

InterFaith runners welcomed by Cardinal Hollerich

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For the 16th time in a row, “InterFaith – Run for a United World” ASBL organized a weekend of interfaith encounters with 71 participants as part of the Night Marathon Luxembourg. Not only representatives of religions such as Hindus, Sikhs, Bahais, Muslims and Christians enriched this rendezvous, but also humanists who have been infected by the community spirit of this event for several years.

A moving highlight of the weekend was the reception on Saturday morning with Cardinal Hollerich, who is the patron of the bridge-building project alongside the Dalai Lama.

It was a touching encounter at eye level. Cardinal Hollerich greeted the participants individually and emphasized the importance of such peace-building projects, especially in times of increasing polarization and conflict in Europe and around the world.

“Nothing can replace personal encounters in order to be immune to exclusionary paroles,” said the Cardinal in his welcome address. In his opinion, religions have a special responsibility here. Any religion that calls for a war of aggression is spreading blasphemy, said the Cardinal.

In his words of thanks, Ingo Hanke, chairman of the InterFaith project, emphasized that interreligious dialogue has also developed into a school of seeing and listening. This has resulted in closeness and mutual appreciation. This “journey of discovery” has led to long-term friendships. The fruits of the practice of interreligious dialog are manifold.



Pastor Stoll presented Cardinal Hollerich with a “Tee Shirt” with the inscription “Diocesan Guide” as a gift.

The various representatives of the religions expressed their gratitude to Cardinal Hollerich with gifts that illustrated a part of their respective religion and their commitment.

The relay group led by Pastor Dirk Stoll from Kassel took part for the first time, with four couples, each with a visually impaired person and a guide. Pastor Stoll presented Cardinal Hollerich with a "Tee Shirt" with the inscription "Diocesan Guide", which the guides wear. Also present were representatives of the Turkish Turkuaz ASBL, the president of the Muslim scouts Salah Ouaouinat with his wife and two Muslim scouts, the imam of the Muslim community in Bonnevoie "Juste milieu", a group from Kassel led by Professor Freudenberger-Lötz with four students who want to become protestant religion teachers, the Bahai's and finally a large group of Sikhs from Great Britain.

A greeting from the group of 22 state-employed prison chaplains from the Netherlands - Muslims, Christians, Humanists and Hindus - who arrived later, was also read out. They later gave an interesting insight into their everyday work at the closing event on Sunday. Individual participants, such as the director of the EWB, Ulrike Kohl, also attended the reception.

35 runners were accommodated in Luxembourg host families, some of whom also attended the Cardinal's reception.

Günther Gebhardt came to Luxembourg on behalf of the interreligious "Global Ethic Foundation" of Tübingen theologian Hans Küng, who presented the Cardinal with the latest Global Ethic book by Ulrich Hemel, who, as it turned out, was a fellow student of the Cardinal at the Gregorian University in Rome. Donations have been collected for the educational projects of the Global Ethic Foundation during the InterFaith weekend for years.

The meeting in the bishop's residence ended with a personal exchange. The Cardinal apologized for not being able to run himself, but he promised to at least support the runners spiritually. This reception was certainly a strong source of motivation for all those present to continue the "adventure" of interreligious dialog.

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