

REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

EVENTS – FINANCES – FUTURE PLANS

NO. 76 ST. JOHN'S TIDE 2017

Australia and New Zealand

no message

Austria and South-Eastern Europe

no message

Czech Republic

no message

Bavaria

In the Reports from the Regions No. 72 I posed the question: what does the future hold for us after the sudden death of our lenker? We do not as yet have a new lenker for Bavaria. Discussions and conversations are ongoing within the priesthood but also amongst staff and members regarding the tasks of a new lenker. How and in what form a future lenker will take up his responsibilities in the region is at present undecided.

Due to the change of Terms and Conditions to our regional bank account we had to top up our account as overdraft interest rates are now being charged. This account was originally opened for a building loan from the region to the congregation in Augsburg but had now reached an overdraft of approx. € 230,000. Contributions were received from the congregation in München-West (€ 100,00 by paying off their building mortgage) and through gifts from congregations in München-Mitte (€ 120,000) and Würzburg (€ 1,000). The remaining sum was carried by the region. Thanks to the two gifts received it was in turn possible to gift part of a building loan of € 121.000 to the congregation in Augsburg thereby getting a step closer to redeeming debts of congregations in Bavaria.

Dorothea Humérez

Central Germany

Nothing new to report.

Albrecht Schwenk

Eastern Europe

no message

Japan

no message

Great Britain-Ireland

no message

Netherlands and Flanders

On Friday 2nd June, I stood at the entrance of the Conference Centre 1931 and welcomed all those people from near and far who had travelled to s'Hertogenbosch to gather around the altar, work on themes relating to the conference, share communal meals, have conversations and good laughs. The website is still live and will be used to up-load talks and lectures, hopefully with translations. There is also a photo gallery to enjoy for those who attended the conference and those who were unable but would appreciate some impressions.

In total 1045 adults attended the conference, 403 young people and 18 children were catered for at a camp in Berka. Ernst Terpstra, the lenker for the Christian Community in the Netherlands and

Belgium, stressed the fact that participants had come from very many countries and far distances; he read out a list before the official opening of the Conference.

Everybody came with their own hopes and expectations and left with their individual experiences. We would like to hope that every participant could take something back not only for their own enrichment but to the benefit of their congregation which will bear fruit in the future. It is hoped that the conference acted as a kind of workshop for the future of the Christian Community.

“The Future of the Christian Community” was the theme of a workshop which was offered by the Circle of Seven. Being a burning issue for many it was a very well attended event. In an accompanying brochure, the members of the Circle of Seven gave a brief resume about themselves and their work.

We enjoyed wonderful sunny weather all Friday to Monday which was particularly welcome as many activities for young people took place outdoors and some youngsters stayed in temporary accommodation in the conference grounds. The cardboard tents (Kartenten) had to withstand rain only once, during the night Monday to Tuesday, and were then removed during the day in pouring rain.

The Act of Consecration of Man was celebrated in many languages: it was a wonderful experience to capture some of the soul qualities in the various languages. Some regions also offered lectures and workshops and had stalls to display information about their specific initiatives. There was a group from Hungary singing songs, and another from Peru performing dances in traditional clothes. And last but not least we were treated to a very amusing cabaret, put on and performed by the students of the seminaries. During the final assembly, the youngsters handed a candle to every child that had returned from the camp. What a wonderful symbolic gesture: the light which is handed down from generation to generation.

Ellis Booi

North-America

no message

Northern Germany

Nothing new to report.

Thomas Nayda

Northern Countries

In March Norway celebrated its 90th anniversary of the Christian Community. All active priests, members and friends of the various congregations gathered in Oslo for a weekend of celebrations. Necessary renovations plus the building of new community facilities were almost complete. The yellow house, which for so long had enveloped the life of the congregation, was eventually sold due to the age of the building and the need for a major refurbishment. Thus, the celebrations were marked by looking back and gratefully acknowledging the past but it equally served as a pointer towards a new beginning.

On January 1st the Act of Consecration of Man was for the first time celebrated in Lithuanian. What a feast for the congregation! The ordination of a priest from Lithuania this year, Rasa Kabalaite, added even more to the joy.

Gisela Thriemer

50 years Christian Community in Finland

2017 marks 100 years since Finland declared its independence and 50 years since the foundation of the Christian Community in Finland. Regular services started in Helsinki and little by little enlarged to include eleven localities in various parts of Finland. About 500 members and friends are closely

connected with this impulse. There are two churches: one in Helsinki and another in Tampere. The Consecration of Man is celebrated regularly also in the towns of Lahti, Tammisaari, Vaasa and Oulu, and occasionally also in other places, accompanying various events. The Consecration of Man is celebrated regularly also in Swedish and in German.

The distances between settlements in Finland are long and the parishes and working groups in the towns are small. For this reason our four priests travel a lot. In these conditions forms of activities available to the whole membership are of great importance. Such are for example our magazine *Kristiyhteisö*, which is published four times a year, the Michael Seminar once a year and also the Family Camp every summer. Youth camps, available to everyone in Finland, are also organized. This year we launched community meetings as a new type of activity. They were organized in three sub (branch) parishes. Members and friends from the neighbouring regions were also invited to these meetings. The program included the Consecration of Man, special time for getting to know each other, discussions and information on the Christian Community. The Christian Community in Finland organizes annually autumn and spring-conferences open for all members at which matters related to whole country are discussed and dealt with.

The 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Christian Community in Finland will be celebrated in the Sylvia House in Lahti on 30th September and 1st October 2017. The beginning of this jubilee year was already initiated during the winter with a tour of three concerts performed by priests Pekka Asikainen and Jukka Kuoppamäki. The concerts took place in Helsinki, Lahti and Tampere and were well-attended and well-received – a positive contribution to the acknowledgement of the Christian Community.

Kari Hallantie

Romania

With great joy and gratitude, we are approaching an auspicious event in autumn. The founding of the Christian Community is imminent and will take place on 6th – 8th October. Meanwhile we have received a total of 80 registrations from people from abroad, including 30 priests. The festivities will take place at the Rudolf Steiner Haus and the Eurythmy School in Bukarest and everybody is welcome. There are only a few rooms left at the hotel. So, if you still want to book then please go to: www.comunitateacrestinilor.ro After the celebrations, a short trip to the Bukowina is planned including a visit to the unique monasteries in the area. For more information please contact: Armgard Hasselmann/Bukarest, hasselmann@christengemeinschaft.org

Due to the dissolution of the congregation in Mainz the congregations in Bukarest and Cluj acquired several items which are now being use for the services. We also received a new candleholder which was created by a Romanian artist. Thanks to our ‘scrap-gold fund’ we were able to pay for it. The altar picture from the congregation in Mainz will shortly be hung after intense preparations and conversations within the congregation. Meanwhile Monica Culda (Cluj) together with some interested people took part in a training course to become co-workers in children’s holiday camps, organised by the DPWV (Deutscher Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband). The DPWV is very committed to youth work and further education. Soon we should have a string of responsible youngsters who will join the leaders of the children’s camp in Beliş for the summer holiday. The family holiday camp will run concurrently. Thus, we are trying to grow and give some impulse to our society.

Armgard Hasselmann

Southern Africa

The Hillcrest congregation near Durban has created a beautiful new chapel. Seven years after moving onto the property on the hill, the west wing of the house was renovated, replacing old rooms with a large chapel capable of seating up to 45, a new community room and kitchen. Work continues to fit out a new vestry, toilets and, later, a separate children’s room. This year’s Confirmation on 7 May was a joyous occasion, full to bursting, proving that the bigger space is needed. Mean-

while in the east wing further renovations created a lovely, modern living space for the priest and family. These are now two clear, independent spaces to the relief and benefit of all.

Peter Holman

South America

no message

South-West Germany

During the course of the first six months of the year 2017 several changes have taken place in the region. Soon after her ordination Mrs. Gagliano moved to Überlingen, where for some time it was hoped to get another priest. Colleagues in the regional congregations are committed to multiple extra duties e.g. covering colleagues, tasks out with the congregations, travels as far as Israel and guest lecturing at the Seminaries.

In Öschelbronn a long-awaited change took place: Mrs. Kolk at last managed to join her colleagues in Freiburg to fill a 10 months' vacancy. This was only possible because Mrs. Lohner agreed to take on responsibility for the congregation in Öschelbronn.

Additional changes took place in the region west of Mannheim and all the way up to Trier. A restructuring of the tasks between the congregation in Mannheim and its affiliate congregation in Neustadt/Weinstrasse became necessary. Mr. Schietzel who will be working along the 'eastern shores of the river Rhein' will explore future possibilities. He will also cover Kaiserslautern and Saarbrücken during July when Mr. Martini will retire at the age of 70. By October additional support is hoped for.

It is a part of destiny to take on challenges and find solutions! In order to live up to future challenges it is important that the priests and the congregations establish networks and support each other beyond local boundaries and ages. With this in mind we gratefully acknowledge first successful steps in the South-West of Germany.

Hellmut Voigt

Switzerland, Italy, France, Spain/Portugal

We are looking for a new name..... Switzerland/Southwest Europe is one suggestion. However, a term that would include all the countries of this region would be desirable – but not something like “Switzerland and....” This year we could welcome four additional priests to the region: Philippe Aubertin in Paris, Françoise Bihin in the Romandy (Switzerland), Bernhard Oswald in Berne and Biel and Nadine Hafner in Schaffhausen. This extra contingent is greatly welcome – may it contribute to a continuous blessed flourishing.

A few weeks ago, on 13th May, the confoedera-Förderverein took an important step forward by establishing the ‘Allgemeine Bodentreuhand-Gesellschaft’ in Zurich. An invitation was received to contribute to a conference at the Goetheanum in Dornach 17th to 19th November 2017. Everybody is welcome to attend and details can be found at: www.confoedera.ch

What other news is there? Building work in Colmar is continuing albeit several “surprises”. We are very much looking forward to the consecration of the church on 3rd Advent Sunday. Work in the Spanish Congregations is ever growing and we are now looking to recruit a third priest to support our two resident priests. In Italy, congregational work is vibrant but finances are a cause for concern.

Christine Jost

West-Germany

no message

Hungary

Hungary is still looked after by W. Giezendanner. We are very much looking forward to welcoming Anna Bozóki. With her arrival, we will have two native speaking priests which should help to further the deepening of our dynamic development. The affiliation to a specific region is still in flux: A new region in Central Europe is being established incorporating Austria and the Tchech-Republic.

Christine Jost

Wuerttemberg

Nothing new to report.

Martin Merckens

Körperschaftsverband (KV)

30th June 2017, the term of office of the present board of trustees for the Körperschaftsverband expired: Michael Gerasch, Dorothea Humérez, Dietmar Schwarz. At the conference in Augsburg (for Germany) in March 2017 the new board of trustees was elected for a four-year term of office. The trustees are: Ulrich Goebel (Priest in Bonn), Dorothea Humérez (Coordinator for Bavaria), Thomas Nayda (Coordinator for the North-German region).

Dorothea Humérez

Verband der Sozialwerke

Nothing new to report.

Dietmar Schwarz

Haus auf dem Berge

no message

Publishers

no message

Haus Freudenberg

no message

Foundation

The consolidated annual account 2016 of the whole movement were examined externally by the tax accountant Stefan Dieterich and internally by the audit commission in behalf of the Council. There were no complaints. The Council ascertained the annual accounts during its meeting on 8. June 2017 and the Executive Committee approved the annual accounts for the fiscal year 2016 unanimously while the involved abstained from voting.

Armin Knabe, Managing Director Foundation

alle Werte in €	Plan 2017	2016	Plan 2016	2015
current income				
gifts	1	16.470,48	1	12.249,56
contribution by regions	999.999	993.306,22	1.046.329	982.456,90
legacy		0,00		139.445,00
payout by German "Treuhand"	60.000	101.673,15	60.000	77.236,43
other income	15.000	32.118,07	15.000	22.280,00
for development		1.658,32		2.872,33
refunds		15.388,64		18.113,66
interest		2.534,16		11.427,98
sum	1.075.000	1.163.149,04	1.121.330	1.266.081,86
current expense				
development	100.800	94.516,98	97.000	77.877,70
seminaries	150.000	150.000,00	150.000	139.435,04
international retirement	70.000	54.813,58	70.000	52.935,83
emergency assistance	90.000	77.170,85	100.000	87.603,69
newly ordained	50.000	170.659,23	50.000	27.023,15
international removals	20.000	45.558,45	20.000	22.347,75
archive	40.000	35.622,27	40.000	34.175,77
academy/further training for priests	3.000	2.196,90	3.000	3.018,84
public relations	25.000	20.580,14	25.000	30.430,70
leadership of priesthood	537.000	512.301,49	518.000	492.724,79
other matters	7.000		7.000	
administration	145.000	137.203,80	145.000	142.218,10
sum	1.237.800	1.300.623,69	1.225.000	1.109.791,36
current result	-162.800	-137.474,65	-103.670	156.290,50
extraordinary income				
appropriated gifts		338.000,00		
synod/congresses		11.331,98		16.146,07
further training fund				243,00
antique gold and other funds		25.863,08		15.725,49
result retirement fund				1.063,43
sum		375.195,06		33.177,99
extraordinary expense				
seminaries		27.424,22		
antique gold and other funds		13.422,29		35.938,68
appropriated gifts		122.200,00		
further training fund		18.138,00		4.309,50
synod				4.273,74
Chr. Morgenstern edition		36.190,00		39.000,00
result vestment prod		15.905,52		14.119,79
result retirement fund		1.682,03		
congresses		65.720,00		7.698,00
sum		300.682,06		105.339,71
extraordinary result		74.513,00		-72.161,72
total	-162.800	-62.961,65	-103.670	84.128,78
from reserve	162.800	62.961,65	103.670	-84.128,78
	0	0	0	0

Seminaries/Stuttgart

New seminar leader: Since Francois Bihin has stepped down as member of the leadership Mrs. Monika Boerman was asked to take up his role until summer 2018 which she accepted. Mrs. Boerman has been part of the Seminary for the last ten years as a tutor in speech. The decision was enthusiastically received by the students and we trust that the new trio will fulfil their obligations to everybody's satisfaction. A first round of talks has already taken place in order to tackle problems of the past and further conversations are envisaged.

Students:

Now that 12 of our newly ordained students have left, to join their various congregations the Seminary in Stuttgart has become a rather quieter place. There are now seven candidates in the first year and 12 in the second. Ten students are at present gathering experience in different congregations; their placement as trainee priests will finish in Stuttgart in preparation for conversations with members of the Circle of Seven, regarding the possible participation in the final part of their priest's training and ordination.

Staff News:

In autumn, last year new members of staff took on the responsibilities from previous, experienced staff. This transition was smooth and without any problems; the joy and commitment to carry together the responsibilities of all aspects of life at the seminary could be felt and was present at our staff meetings.

Events:

At the beginning of our summer trimester we had the house full of guests: alongside an introductory course we invited our sponsors to an "open week" – a wonderful and enthusiastic meeting. With regards the training situation within the Christian Community initial interviews were held with advisers from the GAB Munich in an open and interested atmosphere. Just now students returned from the International Whitsun Conference in The Hague, Netherlands. We are grateful to the Tessin-Trust for their financial support, thus allowing the students to attend the conference! Every Tuesday evening, at the church in Stuttgart-Mitte, participants of the Second-year training course will present projects and themes on subjects they worked on during the year. We can also look forward to a cabaret: "The Christian Community. Desire for Movement – The Musical" of which parts have already been performed in The Hague. There will be performances on 17th and 18th June at the Rudolf-Steiner-Haus.

Georg Dreißig

The End

Translated by Gabriele Kuhn – many thanks to her!