

Twenty Fifth July – An evening of Togetherness

I asked my heart: What would be the best way to spend time with a group of Amazing Animators of a “Model Parish” in Germany? And the reply I received was : A ‘light’ heart session with Gospel sharing.



Thanks to the initiative from St. Ursula, I found myself with a group of thirteen people of varying ages, smiling as we continued the evening animated by my Senior Partner “Jesus”!

At the end one of the participants gave thanks to Him for taking full responsibility for our time spent together! I believe He did...

We began with a “Paul Jones” – two circles each moving the opposite way. Delightful to see the smiles, as participants exchanged their thoughts about what they liked about themselves, each other and about their parishes. Much happened in pairs - we made name tags for each other with an image and qualities that we noticed in the other.

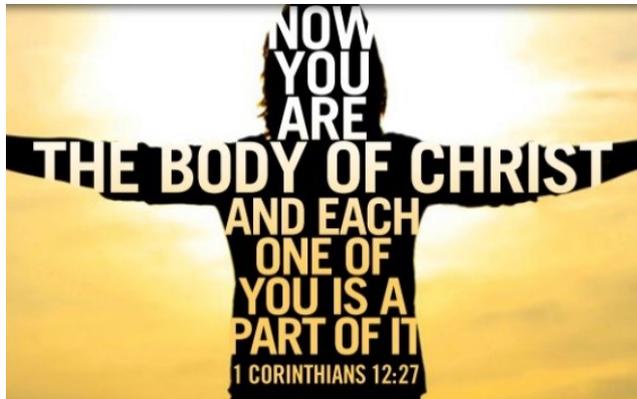
A “God Box” for “intentions” for the Parish and ourselves saw us deposit our “needs”. Leaving these at the feet of Jesus (who was represented by a little Doll), we felt more free to enjoy the rest of the evening, believing with all our hearts that Jesus could do the “impossible”.



After a bit of “Laughter Yoga” which is known to put one in a child-like, less-stressed, less-logically-driven and more creative state, I suggested that we put our Vision into images. Our “spiritual Right Brain” feeds on pictures!

My inspiration for doing this comes from the passage: “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Mt.18:3)

Like children, we let our imaginations run wild. This is in keeping with one of the KEY words of the Parish Vision: “OPENESS”. We “played with colour pens and paper” to going beyond the “limited logical Left Brain”.



We then created an imaginary body on the floor and each one chose to stand at a special spot to indicate which part of the body they were... Then there was a sharing - as to why they chose that part of the body to symbolically represent their gifts and contribution to the Church... We ended this part of the evening by giving thanks and blessing to each other for using our individual gifts. One participant shared with us that he

had a deep experience of moving from feeling isolated to a feeling of belonging.

The Gospel sharing was on “Martha and Mary” (Lk 10,38-42). One participant kindly read the Gospel in English - I was touched by this thoughtful gesture. We shared in smaller buzz groups and then later in the larger circle - the sharing was rich and deep ... We ended with a beautiful hymn that was sung so prayerfully in true German style.

Food for the soul and the body were both in abundance and left us filled and fulfilled! During the fellowship meal, I heard about the strides that the Parish has made with regard to networking with local groups and authorities. May their novel ideas to involve more parishioners spread to the parishes beyond.



I was particularly struck by the openness, efficiency and humility of all of the participants.

Susanne very nicely translated what I said, so that our different language did not become a barrier between us. We spoke about using our right creative “spiritual” brain a little more, by lightening up about life and our task ahead. If it was not for Birgit’s kind hospitality, I would not have had this heart-opening and inspiring experience. I owe gratitude to all those who attended.

Jutta wrote a lovely poem:



Moments

- Sing
- Translate
- Invite
- Welcome
- Speak
- Draw
- Move around
- be there
- Laugh
- Hesitate
- Now
- Come again
- Eat
- Share
- Together
- Thank you Jesus

