at www.patreon.com/ccseminary.

Patrick Kennedy, Seminary Director

North- and Northwest Germany

Nothing new to report.

Thomas Nayda

Nordic Countries

Except for one virtual meeting the members of the Nordic Regional Council have not been able to see each other – and more important: to get to know each other in order to create awareness of the council in all the congregations in the Nordic countries. Despite the COVID-19 situation the Nordic council intend to plan a gathering of all the local 'ward councils' to take place when we are able to meet again physically.

It is therefore currently sparse with news – with one joyous exception: The congregation in Vilnius, Lithuania now has a place of their own. The house needs a major rebuilding, but the priest in Vilnius, Rasa Kabailaite, tells us that the congregation is looking so much forward to celebrating the Act of Consecration of Man in their own environment.

Lisa Bratlann

It will soon be a year since we welcomed two new priests in **Finland**: Martti Hyry started in Tampere, Fritjof Winkelmann in Helsinki. Shortly after, Pekka Asikainen retired. Tuula Huhtala-Salmisto and Harri Salmisto are taking a break for health reasons. So, we now have a completely new situation, apart from one constant: Paula Korpelainen is still working in Tampere. The two priest's emeritus Pekka Asikainen and Lars Karlsson, however, are still actively involved.

A particular challenge in Finland is the long distances. Some of the affiliated congregations are several hundred kilometres apart, so that the priests have to travel long stretches. Another difficult situation exists in the Helsinki congregation, which for several years has had only temporary rented rooms for the services, quite far away from the city centre. For more than a year they have been searching to find new, own rooms; so far without success. One of the attempts failed, because after the decision to buy the property in question, it became clear that there were too many building flaws which prevented the project from being pursued. However, the search for new premises continues with confidence.

Within the Christian Community Finland, represented by a church council, we have set ourselves the goal of strengthening cooperation among the priests and among the various church congregations and the remote branches. We will meet in May for a community day and in autumn for a St Michael's meeting.

Hans Hasler

no message from:

Russia **South America** **Southern Africa** **Southwest Germany** **West Germany**

Switzerland, Southwest Europe

We continue to try in all communities to deal with the very opposite fears and anxieties in the context of the pandemic and to steer a conciliatory middle course everywhere that excludes no one. This is not easy and often not entirely possible. With the precautions that have become customary, the sacraments can take place in all five countries of our region, but cultural events usually cannot. In the canton of Geneva, a state-imposed ban on church services before Christmas has been overturned by the courts after a complaint by Catholic traditionalists. However, there is a mandatory ban on sharing communion, which is not the case in the other cantons and countries. In many places, within the remit of what is permitted by the authorities, we are seeing a kind of return to the sacraments and greater participation.

At the moment, the restrictions in **Italy** change from province to province according to a “traffic light system”. The Act of Consecration of Man can usually take place as long as the respective province has not been declared a “zona rossa”. However, premises in schools and therapeutic institutions are not available. So, improvisation is required everywhere: a brewery, a pizzeria, a hairdresser, a dance school and some other rooms have already been utilised, in each case with a small number of participants. In **France**, almost anything is possible during the day, but there is a strict curfew after 6 pm. The summer conference could take place last year, but the children's holiday camp could not. All congregations are experiencing new growth, but the lack of French-speaking priests worries us, especially as two emeritus priests are due to retire soon. In **Spain**, Manuel Toro was welcomed as a new priest in September and has settled well with his family in Madrid. Priest's visits to the congregation in Portugal continue.

The congregation in **St Gallen** finally decided to stay in its historic house in the old town. The chapel, which had existed for a long time but was still considered a temporary space, was completely redesigned and consecrated last summer. The congregation in **Geneva** is still waiting on planning permission for the residential development with community rooms adjacent to the chapel. In **Colmar**, plans are progressing for a social housing project on the neighbouring property. The association, planning this project is independent, but its statutes are linked to the congregation. In **Alicante**, the search for a plot of land has begun. In **Ticino**, too, there is a desire for a more appropriate space, although the hall of the Steiner School in Minusio (Locarno) has so far been available most of the time. There, priestly responsibility will be more closely linked to the Italian communities from May 2021.

The continuing pandemic will have dramatic consequences for the holiday home on the Bühl in Walkringen. Very little could take place there during the summer and early autumn. Most groups had to be cancelled, and the lack of income and the financing of the shortfalls is uncertain.

Michael Bruhn

Wuerttemberg

The Württemberg Region is pleased to welcome two new priests. Ms Shatna was ordained in February and sent to the congregation in Göppingen. There she will work together with Ms Wagler and at the same time apply for a work permit for England. Ms Mogi will be introduced to the congregation in Reutlingen on Palm Sunday. Together with Mr Neumann, she will work in tandem for a few months before Mr Neumann leaves for his new congregation in the summer.

Anne Fechter

Seminaries/Stuttgart

In mid-February, students from the Stuttgart seminary were able to accompany their fellow students, some of whom had completed their final preparation towards priesthood in the Hamburg seminary, during their ordination.

After that, the semester break began, a time of rest and intensive work on our own projects. The summer semester starts in the second week of Easter. The students of the first and second year will be joined by young people who begin their studies in the vocational orientation semester. The interns will continue their training in their various congregations. The vocational orientation semester is a new project at the Stuttgart Seminary where young adults can follow a path of exploration and/or vocation in the spirit of anthroposophy and religious deepening. We are very pleased that this project has found a resonance in the hearts of young adults.

Xenia Medvedeva, Mariano Kasanetz

no message from:

Körperschaftsverband (KV) **Seminaries/Hamburg** **Haus auf dem Berge**
Haus Freudenberg **Treuhandverwaltung zur Förderung der Christengemeinschaft e.V.**

Verband der Sozialwerke

We have had to cancel the children's holiday camp and the "helper training course" or youth leader course, both of which were to take place in the week after Easter. Unfortunately, the current Corona regulations of all the federal states do not allow either event to take place. This is now the second year that this has happened. However, we are planning a one-day working meeting with the leaders and teams of the camps in the week after Easter, true to our motto "Encounter and other adventures".

Dietmar Schwarz

Conferences/Meetings

LOGOS – Consecrating Humanity: Michaelmas Conference on the Beginning of the Second Century of the Christian Community, Dortmund, October 7-11, 2022

This is the title, the theme of our major conference, which we have provisionally called CG-2022. This challenging theme will be underlined by a number of ancillary topics, including the sacraments, the Michael Impulse, the question of the powers of inspiration, all with the view of moving into the second century.

Now, 18 months before this event, preparations are intensifying. While the local planning teams are mainly focused on the practical side of things, the preparation of the content of the themes of the conference can take place anywhere in the world, in our regions and/or communities. In part, this content-related work has already begun and we have already received many suggestions. We are open to further suggestions.

Our homepage is the hub of our communication. With these technical tools we can finally meet and pursue our goals. On the homepage you can find our newsletter in six languages for the festive seasons. Those who like to read more will find a number of articles on the current conference topics, as well as reviews of previous major conferences. Those who prefer audio can follow the monthly podcast. Those who like to exchange ideas with others will find our Internet forum and the bilingual journal “This moves us” as an interactive PDF document. Our big meeting during Michaelmas in 2022 in Dortmund will be the focal point of today’s Christian Community with visitors from all over the world. Meanwhile, we can turn our gaze out into the world of the Christian community. For this purpose, you can find on logos-2022.org the homepages of each and all worldwide communities with a click. This will also tell you about the various community lifes and the conference preparations, at least from a distance. This will enable worldwide connections, similar to the *Information from the Regions*, whose 97th issue will be published on the occasion of the event “100 years of The Christian Community”.

Our homepage logos-2022.org provides suggestions how every individual and also communities can thematically prepare for the *LOGOS – Consecrating Humanity* conference. Jaroslaw Rolka, lenker of the West Germany region and member of the Circle of Seven, gives us a suggestion how to prepare inwardly for the beginning of the second century of The Christian Community:

The clever theologian knows that in the New Testament the word “logos” occurs 330 times. He can well enumerate it in all its variants. The modern man counts the words. Now, from the circle of the conference preparers, we would like to suggest a different relationship to the word as an attunement for the great festival of encounter in October 2022. We want to follow Schiller’s recommendation from his “Demetrius” and recommend a different way of dealing with the word than the statistical one. There Friedrich Schiller said that one should not count the votes in a ballot, but “weigh” them. What applies to a vote probably also applies to an attunement. It is not only the quantity, but more importantly the weight of the word that matters. Thus, we as the conference preparers would like to stimulate a deeper handling of the prologue of John’s Gospel (J 1:1-14) and an insight work on its contents in the congregations

We do all this with the aim of beginning the second century of our Christian Community in Dortmund at Michaelmas 2022. You are welcome to join us.

Wolfgang Jaschinski, Public Relations for LOGOS

Translated by Gabriele Kuhn – many thanks to her!

End