

Saint Columban's Newsletter



Saint Columban's Mission

Priest in Charge:

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Having Faith

“Having faith can give us the strength and vision to act more powerfully, as the God that we have faith in acts through us. It is not the faith of waiting for something to happen; it is not the faith of passivity; it is the faith that inspires us to act.”

Mordechai Liebling¹

From the Bishop's Eastertide Letter

“Alleluia! Christ is risen!” “The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!”

What beautiful words to shout with joy! Is there a greater, more hopeful greeting? On Easter, that earth-shattering, tomb-splintering event, the whole of human life has changed forever. Thanks to the Resurrection of Jesus, we shall never hope in vain again.

However, in order to rise from the dead, one has to die. There is no resurrection without crucifixion. This pattern is repeated in our individual lives, for Christ's life is the pattern of our life. Each of us must suffer, die and be buried, in order to rise again.

While the pattern is literally true, it also happens to us metaphorically. There are crucifixions in broken dreams, dead relationships, in suffering we experience for no clear reason, like what happened on

¹ Rabbi M. L., “Making Our Synagogues Vessels of Tikkun Olam” in: *The Reconstructionist*, Fall 2003 issue, and quoted by permission.

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December 26. The Boxing Day tsunami is a perfect example of how the innocent suffer, as some calamity rises up out of nowhere and erases their old life. In ten minutes, all is swept away, as if by some monstrous bulldozer: homes, livestock, livelihood, and worst of all, loved ones. ...

Perhaps you too have experienced a “tsunami” recently in your own life...

After death comes resurrection. While for each of us the literal reality must be taken on faith, the metaphorical reality shone forth as the world marshaled the greatest rescue effort ever for the tsunami victims. Volunteers, money, supplies have poured into the vast areas affected by the great wave. It is not a literal resurrection, but it is one nonetheless: for those devastated people, hope came seemingly out of nowhere, just like the wave.

I am immensely proud of the huge outpouring from our churches of the Convocation. Every congregation has pitched in, with wonderful results. ...

... God’s Spirit makes us people who live in the hope of the Resurrection and make its power and promise known through the way we reach out to others. Broken dreams are repaired, grief assuaged, relationships restored to peace, the sick find healing. And this is not a one-off event: it goes on until Jesus returns, and we have completed the task before us.

Therefore, we must not make Easter for the tsunami victims a one-off event. The Spirit comes to stay with us forever—therefore, let us come together in a specific long-term project to assist them, one in which we can become involved in a concrete way.

I have asked that on Pentecost, May 15, instead of collecting money for Convocation Mission Sunday, we collect your ideas. Forms for doing so will be available to all our congregations in advance. Also, there will be a link on the Convocation website (www.tec-europe.org). During this Eastertide, would you please think, pray and talk about what such a project might be? Then after the Pentecost ingathering of your ideas is received at our Paris office, the Convocation’s Common Outreach advisors, Judith Lanier of the Cathedral in Paris and Helena Mbele-mbong of Emmanuel, Geneva, will assist in making an initial triage. Then the several categories of ideas will be passed on to the Council of Advice, which will make a final proposal of options for consideration at the

October 2005 Convention in Frankfurt. After your delegates select a project, we will have an ingathering of funds to support it on All Saints Sunday (November 6)—a second Convocation Mission Sunday, so to speak.

While no one knows yet what specific goals and objectives will come from the Mission 2006 Consultation in June, this Pentecost exercise will help put us all in mind of the Church's true calling. All of us sooner or later we will be victims of some sort of disaster, a crucifixion on a grand scale or, more typically, in some very intimate fashion. Therefore we are always and everywhere to be proclaiming Jesus' Resurrection, and showing its reality to all around us, especially those whose lives has been devastated.

“Alleluia! Christ is risen!” “The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!” Beautiful, glorious words, meant to become a much more magnificent reality in us and through us.

Your Bishop and brother,
+Pierre²

Europe listserv

The Convocation of American Churches in Europe has set up a Europe listserv to distribute news which may be of interest to any church member in the Convocation churches. If are interested in receiving these news and haven't yet had an opportunity to sign up in church, don't hesitate to send us your request together with the e-mail address to which the news shall be sent.

News from the Holy Land

Father Fadi writes:

Dear Friends and partners

Greetings and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; I pray that this finds you all well.

Jesus Christ wants His Church to be one, not only in words and teachings but also in practice. Jesus prayed that His Church be one. It is when we continue in the spirit of Jesus' prayer for unity that we continue on the path of the unity of the church. It is when we come together, we re-

² Complete Text of the Letter available on request.

ceive the blessing of the Lord. God has called His Church to be one, and we continue in the same spirit of prayer for the Unity of Jesus' Church.

In Zababdeh, the four churches met Last Thursday to pray for the unity of the church. We had a moving service where all people from the



four denominations came together to hold hands and proclaim that the church is One.

During the Service, four people, one from every denomination, brought four sticks to the four priests leading the service. The four of us put the four pieces together to form the cross of Jesus Christ. People also presented bread, wine, oil, flowers,

stone, and an olive branch as a way to say we present together everything and specially ourselves to God.

In Christ

Rev. Fadi Diab

Coming together

There seems to be some interest in the congregation to have a regular meeting between our monthly services, perhaps some weekday in the evening, for those members at least who live in Karlsruhe or in the immediate neighbourhood. This would open a new possibility of coming together for those members who stay in town for work during the week but spend their weekends somewhere in the country. We could begin with a Communion service or Evening Prayer, and then sit together for a discussion of problems of common interest or a bible study or whatever. It might even be possible to have dinner together. LET ME KNOW YOUR OPINION IN ANY CASE!

Designated Gifts

Some people think that the Priest-in-Change is at liberty to do as he deems fit with the offerings to promote the Body of Christ. This is correct to a limited extent only. The Priest-in-Charge may use the money of the Mission to meet day-to-day expenditure only. Beyond that limit he

has to act with the advice and consent of the board of Saint Columban's Mission Fund which consists of himself, the Old-Catholic parish priest and one member of the congregation appointed by the Bishop. There is, indeed, a clergy discretionary fund which the priest in charge may use at his discretion, as the name indicates. But donations go into that fund only when they are designated for that purpose. Donations designated for other purposes, e. g. the support of St Andrew's, Ramallah, may not be used for other purposes without the prior consent of the donor.

Garden Party

Our annual garden party will take place on July 3, after the service (which begins at 12), in the garden between the church and the Old-Catholic parish house. There will be a concert for trumpet and organ on that same day at 5 pm in the Old-Catholic church, and whoever is interested would be able to attend it after the party. We will invite the members of the Finnish congregation also, and we hope that some of them will be able to come this time. Let us hope and pray that we will have suitable weather as we always had in former years.

Domestic Mass in Obersteinbach

This year the usual 'domestic mass' of the Old-Catholic community of Alsace will take place on the premises of the Klaas family at Obersteinbach again. The precise date has not been fixed yet. It may be the 11, 18 or 25 September. Details will be found in the next Newsletter.

Next services

In **Karlsruhe** our services are held on the 1st Sunday of the month at 12 noon in the Old Catholic *Christi-Auferstehungskirche* (Church of the Resurrection of Christ), Ökumeneplatz (besides Südl. Hildapromenade nr Mühlburger Tor), (unless otherwise indicated):

- April 3 — Easter 2: Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
- April 21 — St Augustine of Canterbury: Holy Eucharist at 7 pm (together with Old-Catholic congregation)
- May 1 — Easter 6: Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
- May 26 — Corpus Christi (Day of Thanksgiving for Holy Communion): Holy Eucharist (Rite II) at 11 a.m.

June 5 — Trinity 3: Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

You reach the Church of the Resurrection of Christ by public transport using trams to *Mühlburger Tor*. Cross Kaiserallee in northward direction (to the side of the red *Christuskirche*) at *Rathaus West*, and walk into Südl. Hildapromenade. After some steps, you see the church building before you (entrance from the west side).

There is a **children’s group** in the Old-Catholic parish house beside the church at the time of our service. It is arranged by a group of parents of young children. So all families with small children can attend the service while the children are cared for. Parents who are prepared to take part in the organisation of this work are invited to approach the Priest in Charge.

For weekday services see “Old-Catholic Church” (below p. 7).

Services at **St Augustine’s, Wiesbaden**, Frankfurter Str. 3 (our mother church, so to speak), are celebrated every Sunday at 10 am. Members of our Mission are always most welcome there (out yourselves when there). The Priest in Charge celebrates and preaches there occasionally.

Known Birthdays in April, May and June

<u>May</u>	19. Melanie Dunn-Fiedler
3. Bernd Osafo Opoku-Boadu	27. Thomas Edward King
6. John King	29. Samuel Opoku-Boadu

To all of these, blessings and most sincere congratulations! Remember them in your prayers!

We know very well that we do not know the birthdays of all our members and friends. Besides, we lost some birthdays by computer problems. So, if you miss your birthday let us know. Likewise if you know the birthday of any other member or friend not listed, who would not object to being included. If you should prefer your birthday not to be mentioned, do let us know also.

“If anyone is ill enough to call the doctor...”

“...call the parson too”. The Church is always available to those who desire her ministrations in time of sickness. But we often do not know who does. So if you know of someone who is sick or otherwise housebound, and would like a priest to visit her or him in order to talk to him or to receive communion and/or anointing (cf. Letter of James 5:14), do let the Priest in Charge know as soon as possible.

Old-Catholic Church

The Old-Catholic Churches, which gained independence from papal jurisdiction in the course of time, and especially in the 19th century, are in full communion with the Anglican Churches. We are their guests with our services, and we are most sincerely invited to their (German language) services (Holy Eucharist: Sunday at 10 a.m., Tuesdays at 7.10 a.m., Thursdays at 7 p.m.) in the *Auferstehungskirche* (see above p. 6) in summer, or in the parish house beside the church, in winter.

Clubs

English speaking Clubs and groups in our region where our members and friends are always welcome:

Anglo-German Club Pforzheim: 1st Thursday of the month from 19.45, Ratskeller, Pforzheim

British Baden Club: 1st Friday of the month from 8 pm, Restaurant “Prinz Eugen” Malsch (Information: Tel 07246-5992)

Dt.-Englischer Freundeskreis Karlsruhe, Conversation Circle: 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7.30 pm, Jugendheim Anne Frank, Moltke-str. 2a (Engländerplatz)

English Speaking “Stammtisch”: 2nd Tuesday of the month from 8 pm, Flynn’s Inn, Hirschstr. 70, Karlsruhe (Tel 8303641)

KONTAKT Karlsruhe (German-American; opportunity for Germans and Americans to practise the other language): Information regarding time and place from Mr Steven Miller, Tel. 0721-503139.

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 001: Tue–Fri 4–11 pm, Sat 2–12 pm, Sun 10 am–12 pm, Kirchstr. 9, Rheinmünster-Söllingen (Tel. 07227-991753, Fax: 07227-990979, E-Mail: RCL.Branch001@T-Online.de

Mission Statement

Saint Columban's Mission is a self-supporting congregation in the Anglican Communion under the jurisdiction of the Bishop in Charge of the Convocation of American Churches in Europe (Episcopal Church in the United States of America). It

- offers a spiritual home to all English-speaking residents of, and visitors to, Karlsruhe and the surrounding region,
- makes the Anglican tradition visible in the local Ecumenical environment,
- contributes—together with other Churches—to the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people in the city and the surrounding region.

Firmly rooted in the Anglican tradition, St Columban's Mission is open to all Christians, regardless of their denominational affiliation. They are most welcome at our Services. The Mission belongs to the Council of Anglican Episcopal Churches in Germany which organizes the cooperation of Anglican and Episcopal chaplaincies and congregations in this country. It is also a member of the *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Kirchen* (Council of Christian Churches) in Karlsruhe.

The Priest in Charge may be contacted in case of pastoral emergency at any hour of the day or night. If he is absent the following persons will be pleased to give information:

Dr. James Hunt, mobile 0172 726 5094

Todd Phillips, Tel. (0721) 75 65 80

The Blessed Sacrament is reserved continuously and always available for the purposes of Holy Communion for those who are sick or housebound.

The Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession and Absolution) and of the Sick (Anointing with laying on of hands) are also available for those who wish to make use of them, by arrangement with the Priest in Charge.

Information about preparing for Baptism, Confirmation or Marriage can also be obtained by telephoning the Priest in Charge.