

Binational Dutch-German CAPP Convention

December 2nd/3rd 2022 in

Aachen

/

Maastricht



Members and Friends of the Dutch and German Section of Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation (CAPP) gathered on December 2nd/3rd 2022 in Aachen/Maastricht with special intention to disseminate Catholic Social Teaching to students of the University Maastricht.

Perfectly organized by **Volker Lauven** for Germany, **Peter Korten** and **Auxiliary Bishop Msgr. Dr. Everard de Jong** for the Netherlands, the program started on Friday afternoon in Aachen, Germany with a tour of the imperial cathedral of Aachen which dates back to Emperor Charlemagne who had the cathedral built at the end of the 8th century.

At the following dinner - close to the famous Christmas market – there were reflections on ‘Church and Society’ from **Vicar Thorsten Aymanns**, Head of Strategy Management, Episcopal Vicariate Diocese Aachen, **Prof. Dr. Paul van Geest**, Erasmus University Rotterdam and **Bishop De Jong**, revealed interesting insights into the synodal way in Germany and into the power of the few’ in the Netherlands, and provided a stimulus for further discussions.



On Saturday morning a pontifical mass was celebrated by **Bishop De Jong** with **Father Johannes Zabel OP** in the basilica St. Servatius at the famous Vrijthof in Maastricht, the Netherlands. It is a basilica that dates back with its original Roman basilica to the 4th century when Saint Servatius served as bishop in Maastricht and where he has also been buried.



At the 'Theater aan het Vrijthof' the program continued in the presence of **Dr. Dr. Thomas Rusche**, Vice Chairman of the Foundation, with lectures under the moderation of **Bishop De Jong**: It's the economy, stupid! Is that all we can say? Catholic social teaching offers more hope!

Prof. Dr. Dr. Elmar Nass, Cologne University for Catholic Theology gave a lecture about 'Why do we need Catholic Social Ethics?' and **Prof. Dr. Paul van Geest** gave an address entitled 'From Homo economicus to homo dignus. The indispensability of patristics for economics, even after the Enlightenment'.



While both lectures were enriching and inspiring the exchange with international students of the University of Maastricht made evident that there is a general necessity to explain and elaborate the principles of the Catholic Social Doctrine to the young generation and to make the Catholic ethical position heard and relevant in the

societal dialogue. Further it is necessary to add to 'know how' also 'do how', as Catholic Social Doctrine should also direct us toward concrete actions.

Fortunately the event coincided with the publication of the English book 'Christian Social Ethics' (which Elmar Nass published recently at Rowman & Littlefield in the USA , see enclosed pdf.) that should assist and support the further dissemination of the Catholic Social Doctrine.

After lunch at a restaurant on the Vrijthof square, the program concluded with a visit to City Hall and a guided tour of the chimes by city composer and carillonneur Frank Steijns, which added to the emotional impressions of the convention.



The positive feedbacks from the members and friends about the excellently organized, enriching and inspiring program were encouraging. It comes as no surprise that both coordinators, **Thijs Hendrix** for the Netherlands and **Dr. Ulrich Schürenkrämer** for Germany, agreed to have more of these cross-border conventions in the future.

CAPP/US+PK/06.12.2022

Photo Gallery



Speeches during the dinner in Aachen



Visit with Bishop De Jong to the reliquary of St. Servatius



Speech by Dr. Dr. Thomas Rusche



Lecture by Prof. Dr. Dr. Elmar Nass



Lecture by Prof. Dr. Paul van Geest