

Association des Foyers Interconfessionnels de Suisse

It has been quite a busy year for the association.

The members of the committee have met three times with full agendas. We always get the news from the various groups in the French-speaking part of the country. Some are very active, but some have troubles. Either the couples are getting older, and interest is waning, or the change of clergy in their part of the country makes their existence difficult. Unfortunately the response from the German part is disappointing, but we'll keep on trying.

In April we went away for a week-end to Bose, an ecumenical monastery in the North of Italy. We needed to be resourced and encouraged. The congregation is made up of lay brothers and sisters Protestant and Catholic, they are all active either in making the monastery self-sufficient (gardeners, cooks, etc) or work outside (doctors, for instance). It was refreshing to be able to discuss the problems we encounter and to be told, don't give up, you are necessary.

The annual meeting of the members of AFI-CH took place in Martigny in March, with quite a good turnout. That was the first time we could proudly present our new black vests (cardigan) with our logo in gold. Anything to be visible.

In July Jean-Baptiste and Dominique Lipp went to Lviv in Ukraine, and Guy and Gisèle Francey had the chance of attending the 40th UK Interchurch Families gathering in Swanwick.

The sad news has been the resignation of our Catholic chaplain Gerald Voide, due to too much work in his new parish, but he didn't leave us orphaned, he found us a very energetic replacement in a young seminarist, Vincent Lafargue.

We have a lot of work on our plate, as we are busy trying to organise a French-speaking week-end next year, where we hope to welcome quite a few overseas friends. The last one was in Lyon, so it's our turn. You all know how difficult it is when you must look for a place, but don't have any idea how many people are coming. It has got to accommodate families with children, must be easily accessible, not cost too much, and have an attractive programme. Think of us in your prayers.

Gisèle Francey

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