

Projekt „Catholic Information Center and Media Work“

– Dr. Marge-Marie Paas

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Zwischenbericht



1 Tallinn Black Nights film festival ecumenical jury meeting at the info centre.

New communication strategy for the future

Thanks to the kind support for the Bonifatiuswerk, Catholic Church in Estonia could develop a new communication strategy for future. Estonia is well developed IT and e-services providing country, also the Church needs a new communication tools and provide the new challenges to proclaim the Gospel.

From September until December have been worked out the new strategy for the Catholic Info Centre, social media and communication work. The Catholic Church would like to start implement this new media strategy in new year 2022.

Problems caused by the pandemic

Unfortunately the Catholic Church in Estonia could not run the Info Center activities due the pandemic. It was not allowed the big gatherings and meetings in autumn 2021 and also for the Mass can go only 50% of the faithful people. But still there were some meetings and lectures in Catholic Info Center. It is situation next to

the Cathedral and it is basically 2 room hall, where one is dedicated to the pope John Paul II (the bigger room for conferences) and the second room will be dedicated to the Servant of God Eduard Profittlich SJ (1890-1942), the first Catholic bishop after Reformation.

In Estonia took place the international Dominican Art Days from 1-5 September 2021. The idea was to show how the Dominican artists can contribute to bringing the message of the Gospel, in case by offering a programme of activities to the people of Tallinn. Gerard Francisco Timoner III OP, Master of the Order of Preachers was also present. The venue was Theatrum hall in Tallinn old town and the media meetings took place in Catholic Info Center: interview with the Master Timoner III OP, and with the main organizer Alain Arnould OP. This event was well presented also in Estonian media and was very good event to communicate the catholic faith.



2 Timoner III OP, giving an interview at the info centre.

But still in Info Center took place meetings for Synod what was opened on 17 October in local Catholic Churches in Estonia. Synod meetings in Estonian and in English languages took place every week in this place, but with the limited participants. Look more info: sinod.katoliku.ee website.

It worth to highlight also the Tallinn Black Nights film festival ecumenical jury meeting in Catholic Info Center. This festival is A-class film festival, took place in Tallinn 25th time and had quests around the world, and were 181 films in program. Catholic Church media representative was one of the jury member and the final meeting took place on the 25th November in Info Center. There were other meetings also: for journalists, media partners and a place where were worked out the new Catholic podcast program and new documentary film about Vatican Archives. Both project is organized by Marge-Marie Paas.

The new **Catholic podcasts** program have been recorded in studio, but worked out in Info Center. The Apostolic Administrator Mons. Philippe Jourdan answers for 10 questions what are important themes at the moment in society, but these answers give to the listener a spiritual and moral support for the faithful catholic life.

The Catholic podcast program will be present from January 2022 on Catholic official website.

2021 October was historic day to Estonian media. In Rome took place first time in Estonian media history filming the Vatican archives, and Vatican Library, and other archives where are the historic sources about Estonia and Catholic Church of Estonia. Catholic Church media person Marge-Marie Paas organized all the permissions and the Catholic Church in Estonia is one of the producers of the documentary film called “**Estonia in Vatican archives**”. It will be presented in the first part of the 2022. The preparation meetings took place in Info Center in Tallinn.



3 Dr. Marge-Marie Paas in Vatican Apostolic Library making a documentary film.

Other projects which took place

At the same time, the daily activities of the media and the press in the Catholic Church of Estonia continued. The website (www.katoliku.ee) and Facebook daily updates (Katoliku Kirik Eestis, Catholic Church in Estonia). Mainly coverage of church news and Vatican news for Catholics. The sharpest communication in this autumn was the communication of various restrictions in the churches. On a weekly basis, the government changed the Covid-19

restrictions for the services and other ceremonies what take place in churches.



Also, took place some international interviews for Estonian Catholics what were published on the official Catholic Church in Estonia website. In November took place also the parish priest change in Sts. Apostles Peter and Paul parish in Tallinn. New parish priest is Tomasz Materna. He has been in Estonia 3 years and he also would like to make more visible the biggest Catholic parish in Estonia and would like to have more communication with Estonians, Polish and other nationalities. In December 2021 was the first meeting how to work out better communication in the future between different nationalities in the Catholic Church and how to involve more youth and elderly people to active parish life.

2022 will be also an important year for the Catholic community in Estonia. The Church will commemorate the **Servant of God Eduard Profittlich SJ**, a German Jesuit who came to Estonia as a missionary priest in 1930, consecrated archbishop in 1936 in Tallinn and died in Kirov prison as a martyr. The Catholic Church will celebrate his martyrdom 80 anniversary on 22 February 2022 organizing an international online conference together with the Catholic Church in Russia (on 15 February), the exhibition and publishing information materials. The preparations for this historic event started in 2021 and there is strong communication and media plan in progress in Estonia and also co-operation with the different institutions abroad. It is important that the beatification of the Servant of God Eduard Profittlich and his martyrdom is well known in the universal church, also in Estonia.

The lecture in the Catholic Info Center in Tallinn and 3 Radio programs (Raadio 7, Vikerraadio) took place in autumn 2021 in Estonian media about the Servant of God Eduard Profittlich. Also, the new website dedicated to Eduard Profittlich were open in October in Estonian and in English. The site address is: www.profittlich.eu. On this site we also thank the Bonifatiuswerk for support.

There was also work on Rome in September-October (3 weeks) working for the beatification of the Servant of God *Postio* for the Congregation of the Causes of the Saints.