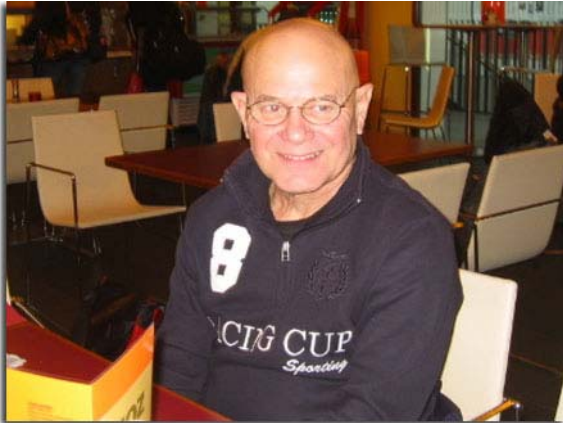


Week 46, November 2009

In focus: Dillon Powers



Dillon left Salzburg early Sunday 1st November for the USA and home after a short stay. Dillon will be missed at SICC for his caring, involvement and enthusiasm. We asked Dillon what he likes about Salzburg – “Fresh clean air and water and the nice people (if they like you!).” “And what about SICC?” He replied “I like the diversity, ethnicity, inclusivity and the friendliness”. And in reply to when are you coming back? “When the money is in the bank!” We hope that won’t be too long Dillon.

SICC CALENDER

Sunday: 11am – **Worship**, followed by
Coffee time

Tuesday: 7.30pm – **Prayer group**,
Strubergasse 49/5/12.

Wednesday: 2.30pm – **Women’s Bible Study
Group**, Strubergasse 49/5/12

Wednesday: 7.30 pm – **Students’ Bible
Study**, at the Navisotschnig’s, Hegigasse
3/10

Thursday: 1pm – **sacred space**, hospitality
lunch at the Mozarteum Cafe

SICC COMING EVENTS

November 15 – **Thanksgiving/Ethnic Night**

November 22 – **“Open House”**

December 9 – **Christmas Carol Service**

ECUMENICAL NEWS

First woman leader for Germany’s Protestants

Bishop Margot Kässmann, the first woman to lead the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), has pledged to work to promote relations with other Christian denominations, something that originally inspired her in her church work. “There is more that unites us than divides us,” she told a media conference following her 28 October election as chairperson of the EKD’s council, the main governing body of the country’s biggest Protestant grouping.

Kässmann received 132 of the possible 142 votes. The election of Kässmann means that for the first time the two senior posts in the EKD - chairperson of the council and president of the synod - are held by women. The president of the EKD synod is a Green Party politician, Katrin Göring-Eckardt. Noting the swearing in on the same day as her election of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the daughter of a Lutheran pastor, to a second term in office, Kässmann said, “Today is a good day for Protestant women in Germany.”

The chairperson of the (Roman Catholic) German Bishops’ Conference, Archbishop Robert Zollitsch, congratulated Kässmann on her election. “Our path as Christians is the path of ecumenism. It is a path that we have to go along together and as equals. Of Germany’s



82 million people, about 24.8 million are Protestants and about 25.5 million Catholics.



Jottings from the Pastor's Desk

In our daily life, it is important that we remember God's presence is with us. This story strongly illustrates this Truth.

"We are told for a Cherokee Indian youth his rite of passage into adulthood involves being taken blindfolded into the forest by his dad and left there. The youth is required to sit on a log the whole night and not take off the blindfold until the first ray of sun shines through it. He is all by himself. He cannot cry out for help to anyone. Once he survives the night he becomes an adult. He cannot tell the other boys of his experience. Each lad must come into his own manhood.

There is a story told of one lad's experience. He was taken blindfolded into the forest by his dad and was sat down upon an old log. The boy was terrified. He could hear all kinds of noise. Beasts were all around him; he could hear them snuffling in the grass and howling in the distance and seemingly to be getting closer and closer. He worried that the animals and even perhaps some human would hurt him.

The wind blew the long grass and the branches and they ruffled against the log and his body. But he sat stoically, never removing the blindfold. It was the only way he could cross into adulthood and he wanted so much for that to happen. Finally, after an horrific night, the sounds around him disappeared, even the wind dropped. As he felt the first warmth of the sun's rays strike his face, he removed the blindfold. It was then that he saw his father – sitting on the log next to him – on watch the entire night!!!!"

We too are never alone. God is sitting on the log beside us through all the circumstances of our lives. All we have to do is to take off our blindfolds!

FOOD COLLECTION during NOVEMBER



The Benevolence Committee has started a collection for canned and packet food during the month of November for the Wärmestube (cosy room). This is a place where the homeless, those with no job or for some reason are down-and-out can come and get a free hot meal. Wärmestube is run by 3-4 persons each day who give up their time to cook, serve, wash up etc.

Moira relates she once stood outside observing people as they came out afterwards. "I spoke with a few of them and asked if they'd enjoyed their meal. Just to see their smiling faces was enough for me to think 'Yes, we are doing the right thing here.' It makes one's heart jump for joy!"

The Committee says: "Next time you are having a nice hot drink or preparing food for our Thanksgiving/Ethnic Night - just pause and think of those who have nothing; then have a look through your food cupboard for some tinned food or packets that you can spare or next time you are in the supermarket buy an extra tin of something. As Moira says "I can assure you, it will make you feel good!"

PLEASE give generously and bring it along with you next time you come to SICC and hand it to Moira or any member of the Council.

God bless,

Glynthea