

Consortio

INTERNATIONAL THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

SPRING 2009

"Come to Him, a Living Stone"

New Campus Trumau: Foundation Stone Laying and Construction Land Blessing

As the snow fell during the winter months, it seemed that time had slowed on

This first mass and blessing marked the beginning preparations for the move to the new campus and after that, providentially, everything fell into place. Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it (Psalm 127:1).

the Trumau campus project. Then, on March 12, 2009, after attending the ITI Symposium and giving a retreat to the ITI priests and seminarians, His Excellency Bishop Hlib Lonchyna,

and giving a retreat to the ITI priests and seminarians, His Excellency Bishop Hlib Lonchyna, Ukraine Bishop of the Curia and of the

Major Archbishop of Kyiv-Halych, cel-

ebrated the first Divine Liturgy at the new ITI campus. It was celebrated in the beautiful baroque chapel at Schloss Trumau, the heart of the ITI's new home. Also celebrating were our Byzantine rite chaplain, Rev. Juraj Terek, Rev. Yuriy Kolasa, Prefect of the ITI Formation Program, and ITI students Rev. Tomas Labanic and Rev. Eduard Shestak. Bishop Lonchyna and the priests then blessed the land of the ITI building site. Rev. DDr. Marian Gruber, O. Cist, the Trumau parish priest, joined the ITI for this special occasion.

This first mass and blessing marked the beginning of preparations for the move to the new campus and after that, providentially, everything fell into place. *Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it* (Psalm 127:1).

On April 7th, on the feast

day of St. John
Baptist de La
Salle – who
himself founded
many schools
– construction
work finally
began. In this
first phase of
construction.



housing for 120 students is being built.

On May 11th, 2009, ITI Grand Chancellor, Christoph Cardinal Schönborn, along with the Governor of Lower Austria, Dr. Erwin Pröll, and the mayor of Trumau, Mr. Otto Pendl, led a festive ceremony for the laying and blessing of the foundation stone. Over 300 guests assisted at and attended the ceremony, including the ITI Board of Trustees, faculty, students, graduates and other numerous friends and guests from Austria

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17 Bishops Gather to Discuss Their Mission

Giving glorious color to a white winter, seventeen bishops traveled to Austria to take part in the symposium in March hosted by the International Theological Institute. Entitled "The Mission of the Eastern Catholic Churches in the Life of the Universal Church and for the Modern World," the goal of the symposium was to help solidify the role of

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A cylinder was put into the foundation stone with several items that represent the ITI.

and abroad. It was a beautiful meeting of those that the ITI has befriended over the years.

A cylinder was put into the foundation stone with several items that represent the ITI. They included: the ITI mission statement, a rosary, a genuine rose to represent our patroness, St. Therese of Lisieux, and a gift from Dr. Pröll, which was a statue of Saint Leopold, the patron of Lower Austria.

The ITI will open its doors for the new academic year in Trumau on October 1, 2009. Until the completion of the construction of the new dormitories in May 2010, students and professors will be housed in brand-new apartments in Trumau, which were kindly provided by the mayor of the town.

The Schloss, which will house the classrooms, library, and administration offices, will undergo the first of three phases of adaptation work during the summer in order to be ready for use at the beginning of the new academic year.

The Mind of the Church at the Heart of Europe, as the new campus project has fittingly been called, has begun!

Please help us with your prayers and donations to complete this exciting project for the new evangelization! For this first phase, we need your help raising 1.2 million euro for the Schloss renovations.









READING FOR THE FOUNDATION STONE BLESSING

Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it says in scripture: "Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame." Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith: "The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and "A stone that will make people stumble, and a rock that will make them fall." They stumble by disobeying the word, as is their destiny. But you are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises" of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:4-9)





Top left margin: The Governor of Lower Austria, Dr. Erwin Pröll, gives Cardinal Schönborn a statue of St. Leopold for the foundation stone. Top Row: Members of the ITI Choir; Blessing of the land; The Trumau brass band plays a welcome. Middle Row: The Papal and ITI flags fly in front of Trumau City Hall. Bottom Row: Reception in the Schloss Courtyard; A model of the ITI future campus – the background areas (1 & 2) are the Schloss and Hofrichtershaus. In the foreground (3) you can see the new student housing.

Serving the Universal Church and the Modern World continued from page 1

the Greek Catholic Churches in serving the Universal Church.

The idea for the symposium was born from the deep, powerful experience of the life at the ITI. Here, students come from different backgrounds and traditions, and through their studies and the community life, come to know each other's traditions and deepen

their understanding of the richness and beauty alive in the Universal Church.

This experience at the ITI prompted us to bring it to the attention of the Greek Catholic bishops. so that it could serve as an example of inter-Church relations and problem solving. When we live together and pray together, when we are united around Christ, many difficulties that seem impossible to solve, become irrelevant – or, as in many cases - can be seen as coming from a lack of knowledge and true understanding of each other.

In his acceptance letter to come to the conference, Romanian Bishop Florentin Crihalmeanu wrote, "It will be a joy for me to be able to be in this 'oasis of the formation of fruitful silence and peace of the soul' which the International Theological Institute is." After praying with the ITI one evening at the symposium, he commented that the richness of the experience at the ITI should be spread among our Churches.

The bishops and over 150 participants came from twenty different countries. The participants included leading scholars, numerous priests, students, and lay persons. The conference

program was a combination of scholarly presentations on the history and current life of the Greek Catholic Churches, followed by the exchange of ideas and common prayer. The main languages of the conference were German, English, and Italian, but more than ten languages were used in the speeches, forums, and liturgical celebrations. Thanks to our

international student body, the ITI could always find a helpful student to translate a conversation or answer a question.

The presentations and discussions highlighted the contributions of the Eastern Catholic Churches and emphasized their mission to the modern world. The speakers included: Dr. theol. Dr. h.c. Prof. Ernst Christoph Suttner,

Em. Professor for Patrology and the Eastern Church, University of Vienna; Prof. Cesare Alzati, Milan, Italy; Professor of the History of Christian

"It will be a joy for me to be able to be in this 'oasis of the formation of fruitful silence and peace of the soul' which the International Theological Institute is."

of Christian Churches, Catholic University of Milan; Prof. Rev. Cyril Vasyl', Rome, Italy, Rector of the Pontifical Oriental Institute and in May named as Secretary of the Congregation for Eastern Churches; Rev. Dr. Yury Avvakumov, Lviv, Ukraine, Dean of Humanities, Director of Classical, Byzantine and Medieval Studies, Ukrainian Catholic University; and Prof. Dr. Oleh Turij, Lviv, Ukraine, Head of the Chair of Church History, Ukrainian Catholic University. The conference was moderated

by Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak,

Lviv, Ukraine, Rector of











Top: Bishop Michel Hrynchyshn, C.SS.R., France; Christoph Cardinal Schönborn; and Msgr. Dr. Larry Hogan, ITI President. 2nd Row: -View of the Conference Hall; Bishop Péter Fülöp Kocsis, Hungary. 3rd Row: ITI students with Bishop Florentin Crihalmeanu, Romania and Bishop Hlib Lonchyna, Ukraine. 4th Row: Participants visit and dine together during the Symposium.

Serving the Universal Church and the Modern World continued from page 3

the Ukrainian Catholic University and Univ. Prof. Mag. Dr. Rudolf Prokschi, Vienna, Austria, Director, Department of the Theology and History of the

Christian Orient, Catholic-Theological Faculty of the University of Vienna.

In his address to the Greek Catholic bishops and participants, ITI Grand Chancellor and the conference convener, Christoph Cardinal Schönborn, reiterated the "hope of Western Christians that Greek Catholics, as well as Orthodox, can help people in the West better experience liturgical beauty and holiness, offsetting a 'flattened' sense of the sacred in an increas-

In the Communiqué released by the symposium, participants agreed: 1.) to petition Pope Benedict to devote one of the upcoming Papal Synods to the topic of Eastern Catholic Churches; 2.) to continue annually the practice of conferences such as the one held at the International tion, to witness Theological Institute.

ingly secularized post-Enlightenment world."

In a letter addressing the symposium, Cardinal Lubomyr Husar quoted statements of Pope Benedict XVI, which stressed that "Greek Catholic Churches are called to be faithful to the Eastern tradito it in the Catholic com-

munion, thus being an example to Orthodox Christians of what living communion within the Catholic Church means. This communion has led to a multifaceted mutual enrichment of the Eastern and Western traditions."

The attending bishops presented the situation and pastoral concerns of each of their individual Churches and solutions were discussed. In the Communiqué released by the symposium, participants agreed: 1.) to petition Pope Benedict to







Top Row: Rev. Cyril Vasyl', Rector of the Pontifical Oriental Institute - recently named as Secretary of the Congregation for Eastern Churches; Liturgy Book. 2nd Row: Bishop Milan Chautur, Slovakia; Bishop John Kudrick, USA; Bishop Joseph Werth, SJ, Russia; Bishop Peter Rusnák, Slovakia; Bishop Milan Šašik, Ukraine; and Archimandrite Sergius Gajek, MIC, Belarus. 3rd Row - Left: ITI student Rev. Tomas Labanic, Slovakia, ITI student Deacon Calin Sechelea, Bishop Florentin Crihalmeanu, Romania. Right: Bishop Joseph Werth, SJ, Chairman of the Bishops Conference in Russia speaks with ITI student, Jana Prudka, from the Czech Republic. 4th Row: Archbishop Metropolitan Ján Babjak, S.J., of Slovakia celebrates Divine Liturgy.

devote one of the upcoming Papal Synods to the topic of Eastern Catholic Churches; 2.) to continue annually the practice of conferences such as the one held at the International Theological Institute. They also "heartily commended Cardinal Schönborn and the ITI for the theoretical and practical commitment to family issues, including a genuine hospitality to Greek Catholic students with families and to married priests. In this regard, the family and the institution of the married priesthood in the Greek Catholic Church was considered as a possible topic for a future conference." Finally, the participants "renewed their commitment to the arduous task of living in the middle of a divided Christian world, hoping and working for its unity." 🔀

> For more information about the Symposium, its speakers, participants and conclusions, see the News and Events section of the ITI website at www.iti. ac.at where you can download the Symposium Communiqué and program. Contact administration@iti. ac.at to order a CD of the talks.

ITI Graduate, Lyra Pitstick, Awarded John Templeton Award for Theological Promise

ongratulations to ITI graduate, Dr. Alyssa (Lyra) Pitstick (STM '00, STL '02), who was recently named as one of twelve international recipients of the 2009 "John Templeton Award for Theological Promise." The recipients are selected by members of an international, interdisciplinary, and multi-religious committee of scholars based upon the applicants' doctoral dissertation or first post-doctoral book. The book Lyra submitted was the revised version of the doctoral dissertation she did at the Angelicum in Rome. which was itself a greatly developed extension of her final thesis at the International Theological Institute in Austria.

Lyra is a member of the religion faculty at Hope College in Holland, Michigan, USA. Their press release about the award states:

HOLLAND – Dr. Alyssa (Lyra) Pitstick of the Hope College religion faculty is one of only 12 young scholars worldwide to receive a 2009 "John Templeton Award for Theological Promise."

The recipients are recognized on the basis of their doctoral dissertations related to the topic of God and spirituality, and chosen by an international and inter-religious panel of 25 judges. Each recipient receives an award of \$10,000 plus an additional stipend of up to \$10,000 for two years to support giving public lectures at the invitation of academic institutions.

The award program is a cooperative effort of the Research Center of International and Interdisciplinary Theology of the University of Heidelberg in Germany and the John Templeton Foundation of Pennsylvania. The winners will be honored during an awards ceremony and also participate in a colloquium at the university in May. The international

mix of scholars includes six based in the U.S.; three in Germany; and one each in Denmark, Scotland and

Pitstick wrote her dissertation while completing her doctorate in sacred theology at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aguinas in Rome, Italy, in 2005. In 2007, it was published by the Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company of Grand Rapids as *Light in Darkness: Hans* Urs von Balthasar and the Catholic Doctrine of Christ's Descent into

Both before and after its publication, her critique of von Balthasar has been the subject of vigorous debate. After an intense exchange in several issues of the journal First Things, its founder, the recently deceased Rev. Richard John Neuhaus, called Pitstick "a first-rate theological talent." More recently, she responded to a scholarly panel on her book at the annual meeting of the Karl Barth Society.

Hans Urs von Balthasar (1905-88) was a Swiss priest and religious scholar who saw Christ's descent into hell following his crucifixion as at the "absolute center" of the Christian faith. In her work, Pitstick draws on multiple sources to consider how von Balthasar's perspective, in differing from traditional teaching on Christ's descent into hell, jeopardizes essential Christian doctrines on God, Christ and salvation. Her work thus ultimately has implications relevant to the spiritual, liturgical and practical lives of Christians of all denominations.

"New Blackfriars" praised Pitstick's work: "An impressive book. Pitstick has had the courage to challenge a major theological reputation head on, and has done so with great skill. The result is the most sustained and detailed criticism of Balthasar's

theology yet published in English, and a work of acute argument in its own right." John Saward of Oxford University noted that "Pitstick's book is a challenge to those who regard Balthasar as an entirely trustworthy theologian, ranking with the greatest masters of the Tradition. She subjects his understanding of Christ's descent into hell to a searching critique and shows it to be seriously at odds with the teaching of the Fathers and Doctors of the Church."

Pitstick joined the Hope faculty at the beginning of the current school year. Besides her doctorate, she holds degrees in philosophy and mathematics. She presently teaches an introduction to Catholicism

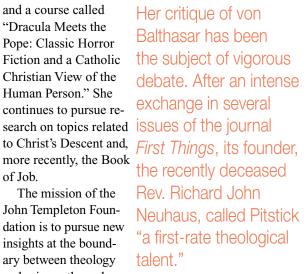
and a course called "Dracula Meets the Pope: Classic Horror Fiction and a Catholic Christian View of the Human Person." She continues to pursue remore recently, the Book of Job.

The mission of the John Templeton Foundation is to pursue new insights at the boundary between theology and science through a

rigorous, open-minded and empirically focused methodology, drawing together talented representatives from a wide spectrum of fields of expertise. Founded in 1987, the foundation annually provides more than \$60 million in funding on behalf of work in human sciences and character development, science and theology research, as well as free enterprise programs and awards worldwide. The John Templeton Award for Theological Promise was first announced in 2005.



Lvra Pitstick named as recipient of the John Templeton Award for Theological Promise



The ITI Mourns the Loss of Several Great Friends

During the past academic year the ITI has mourned the loss of several of its great friends.

We thank God for the lives they lived, the example they gave and the generosity they showed us.

In August of 2008, the ITI received word from several graduates that our beloved former professor, Madame Susanna DeBelli, passed away in Malta. She taught classical languages for

ITI students as well as Franciscan University of Steubenville stu-

The whole of the ITI community is grateful for the life, works, and above all, the examples of these beloved friends. May they rest in the eternal peace of our Heavenly Father.

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dents and was known for the great joy she brought to any social setting. She was also famous for adopting abandoned dogs and for one dog in particular, Chica, whom she

Madame Susanna DeBelli

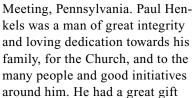
always carried with her, as it was her deceased husband's favorite dog. She had a zest for life and, as a convert, a great love of Catholicism born out of thanksgiving for the gift of faith.

In September of 2008, Msgr. Michael J. Wrenn, died after a struggle with the effects of a domestic accident that occurred in 2007. Msgr. Wrenn was a priest of the Archdiocese of New York and one of the two recipients of the ITI Honorary Doctorate. He was so proud of his honorary doctorate that he had a signet ring made with the ITI crest engraved on it and wore it faithfully. The last time that Msgr. Wrenn was able to be present at an ITI activity

was during the gala dinner in New York, in February of 2007. He came with his signet ring and spe-

> cial smile and assured the ITI of his prayers and love.

In January of 2009, after battling with cancer for many years, our dear friend and benefactor, as well as the husband of our Board member, Barbara Henkels, died at his home in Plymouth



for bringing one to the point and always had very clear and thorough questions. We had the privilege of experiencing this during the ITI Board meetings in which Paul participated with his wife, Barbara. The ITI is very grateful for his leadership, but above all for the example that he lived and left behind through his wonderful family.

On March 13, 2009, a great Catholic, Paulus Alexander de Jong, died unexpectedly at the age of 92. Paulus de Jong was a close friend of the ITI, and was one of the major contributors to the new campus project in Trumau. He was born towards the end of the World War I, and grew up in a loving Catholic family on the West coast of the Netherlands. When Paulus was only 17-years-

old, he bought a bankrupt soap factory, and began to turn the company around. In the first year of World War II he married Maud Vink. They were not able to have children, but enjoyed a long and happy marriage. During the war, Paulus repeatedly escaped capture by the Germans who wanted to send him to a forced-labor camp. Over time, he grew the small soap factory into a very successful multi-national company that is known today as Koninklijke Sanders B.V. In their later years, Paulus and Maud sold the company and started a number of charitable foundations that have since supported countless organizations and projects throughout the world. In their generosity, the de Jongs were especially dedicated to helping the Catholic Church and the poor.

Cardinal Schönborn, in a letter that was read at Paulus' funeral on March 20, 2009, said:



Paulus de Jong with Christoph Cardinal Schönborn

"Paulus was a man of faith with a deep love for Christ and his Church. He lived this faith in all aspects of his life, first and foremost, in his marriage. Until her death some years ago, Paulus and his wife Maud had a happy marriage of close to sixty years. Their Christian marriage inspired and continues to inspire many people, and their example will live on. The

faith, hope and love they lived is the greatest gift of their lives. Paulus was a humble man and lived a simple life, even though he could afford much more. Instead, he poured

out his generosity over those in need. Whether churches, monasteries, academic institutions or the poor, Paulus and the foundations he created helped countless people and projects develop. His great generosity was another wonderful gift of his life. For this I am deeply grateful.

Paulus was a committed man who

stayed faithful to his principles and convictions throughout his life. For those of us who had the joy of his friendship, we learned this through many a thought-provoking discussion, but also through simple facts like Paulus – when in Vienna – always wanting to stay in the hotel closest to the cathedral, so that he could attend daily mass. His faithfulness was a defining aspect of his life."

On April 15, 2009, Dr. Thomas E. Dillon, President of Thomas Aquinas College, was killed in a car accident. Known for his dedication to upholding the principles

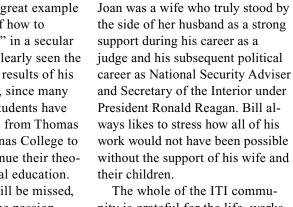
of a truly Catholic liberal arts education, he was a great example to many at the ITI of how to "fight the good fight" in a secular world. The ITI has clearly seen the

good results of his work, since many ITI students have come from Thomas Aquinas College to continue their theological education. He will be missed, but the passion and dedication he always showed will continue to give encouragement to all of us.

On April 21, 2009, Mrs. Eleanor

Flannery passed away after a full life. She had a love for the Catholic faith and saw the importance of having an education that formed the mind as well as the soul. Over the years she helped many Catholic causes, and many students have her to thank for their education.

In May 2009, after a struggle with cancer and a long battle with Alzheimer's, Joan Clark, beloved wife of our Emeritus Board member and great friend Bill Clark, passed away at their home in Clark Ranch in Paso Robles. Bill and Joan Clark are a remarkable example of people who live out a



The whole of the ITI community is grateful for the life, works, and above all, the examples of these beloved friends. May they rest in the eternal peace of our Heavenly Father.

love for God, family and country.

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Joan M. Clark Benefactor and wife of ITI Emeritus Board Member the Honorable William P. Clark

Madame Susanna DeBelli Former beloved Professor of Languages

Dr. Thomas E. Dillon Friend and President of Thomas Aquinas College

Mrs. Eleanor Flannery *Benefactor*

Mr. Paul M. Henkels Benefactor and husband of ITI Board Member Barbara Henkels

Mr. Paulus de Jong *Benefactor*

Monsignor Michael J. Wrenn Benefactor and Recipient of ITI Honorary Doctorate

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace, Amen.



Msgr. Michael J. Wren



Don't Just Learn Theology – Live it! Come Study With Us

By the authority of the Holy See, the ITI grants Canonical Masters, Licentiate and Doctoral degrees in Sacred Theology that are also recognized by the Austrian State.

If you are interested in learning more about our curriculum, or can recommend someone, please contact us at *admissions@iti.ac.at* or visit our website at *www.iti.ac.at*

The ITI Lecture Series From Marriage to Saint Paul; from Judaism to Art

In addition to the regular classes and course work, the ITI hosts a series of lectures each academic year. They

> cover topics from the philosophical and the theological to the practical. This year the ITI was fortunate to have lectures from many Aus-

trian bishops. To begin the academic year, Dr. Damian Fedoryka, Professor of Philosophy at the Center for Personalistic Anthropology and Ethics in Michigan,

USA, returned to the campus in Gaming, Austria, and gave the opening lecture for



Bishop Egon Kapellari delivers a lecture on art.

the ITI Lecture Series with a talk on "A New and Deeper Personalistic Understanding of Human Life." In October, the bishop of our local diocese and ITI Board Member, Bishop Klaus Küng, gave a lecture on "Marriage and Family as a Vocation in the Spirituality of Opus Dei." Prof. Günter Danhel, Director of the Institute for Marriage and Family in Vienna, gave a lecture in November entitled, "Data, Facts, and Analyses on and Scott Hefelfinger at the St. Thomas Day Marriage and Family since *Humanae* Vitae." To celebrate the Year of Saint Paul, Prof. Dr. Klaus Berger of the

University of Heidelberg in Germany, spoke on "The Importance of St. Paul for Ecumenism." In December, the ITI was joined by a visit from the Bishop of Linz, Dr. Ludwig Schwarz, SDB, who spoke about the Papal Mission work in Vienna called Missio.



Top: Bishop Scharl talks to Simone Ebner reception. Bottom: Rabbi Goshen-Gottstein and Bishop Andreas Laun humoursly expound

The spring semester ITI Lecture Series began with a presentation by Dr. Jeroen Bons of University College Utrecht, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on "Isocrates of Athens (436-338 BC) on Rhetoric, Morality, and Education" and his influence on philosophies of the time. Bishop Franz Scharl helped us to celebrate the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas with Mass and a hom-

> ily on the need for all of us to follow Christ and to keep the Faith, to build up a culture of life, and to continue to work in our international institute for an understanding between cultures. The next lecture was given by Rev. Silverio Rebelo, from Setubal, Portugal, who spoke about the "The Patristic Understanding of Christ's Sacrifice." There was an exciting dialogue between the Auxiliary Bishop of Salzburg, Dr. Andreas Laun, and Rabbi Dr. Alon Goshen-Gottstein, of the Elijah Interfaith Institute, Israel. They discussed and answered questions about the similarities and differences between the Jewish and Christian views of God. The lecture series was completed with a lecture by the Bishop of Graz-Seckau, Dr. Egon Kapellari, who spoke on the

sensitive topic "The Relationship between the Church and Art."

All ITI Lectures are open to the public and can be found on the ITI website at www.iti.ac.at. Please call before attending as the schedule may change.

ITI Calendar – Trumau Academic Year 2009-2010

New Academic Year Beginning and End Dates

Oct 1-2 Class Registration Oct 5 **Fall Semester Begins**

June 10 Graduation

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