

TJCII for YOU

A global, biweekly news update



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Blessed in these Days!

by Sr. Mary Paul Friemel

During these very unusual times of COVID-19, the phrase “we’re all in this together” has taken on a new meaning as the entire world has had to face a common problem. Everything changes, everything is changing. Plans, programs, regular life just had to stop for a while. We will never forget these days. Yet, we see the Lord moving and achieving His purposes despite so much change.

Such is the case in Hainburg, Austria, the former home of Father Peter Hocken, and the current home of Sr. Mary Paul and the TJCII Formation Center. Spring 2020 was supposed to be a busy time in the house – the kitchen was being remodeled, several different groups would be meeting in the house during March, including the TJCII Now Generation Core Team. The TJCII Formation Course was also supposed to be held here in April and May, with participants coming from Australia, Kenya, and Brazil. However, the current pandemic altered our path.

We held the TJCII Now Generation Core Team meeting from March 12-15. The weekend began normally, though we were aware that we needed to be more cautious and to not spread any germs. Our conversations often focused on the latest

business and to not spread any germs. Our conversations often revolved on the latest news and what was happening in different parts of the world. By the end of the weekend, flights were canceled, borders were closed, and restrictions were in place. Several people asked to stay with us in Hainburg to not bring any potential danger to their parents back home.

At this writing, that was seven weeks ago! In this time, our small group of six to seven people had grown into a life-giving community. All here are involved with TJCII on some level and care deeply about the topics of unity, Israel, renewal, and life in the Holy Spirit, and the second coming of the Lord. Our daily life has taken on a certain rhythm of prayer, worship, intercession, and of course the inevitable cooking, cleaning, and helping one another, not to mention wonderful fellowship. During the week of Pesach and the Feast of the Resurrection, we also had teaching and discussion, together with some others through Zoom. We had a very moving celebration of Pesach, in a room overlooking the 700-year-old synagogue which is next to the house. Three of us were together last year for the Formation Course, and we realized how these days *feel like* the Formation Course, as we live this life together. We have been so blessed in these days.

So, the Lord has had other plans. After much prayer/discernment and discussion (even after hoping to postpone the course for a month), we realized and announced that the Formation Course for 2020 must be canceled. Thank you to all who supported us and prayed with and for us about this.

However, the experience we have now in the house in Hainburg has been a catalyst for a new idea. Plans are underway for an online "Come and See" program, hopefully to take place in July. This would not replace the TJCII Formation Course but would instead seek to create new opportunities in this season of challenge and change. The teachings would be online and the hope is that small home groups could be formed in various nations, where the teaching could be discussed and all other aspects of life (worship, intercession, and life together) could be on-site, thus helping to build the relationships and networks that are so crucial to TJCII. The choice to form an on-site live-in community depends upon civil restrictions, personal and communal safety, and personal freedom. Each person and national leader should take these things into consideration if forming such a group. We recognize that the situation is different in each place, and we respect each local decision, and would never ask for people to unnecessarily expose themselves or loved ones in this time of COVID-19.

For concrete details of this program please contact Sr Mary Paul at srmpfus@yahoo.com or the International TJCII office at rwklayman@tjcii.org.

We bless you from the house in Hainburg!

Check out the photos below.



Sr Mary Paul and others preparing for an online teaching.





Shabbat dinner!





Passover Seder. Notice the light colored building visible through the window.
It's a synagogue that's over 700 years old!

Watch for our next email in two weeks!
Add egs@tjcii.org to your contacts list.

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