

# ECUMENICAL Theological Research FRATERNITY in Israel

POB 249 | 91002 Jerusalem | Tel: 625 4941 | Fax 672 4237 | Email: [ecu\\_frat@netvision.net.il](mailto:ecu_frat@netvision.net.il)

President: Dr. Kirsten Stoffregen Pedersen | Executive Secretary: Rev. Petra Heldt

## NEWSLETTER NO. 26 Oct-Nov 2001

Dear Friends,

"By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked" (Proverbs 11:11). We pray that this compilation of news from Jerusalem may serve to inspire you afresh to bless this city and all of its residents, together with us.

### ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

#### The Fraternity Series 2001/2002

This year's subject of study will be Communal Identity and Diversity in Judaism and Christianity with the aim to research afresh the changing identities in both religions due to the developments over the last two decades. The changes that have taken place are locally recognized as can be seen from the opening lecture on October 25 given by Mr. Yossi Klein HaLevi, author of the new book, *At the Entrance to the Garden of Eden: A Jew's Search for God with Christians and Moslems in the Holy Land* (New York: Morrow, 2001). Mr. HaLevi: "In particular what moves me about this gathering is that you have managed after centuries of mutual estrangement, to begin in our generation, the process of healing within Christianity. That is a process that has implications not only for Christians..." A most worthwhile read available in the Fraternity offices for 100 NIS or \$25 USD.

We had a full house on November 29. Fr. David Neuhaus, SJ spoke to us on the topic, "Jesuits and the Challenge of Dialogue in the Contemporary Middle East". We learned of current developments in the Jesuit Order in the field of Christian-Muslim relations. The lecture notes can be obtained from our offices.

#### Special Lectures

\*The Israel Academy organized an evening in memory of Prof. David Flusser commemorating the first anniversary of his death (Oct 25).

\*The Swedish Christian Study Center held a seminar in celebration of 10 years in Jerusalem (Oct 25). \*Tantur Ecumenical Institute hosted for its Wednesday lectures Dr. Anna Marie Aagaard on October 10, on "The Church and the Churches - In the State we are in" and on November 7, Dr. Kirsten Nielsen on "Images of God in the Old Testament".

\*Cardinal Walter Kasper spoke at the Israel Museum on November 21, on the topic: "The Future of Jewish-Catholic Relations".

\*Mr. Yossi Klein HaLevi was back by popular demand also at the ICCI Education Centre on November 27.

### CHARITABLE SERVICES

#### The Fraternity Sick Fund

The young Syrian father in Bethlehem who practically lost sight in his second eye has undergone special treatment at Hadassah Hospital thanks to the generosity of our donors.

The Barnabas Fund continues to focus its support on the needy Orthodox Christians of Bethlehem.

### CHURCH ACTIVITIES

#### New Propst

The installation of Propst Martin Reyer took place at the Redeemer Church on October 21 in a festive ecumenical service attended by many of Jerusalem's church leaders.

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## March for Peace

The October 23 "Solidarity Convoy for Peace" from Jerusalem to Bethlehem was organized by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, inviting both Muslims and Christians to call for "an immediate end of all forms of violence from all sides".

## Memorial for Fr. Dusing

An ecumenical service was held at the St. Paul's Church on November 2, in memory of our dear late Fr. John Alois Dusing (1914-2000) - a patriarch of Jerusalem and exemplary role model in the furthering of ecumenical relations. The united prayers of the various representatives from the different churches of Jerusalem reminded us that the Body of Christ is One in Him and that we can indeed be inspired to know and to respect each other's traditions.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Int'l Dimension of Jewish Studies at Ratisbonne

In Newsletter 24 (July 2001) we intended to write about the "romanesque French Ratisbonne", and not as stated, referring to the Institute's tradition to teach Jewish studies also in the range of European languages. Together with all friends of Ratisbonne, we hope that the teaching will continue, in addition to English, in French, Italian, Hebrew and German.

### Statement by the Greek Orthodox Church

Following the brutal murder of Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi on October 17, the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem issued a public statement condemning the act.

### The ECOF

The Ecumenical Circle of Friends began the new season with a 'traditional' barbecue on October 18,

hosted by Mgr. Dr. Wolfgang Schwarz, Director of the Austrian Hospice.

### Nes Ammim Conference

"Resisting Evil, Confronting the Bystander in Each of Us" was the title of this assembly on November 8 in commemoration of "The Night of Broken Glass" (Kristallnacht). The focus: "How we, as individuals and as members of a social group, by standing up for others, can turn the tide of hatred that leads to evil actions towards others".

### The Mt. Zion Award 2001

This year's recipients of this award given to honour significant contributors to interreligious understanding: Archimandrite Emile Shoufani (Nazareth), Mr. Reuven Moskovitz (Jerusalem) and Mrs. Kifaya Jada for Mr. Omri Jada (deceased-from Habla/Qalqilya). The ceremony took place on October 28 at the Hagia Maria Sion on Mount Zion.

### Amit Yerushalaim/Guardian of Jerusalem

Prof. Eliyahu Tal, Chairman of the International Forum for a United Jerusalem was this year's recipient of the title. Our Executive Secretary was honoured to present the laudatio at the ceremony held at the Council Chambers of Jerusalem City Hall on November 21.

### New Cross of Nails Centre

Musalaha ("Reconciliation" in Arabic) was awarded a Cross of Nails on November 25, in a ceremony at the Mt. Zion Hotel. This organization, directed by Dr. Salim Munayer, works to bring healing between Jews and Palestinians. Presided by Canon Andrew White, Bishop Colin Bennetts as well as the Dean of Coventry UK, Reverend John Irvine.

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## Visitors

Two delegations of German Pastors were received on November 15 and 22; The Christus Treff young people together with new Fraternity member Fr. Guido Baltes; Rev. Wilfried Bullinger and his group from Germany.

## New Members

Welcome to the new Corresponding Members: Rev. Ekkehard Maurer (Germany); Rev. William H. Heinrich, Mr. & Mrs. Reed & Jean Holmes, Dr. Morris A. Inch, Ms. Gail Marks, Fr. John T. Pawlikowski, Rev. Michael F. Perko, Rev. Dr. John Townsend (USA).

## New Old Members

Fr. Robert Fortin, AA has returned, to take up the position of Vice Rector of Ratisbonne. Dr. Goran Larsson is also once again a 'Jerusalemite'! Congratulations and blessings to both in your new yet familiar abode.

## Student Christian Forum

The new season has begun. The first meeting was held at the Swedish Theological Institute on November 13, introducing "Ecumenical and Interreligious Activity in Jerusalem". SCF office hours are Mondays 14:15-15:15 in Room 104 of the Rothberg School.

## Some Good-Byes

\*We are sad to bid farewell to faithful Fraternity member Sr. Therese Scicluna, sja. To write to her, please contact us for her address in Malta.

\*Rina Geftman has passed away on October 17 following a prolonged illness. The funeral was held at the Ein Karem Sisters of Sion.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Recent Releases

\*The "Bernardin Center Series" published by the Catholic Theological Union has two excellent volumes, both jointly edited by John T. Pawlikowski, O.S.M. "Reinterpreting. Jews and Christians in Conversation" and "Ethics in the Shadow of the Holocaust. Christian and Jewish Perspectives".

May I end with the words spoken by Fr. Frans Bouwen at the Memorial Service for Fr. Dusing: "By trying to know and respect everyone, without sacrificing truth and justice, we have to feel the present divisions and hostilities as cutting through our own hearts and lives, so that our prayer may be suffering and our suffering may become prayer".

Rev. Petra Heldt