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Fr. Markus Inama SJ | Rector

Juni 2015

Dear Friends!

In these weeks, Jesuits meet all over the world to choose their electors for the General Congregation. This group is formed in order to choose the 30th successor of Ignatius of Loyola in October 2016.

It was one of the basic concerns of Ignatius to make good decisions and to accompany others in doing so. It is no wonder, that he dedicated a fourth of the book of *Spiritual Exercises* to the theme "Call and Choice". With vivid examples and evocative images, Fr. Ignatius leads us to sit up and take notice, to see through dishonest motives and step by step to reach an intelligent and fitting decision. He writes: "In any good choice, as far as it depends on us, the intention has to be simple, by directing the attention uniquely and exclusively to what I am created for, namely to the praise of God our Lord and to the salvation of my soul" (*Spiritual Exercises § 169*).

Especially in the case of a very personal decision, the Exercises clearly demonstrate how sophisticated and structured mature discernment is: for here systematic process in looking rationally at the elements and factors of a decision become interlinked with prayerful trust and assurance that God is faithfully leading those who pray. As much as we can contribute to make a good decision, in the end it is important to sense that the choice we make has been brought to us by God himself. Ignatius asks us to trust such experiences, that God is in fact at work in my good discernment:

"Asking from God our Lord, He wants to move my will and put into my soul what I am to do in this presented case and what is leading more to his praise and to his glorification by considering with my mind and then choosing in accordance with his holiest and most complacent will" (*Spiritual Exercises §180*).

I would like to wish all of us success more and more in our participating in the activity of the Triune God, in the small daily-life decisions as well as in the far-reaching ones.

Pax et Bonum,



Fr. Markus Inama SJ  
Rector

> COMMUNITY NEWS <

On December 4th, 2014, **Fr. Hermann Zeller SJ** passed away at the age of 100. He lived and worked in Innsbruck since the year 1949. He taught dogmatic theology and took meticulous care of the Jesuit library for many years. He died in the nearby Sanatorium Hochrum where he was spiritual of the sisters of the Holy Cross. The Requiem Mass with Bishop Scheuer of Innsbruck was celebrated on the 12th of December.

During the months of January and February, as well again in April until June, two of our Jesuit novices, **Sebastian Ortner** from the Austrian province and **Sebastian Maly** from the German province, enjoyed their novice experiment in our MK Youth Centre.



Sebastian Maly with a group of MK youngsters

On February 26th, 2015, **Fr. Michel Lobunda SJ** from the Democratic Republic of Congo returned to his home province after having finished his doctorate here. He developed a theology of non-violence, entitling his dissertation: "Théologie de la non-violence de Simon Kimbangu pour une paix durable en RD Congo".

**Fr. Alangaram SJ** (MDU) und **Fr. Alexander Löffler SJ** (GER) are spending a year here doing academic research and are very much welcomed members of our community.

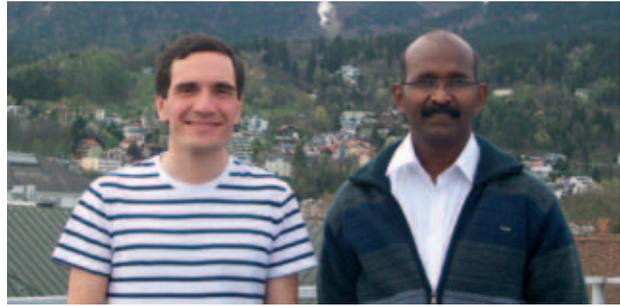
On March 18th of this year, we had another "Meeting at the Jesuit College". The two Country managers of **Concordia Moldova** reported about the political and social situation in the former Soviet republic.



Thomas Karimundackal SJ und Cornelius Ekka SJ

This year's **pilgrimage for vocations** took place in Lower Austria. About fifty Jesuits from all Austrian communities drove to "**Maria Taferl**", an important site of Marian pilgrimage where Jesuits worked in the late 19th century.

During Easterweek, two new Jesuits arrived in Innsbruck: **Br. Hernán Rojas SJ** from Chile and **Fr. Savariyappan Arokya SJ** from the Delhi Province in India. They are now spending time improving their German before beginning their PhD studies.



Br. Hernán Rojas SJ and Fr. Savariyappan Arokya SJ

On April 25th the MK Youth Centre, under the guidance of **S. Max Heine-Geldern SJ**, organized the "**MK-charity-ball 2015**". About 700 guests celebrated in the nearby Stadtsäle. The CONCORDIA Big Band, consisting of 11 youngsters from Romania who grew up in a social centre, founded by an Austrian Jesuit, treated us all to very beautiful music during the MK-Ball.



The CONCORDIA Big Band with Sebastian Maly and Fr. Markus Inama SJ



Max Heine-Geldern SJ

April, 27th is the feast of St. Peter Canisius and the Faculty of Theology along with the Diocese of Innsbruck organized a day of prayer, discussions and workshops revolving around the topic "**Christians and Muslims**". Among the participants and scholars were **Bishop Scheuer** (Innsbruck), **Bishop Elbs** (Feldkirch), members of different Muslim communities as well as different Christian denominations in Tyrol.

On Sunday morning June 7th **Fr. Severin Leitner**, the Regional Assistant and council member of Fr. General for Central and Eastern Europe passed away while trekking on the Gran Sasso mountains in Aquila, Italy. From 2009 to 2012 he was Rector of the Jesuit College. Severin was a man who combined great human warmth and capacity for friendship with leadership and organisational skills. He will be missed by many Jesuits. May he rest in peace.



MMag. Georg Gasser

### 1. The intellectual background

In the second half of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century, large segments of the Western philosophical world, as well as segments of the wider intellectual community, raised strong doubts about the human capacity to attain any true understanding of God's nature or any true understanding of God's relationship to the world. This period witnessed an increasing skepticism about the possibility of any form of fruitful interaction between philosophy and theology. Philosophers typically thought that it was no longer possible to think rationally about or to believe in God as a personal yet transcendent being who acts in human history.

A particularly strong philosophical trend is the so-called "analytical tradition", which is now the dominant force within Western philosophy. At its infancy, many proponents of this movement favored logical positivism and an exclusively scientific understanding of reality. As a consequence, the charge of irrationality was inevitably made against religious beliefs.

After the demise of logical positivism, however, interest in religious truths among analytic philosophers has continued to grow; subsequently thereafter, a remarkable revival in the philosophy of religion has occurred. Nowadays, philosophy of religion in this analytic tradition is as robust as it has ever been, evidenced by how analytic philosophers have begun to discuss many issues typically reserved for theologians – such as prayer, prophecy, damnation, atonement and sanctification, to name just a few.

Theologians have been quite skeptical or even hostile to this incursion on the part of philosophers into what theologians perceived as their territory. They tend to protest – not without some justice – that analytic philosophers are often ignorant of discussions that have become standard for theologians and that the historical awareness of analytics philosophers is often limited. Philosophers, of course, complain about theologians too. From their perspective the current theological debate seems to have lost the skill of reasoning with clarity and rigor, not least because many theologians have been beguiled by so called "continental" philosophical accounts.

### 2. The Project

The result of this fissure has been a divide between analytic philosophers of religion on the one hand and constructive theologians on the other. There have been only a few attempts to remedy these shortcomings in this trans-disciplinary exchange. Thanks to the generous support of the John Templeton Foundation, however, the 'Analytic Theology Project' was established at the Theological Faculty in Innsbruck in order to support a direct engagement between researchers in these fields.

Accordingly, a variety of activities were launched such as the organization of summer schools, workshops, lectures and international conferences on a range of topics as wide as the divine mind, divine action, the intersection between divine knowledge and human freedom, theological realism, the Trinity, the problem of evil, religious beliefs from different religious perspectives, and the nature and significance of religious feelings. In addition, Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral Fellowships for promising young scholars now provide opportunities to conduct cutting-edge research alongside colleagues engaged in similar projects.

In this way new advances at the intersection of both fields have been explored. A new generation of young German-speaking philosophers and theologians are being trained in the style of analytic philosophy as a fruitful means of theological inquiry without ever losing sight of the limits of analytic accounts and the value of alternative philosophical approaches for theological research. 'Analytic theology' is the label for this new attitude of cooperation and convergence between these disciplines and it promises to be productive. This creative interdisciplinary research and understanding between philosophers and theologians has been proven so rich, that the John Templeton Foundation has gratefully decided to support a three-year follow-up project in analytic theology, starting in winter 2015.

## &gt; TO BE MYSTICS IN THE MARKET PLACE &lt;



Fr. Sahayraj SJ

A mainstay of Ignatian spirituality is appreciating how Ignatius "de-cloistered" God. Innsbruck is helping me to come close to this incarnate God, manifested as human in Christ now present in this world, in all its majestic splendor as well as in heartless ruthlessness. My studies in Innsbruck have deepened my horizons of learning with a solid footing in theology along with a touch and taste of social ethics.

My education in Innsbruck has been deep and profound. Austrians love knowledge. Here the cities boast famous universities with reputed faculties and professors. Vienna and Innsbruck both periodically host international workshops and symposia on various topics. Through the extensive University libraries and their attendant accounts, one can have access to millions of books and essays. Recently while visiting a family in the mountains, I was stunned to hear a mother of four children discussing coolly about bioethics and the arguments of Peter Singer!

This animated scholarship is mirrored with deep respect for humanity. Before coming to Europe, I thought there would be no beggars here. In the city of Innsbruck where I stay and study – as well as in other parts of Austria – there are some who must beg their livelihood. Many of these marginalized men and women are said to be migrants who have a license to beg. Some ask straightway for money, but others sing or play a musical instrument. Throughout, I see remarkable respect shown to these men and women.

This is something that I have really learnt in Austria. Here, I find that people normally do not ask personal, intimate questions related to family, work or education, unless one has a very close relationship. Their respect for one's private space goes along with politeness and courtesy.

Another striking aspect for me in Austria is the simplicity of my brother Jesuits, and my own community is a wonderful example. Often one sees a famous professor talking to someone explaining very ordinary things. Simplicity is reflected in personal choices, the type of work, and in the way the task is executed. In general, people do not display vulgar signs of wealth that irritate!

## &gt; NEW BOOKS &lt;

Nikolaus Wandinger, Karin Peter (Hg.)

**Briefwechsel mit René Girard**

(Raymund Schwager, Gesammelte Schriften Band 6).  
Freiburg i.Br.: Herder 2014. 464 S.  
ISBN 978-3-451-34226-4

Georg Fischer

**Jeremia**

Prophet über Völker und Königreiche (Biblische Gestalten 29). Leipzig: Evangelische Verlagsanstalt 2015.ca. 200 S.  
ISBN 978-3-374-04026-1

Eleonore Stump, Georg Gasser, Johannes Grössl (Hg.)

**Göttliches Vorherwissen und menschliche Freiheit**

Beiträge aus der aktuellen analytischen Religionsphilosophie. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer 2015. 372 S.  
ISBN 978-3-17-024154-1

Mohan Doss, Andreas Vonach (Hg.)

**The Quest for Human and Cosmic Fullness: A Multidisciplinary Enquire**

Innsbruck university press - Conference Series.  
Innsbruck 2015. 187 S.  
ISBN 978-3-902936-64-6

Anna Egler, Wilhelm Rees (Hg.)

**Georg May, Schriften zur Rechtsgeschichte**

Ausgewählte Aufsätze (Kanonistische Studien und Texte 64).  
Berlin: Duncker & Humblot 2014. 660 S.  
ISBN 978-3-428-14503-4

Ludger Müller, Wilhelm Rees, Martin Krutzler (Hg.)

**Vermögen der Kirche – Vermögende Kirche?**

Beiträge zur Kirchenfinanzierung und kirchlichen Vermögensverwaltung.  
Paderborn: Ferdinand Schöningh 2015. 243 S.  
ISBN 978-3-506-77971-7

Boris Repschinski (Schriftleiter)

**Denken im Dialog mit der Geschichte**

Gerhard Leibold zum 70. Geburtstag. Zeitschrift für Katholische Theologie Bd. 137, Heft 1. Würzburg: Echter Verlag 2015. 126 S.  
ISSN 0044-2895

Mathias Moosbrugger, Józef Niewiadomski (Hg.)

**Auf dem Weg zur Neubewertung der Tradition**

Die Theologie von Raymund Schwager und sein neu erschlossener Nachlass. Freiburg i. Br.: Herder 2015. ca. 208 S.  
ISBN 978-3-451-34746-7

## &gt; DOCTORAL STUDIES IN INNSBRUCK &lt;

Jesuits, who wish to earn a doctoral degree or a licentiate in the fields of either Philosophy or Theology at the University of Innsbruck starting in 2016, should contact the Rector soon, as the procedure to obtain a visa and to enroll at the

University takes some time. It is strongly recommended to acquire some language proficiency in German in one's home province prior to arriving in Innsbruck.