

Taizé, Saturday 29 November 2008

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In Nairobi: "Sharing hope"

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"Sharing hope" is the theme of the stage of the Pilgrimage of Trust that is taking place at this very moment in Nairobi, Kenya. Lasting till Sunday 30 November, the meeting has brought together 7000 young adults between 18 and 30 years of age from the different provinces of Kenya and from other African countries. The meeting has been prepared over the past year by brothers of the Taizé Community with a team of volunteers from different continents, in collaboration with youth chaplains from the Nairobi Churches. Over 120 young people have come from Europe, Asia and North America. The first arrivals began on 15 November, to take part in immersion programs in different towns and villages in the Nairobi Region.

The program of this international meeting consists mainly of times of celebration, prayer and sharing. The main venue is in the grounds of Queen of Apostles Minor Seminary (Thika Road, Ruaraka). The morning program takes place in the 80 parishes and church congregations and religious institutions where the participants are receiving hospitality. Young people from the host parishes enable their guests to discover "places of suffering and hope" as well as the commitment and the initiatives of the "people of hope" in their neighbourhood.

Brother Alois along with several Taizé brothers is taking part in the Nairobi event. The Archbishop of Nairobi, Cardinal John Njue, was present during the evening prayer on 28 November. Other church leaders from various denominations were also expected to take part in some of the prayers. [http://www.taize.fr/en\\_article7659.html](http://www.taize.fr/en_article7659.html)

Catherine is part of the welcome team: "Wednesday 26: This has been a day of welcome, which continues after the sun has set. Tomorrow, in the light of day, we will discover how many have joined us. For now, we know that we have been blessed with visitors from Uganda and Rwanda, from Mozambique and Sudan, and from many other countries in Africa and beyond. Of course, many groups are also travelling from provinces across Kenya - Kisii and Nyahururu, Machakos and Mombasa - and from the suburbs of Nairobi itself.

The Kenyan tradition of offering hot sweet chai (tea) to visitors seemed unaltered by the sheer quantities involved. And it was gratefully received by many weary travellers - one young man I spoke to had been on the road from Burundi since Monday. Others were returning from fruitful times with families in rural parishes during their 'pre-meeting' stay.

In one of our prayers this week, we heard the story of the widow who gave two copper coins - "She, out of her poverty, gave everything". In many ways the welcome that the young people receive here, in parishes and in families, echoes this gospel. In fact, it goes further – Catholic parishes welcoming members of the Pentecostal Church; Anglicans welcoming those from the Presbyterian Church of East Africa. Once again the barriers that exist are called into question..." [http://www.taize.fr/en\\_article7677.html](http://www.taize.fr/en_article7677.html)

Photos of the Nairobi meeting: [http://www.taize.fr/en\\_article6975.html](http://www.taize.fr/en_article6975.html)

### Brother Alois in the Paris region

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A prayer for young people in the Paris region, organized by young adults of the Nanterre Diocese, will take place in the afternoon of Sunday 7 December. Mgr Daucourt, Bishop of Nanterre, and Brother Alois will be present. Young people from all over the Paris region are invited to take part in this time of prayer and sharing: Saint-Jacques-le-Majeur Parish, Montrouge (92), Métro Ligne 4, Porte d'Orléans.

Among the afternoon workshops proposed: "Risk: a way towards God?", "Living your Christian faith in a company with a short term view of the market: dilemmas and challenges", "Good news in the life of a young person: commitment in the Young Christian Workers", "Solidarity football in the Paris region".

A prayer open to everyone, at 18.30, will bring the day to a close.

[http://www.taize.fr/fr\\_article1046.html](http://www.taize.fr/fr_article1046.html)

### In England: "the promise of mutual enrichment and joy"

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"Diversity, instead of leading inevitably to divisions or rivalries, bears within it the promise of mutual enrichment and joy" (Letter from Cochabamba). In England the situation of the Church is probably the most fragmented of any country in Western Europe. During this series of visits by one of the brothers of the community, there were prayers and meetings in churches of many denominations, Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, and meetings with young people in Soul Survivor cell groups. The Church in England is very divided, and yet that "promise of mutual enrichment and joy" can already be discerned, first of all perhaps in the ease of contact and friendship across church boundaries. When a Catholic bishop arrived for the evening prayer in an Anglican Cathedral it was the most normal thing in the world, just as it was when a Church of England bishop came to the evening prayer in a Catholic parish near his home.... There is a very large number of young people from Central and Eastern Europe in Britain. Lithuanians, Czechs, Slovaks and Poles were present as significant minorities at several of the meetings. The young priest who conducted the music practice in Dewsbury Minster had the task of combining local 6th-formers with the youth choir from Huddersfield Polish Church into a group which would lead the singing for the evening prayer... [http://www.taize.fr/en\\_article7684.html](http://www.taize.fr/en_article7684.html)

### In Brussels: a beautiful sign of communion

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Bénédictine is active in the preparation for the end of December European meeting: "Each day, in Saint Nicolas' Church in the centre of Brussels, more and more people come to join in the mid day prayer, to confide what is being prepared.

The daily rhythm at the preparation centre is as sustained as ever. Above all, we have to find accommodation!... There is always a smile to share, good news to announce and the desire to come back again. The team who prepared the meeting in Geneva last year sent a large envelope filled with short messages of encouragement for all those who are committed in the preparation this year. What a beautiful sign of communion!

The days of the young volunteers are very full. They take care, for example, of announcing the meeting in the schools. Certain schools are in majority Muslim. Yet the young people there do not feel themselves any less concerned by the meeting. One of their teachers stressed, "You are one of the faces of Brussels. It is important that you make this known also to the young people taking part in the meeting." Several of them came to the preparation centre to find out more. They discussed with one of the brothers how they could take part in a meeting like this and finally they decided to help organize a welcome point... "

[http://www.taize.fr/nl\\_article7599.html](http://www.taize.fr/nl_article7599.html)

[http://www.taize.fr/en\\_article7593.html](http://www.taize.fr/en_article7593.html)

The European young adult meeting will take place in Brussels from 29 December 2008 to 2 January 2009.

Registration: [http://www.taize.fr/en\\_article3978.html](http://www.taize.fr/en_article3978.html)

Preparation for the meeting: Photos: [http://www.taize.fr/en\\_article7669.html](http://www.taize.fr/en_article7669.html)

### CDs for Download

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The CDs recorded at Taizé are now available for legal download from the main digital outlets (iTunes, eMusic, musicMe, fnac, music4help, Deezer...). They are all listed with the single word "Taizé", with or without the accent, as the artist name. Follow the links on the recordings pages of the Books, CDs, DVDs section of the Taizé website, or for more details see: <http://www.believe.fr/labels/2833,taize.html>

### New Books CDs and DVDs

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- A book of guitar accompaniments for the songs of Taizé, "Chants de Taizé: partitions pour guitare" is now available in several countries. 87 songs, each with chords, a simple accompaniment in tablature and classical notation, and several further variations in order of progressive difficulty. Notes and tips on how and why to accompany. 192 pages, A4 format, spiral bound. Distributed in France by le Seuil/Volumen, in the USA by GIA publications, in Germany by Verlag Herder.

- A new title in French has been published by éditions Nouvelle Cité: by Sabine Laplane, "Prier 15 jours avec frère Roger de Taizé" takes the reader on a journey of prayer through the writings and intuitions of Brother Roger. 2008, 128 p, ISBN 9782853135535

- A DVD of the high points of the European Meeting in Geneva is finally available: "Oh! Que c'est chose belle - Taizé à Genève / Taizé in Geneva ", distributed by Sari Press, Geneva. 45 minutes, in French and English.

- For further details and links to the distributors: [http://www.taize.fr/en\\_article1221.html](http://www.taize.fr/en_article1221.html)

### Prayer

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God of peace, you do not wish for any of us to be troubled by remorse, but for a surge of trusting that enables us to place everything in you. And so, in your continual forgiveness, we discover peace of heart.