

Week 50, December 2009

In Focus...

Men's Dinner



On November 6, Lyman Bliss had invited the church's men to join him for dinner at the Trattoria Domani in Kaigasse. Apart from filling up one's stomach with excellent Italian food, it was a great opportunity to get to know other men in the church. Lyman had reserved ample space in the restaurant which, alas, could not be wholly filled. But his premonition that they might be fewer than on past occasions had led Lyman to invite a Chinese businessman he met in a souvenir shop that very day to join in. Very lively discussions about the demise of America and the ascendancy of China as the next world leader ensued. Men who missed out this time should not feel hopeless: surely there will be another chance in the near future, at least as surely as Lyman's real first name is ...¹

*Prayer is meaningless unless it is subversive,
unless it seeks to overthrow and to ruin the pyramids
of callousness, hatred, opportunism, falsehoods.*

Abraham J. Heschel

SICC CALENDER

Sunday, 11am – **Advent Worship**, followed

¹ to be revealed in the next E-Salt (maybe)

by Coffee time

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

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

Wednesday, 7.30 pm – **Students' Bible
Study**, at the Navisotschnig's, Am
Römerstein 10, Wals-Himmelreich – phone
0664 5583722

Thursday, 1 pm – **Sacred Space**, hospitality
lunch at the Mozarteum Cafe

SICC COMING EVENTS

December 9, 7.30 pm – **Christmas Carols**

December 25, 11 am – **Christmas Day
Service**

December 31 – **Open House at Pastor's
home, Strubergasse 49/5/12**

January 24 – **Annual General Meeting**

ECUMENICAL NEWS

The Parliament of the World's Religions held every five years

is the world's largest global interreligious event. It will be held in Melbourne, Australia, from December 3 to 9. The Melbourne Parliament will bring together more than 8,000 people from Australia and across the world, including renowned spiritual, religious and political leaders. The theme of the Parliament, "Make a World of Difference; Hearing each other, Healing the earth", reflects the urgent need for religious and spiritual communities and all people of goodwill to act on their concerns. "Our common link with each other is that we all care. By honoring our differences, we multiply the strength of connection and effectiveness in our care for the



planet and each other.”

Ad campaign by US humanists declares, 'No God? ... No Problem!'

Blogger Frank James for National Public Radio said "the so-called war on Christmas appears to be escalating this year" in the United States with the start of the Thanksgiving and Christmas season marked by a national advertising campaign based on the slogan, "No God? ... No Problem!" The campaign by the Washington-based American Humanist Association features a pictorial advertisement with several smiling people wearing Santa hats. Emblazoned on the advert is the slogan, which believers in non-theism say hinges on the axiom that people do not need God in order to be, and to do, good. Thanksgiving stems from a religious feast and many believe it began as a harvest festival celebrated by Christian puritans who fled to America from religious persecution in Europe.



Jottings from the Pastor's Desk

This came by email recently and it is well worth a read: "Billy Graham is now 90 years old with Parkinson's disease. In January 2000, leaders in Charlotte, North Carolina, invited their favorite son to a luncheon in his honor. Billy initially hesitated to accept because of his Parkinson's disease. But the Charlotte leaders said, 'We don't expect a major address. Just come and let us honor you.' So he agreed.

After wonderful things were said about him, Dr. Graham stepped to the rostrum, looked at the crowd, and said, 'I'm reminded today of Albert Einstein, the great physicist who had been honored by Time magazine as the Man of the Century. Einstein was once traveling from Princeton on a train when the conductor came. When he came to Einstein, Einstein reached in his vest pocket.

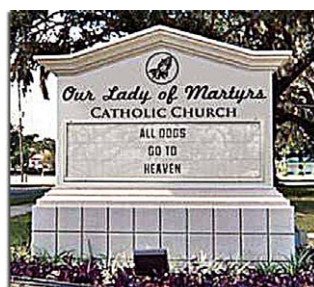
He couldn't find his ticket, so he reached in his trouser pockets. It wasn't there, so he looked in his briefcase but couldn't find it. Then he looked in the seat beside him. He still couldn't find it. The conductor said, 'Dr. Einstein, I know who you are. We all know who you are. I'm sure you bought a ticket. Don't worry about it.' Einstein nodded appreciatively. The conductor continued down the aisle punching tickets. As he was ready to move to the next car, he turned around and saw the great physicist down on his hands and knees looking under his seat for his ticket. The conductor rushed back and said, 'Dr. Einstein, don't worry, I know who you are. You don't need a ticket. I'm sure you bought one.' Einstein looked at him and said, 'Young man, I too, know who I am. What I don't know is where I'm going.'

Having said that Billy Graham continued, 'See the suit I'm wearing? It's a brand new suit. My children, and my grandchildren are telling me I've gotten a little slovenly in my old age. So I went out and bought a new suit for this luncheon and one more occasion. You know what that occasion is? This is the suit in which I'll be buried but when you hear I'm dead, I don't want you to immediately remember the suit I'm wearing. I want you to remember this: I not only know who I am, I also know where I'm going.'

God bless,

Glynthea

Two churches facing each other across a busy street and a theological divide:



(watch for this to be continued!)