

Dear Friend of Communicantes,

Please allow me to draw your attention to our redesigned website <http://communicantes.nl>.

An overhaul was long overdue and there are some new directions we would want to investigate. You are kindly invited to have a look.

At <http://communicantes.nl> you may want to read our English language blog "Church and Society".

Drawing inspiration from a recent or less recent book, a news article, or an upcoming event, this blog is dedicated to recent developments in Church and society in Europe. A few examples of entries at our website:

- *Solidarity* – inspired by Slovenian philosopher Slavoj Žižek's 1997 essay *Multiculturalism* and the biennial meeting of the Vereinigung für katholische Sozialethik in Mitteleuropa in Vienna (from April 28 to 30 2011).
- *Greed is Gross* – the European Year of Volunteering 2011 is contrasted with Ayn Rand's utopia of individual greed as a path to happiness.
- *Fugitive* – focuses on a June 2011 report of the Jesuit Refugee Service Europe about the careless attitude to refugees in Ukraine.

In the near future, if time allows, there will be another blog: "Church under Totalitarianism".

And please, have a look at some of our recent publications as well. Most of them are in Dutch, but summaries and links to sources (see below) will give you an idea of what they are about.

Attached to this email you will find an invitation to the annual Communicantes contact day on Saturday November 26 2011. This invitation is in Dutch, but the conference will be conducted in English and in Dutch.

"Practicing belief in Ukraine" is the main theme. It is subdivided into:

- the sometimes tensed relations between Churches and churches;
- social action in post-communist society;
- popular religion in daily life;
- the new and old Ukrainian icon as an expression of faith.

Three speakers were born and raised in Ukraine. Another speaker is visiting professor of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv (western Ukraine).

Sincerely,

Frans Hoppenbrouwers.

Travel Reports/Country Reports

- [Report. 3d Ecumenical Social Week in Lviv – Ukraine 2010](#)

Articles

See http://communicantes.nl/?page_id=617 (English, German, Dutch).

- Spirituele survival. Arseni Zanin, drie jaar kluizenaar in Abchazië, in *Pokrof* 58 (2011) nr. 1, p. 6-8. **This article tells how the Ukrainian hermit Arseni Zanin found a place to dwell in Abkhazia, and how he survived the difficulties of solitary life. See the history of [hermits in Abkhazia](#).**
- Orthodoxe kerk heeft rol in Ruslands relaties met andere landen. Wikileaks en de orthodoxe kerk in Rusland, in *rkk.nl. Blad voor katholiek Nederland* 9 (2011) nr. 3, p. 10-11. **Some Wikileaks that originated from the US Embassy in Moscow deal with the Russian Orthodox Church. Among other things, they show that this largest Orthodox Church worldwide is very much entangled in the foreign policy of the Russian Federation and a keen supporter of authoritarian rule. See: [Wikileaks](#).**
- Nieuwe grootaartsbisschop voor de Oekraïense Grieks-katholieke Kerk, in *rkk.nl. Blad voor katholiek Nederland* 9 (2011) nr. 6, p. 11. **On March 24 2011, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church elected a new Mayor Archbishop as head of church. See also [One Magazine](#) and the Ukrainian religious news service [Risu](#).**
- Oecumenische doorbraak of is de realiteit te weerbarstig? De gesprekken van kardinaal Koch met metropoliet Hilarion, in *rkk.nl. Blad voor katholiek Nederland* 9 (2011) nr. 7, p. 12. **A recent meeting between the President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity Cardinal Kurt Koch and the chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk was heralded as an ecumenical breakthrough. Frans Hoppenbrouwers of Communicantes was less optimistic. Read for example: [The Catholic Difference: Rome and Moscow](#) by the acclaimed pope biographer George Weigel.**
- Bastion der christenheid. Pastorale reis van paus Benedictus XVI naar Kroatië, in *rkk.nl. Blad voor katholiek Nederland* 9 (2011) nr. 11, p. 12-13. **Pope Benedict visited Croatia early June 2011 to advocate a more Christian Europe and a more European Croatia. See [Pope Benedict XVI in Croatia](#).**

This newsletter will be distributed twice a year. If you don't want to receive emails from Communicantes, please let us know.