



Dear Friend of Communicantes,

Perhaps you are a football enthusiast and perhaps you have been enjoying Euro 2012. If not, undoubtedly it must have come to your attention that the European Football Championship tournament was recently held in Poland and Ukraine. It brought Central and Eastern Europe back on the map, even if it was just for a short span of time. On our website we didn't pay much attention to the event, but we did discuss the blessing of a [special Euro 2012 icon](#). There are critics who think this icon is much too creative to qualify as one, but who knows, perhaps you like it.

Sports fanatics are facing an extremely demanding summer – just to give you an idea of the major sports events: the Tour de France and the Vuelta a España (cycling), the US Open (tennis) and the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. Meanwhile, if you are not that much into sport, you can devote yourself entirely to your summer break. In some parts of Europe, however, it is already extremely hot, so take good care!

The beginning of summer reminded me of a nice little book by the 17th century Jesuit [Jeremias Drexel](#): "The Turning of the Sun or the Conformity of the Human Will with the Divine Will". The front page of the book illustrates the 16th and 17th century conception of the free will and of the irresistible grace of God. In the pot on the left hand side is a sunflower, which represents divine will. The human will grows in the pot on the right hand side with a sunflower mirroring (it is not an exact copy of!) divine will. The sunflower follows the sun in the course of the day and similarly the human will must follow the *voluntas divina*, which, by the way, is not always an easy thing to do in day-to-day life.

It is summertime and if we want to know what we must do, we should contemplate the seventh day of creation! But if you get bored of doing nothing and you don't want to watch sports, you might want to read Drexel's *Heliotropium*. Look it up at Google Books (in Latin, Dutch, German and English).

Then, let me draw your attention to **our annual conference**, which will take place on 3 November 2012. The theme is "**Women in the Catholic Church of Eastern Europe**". A brochure in Dutch language is available as a [download](#) at our website.

Finally, please, allow me introduce you to some new articles and posts on the Communicantes website.

– **Articles in "Oekraïne Magazine" (Ukraine Magazine – only in Dutch, I am sorry)**

[Controle over de drank. Alcoholverslaafden kicken af onder geestelijke begeleiding](#), in *OM 15* (2012) 2, p. 20-21 (about alcohol abuse)

[Een gezegend Euro 2012](#), in *OM 15* (2012) 1, p. 10 ("A Blessed Euro 2012")

[Odessa en Lviv. Van tolerantie via pogroms naar de holocaust](#), in *OM 15* (2012) 2, p. 15 (a review of the booklet *The Jews of Lemberg. A Journey to Empty Spaces*)

English language posts on the Communicantes website (January-June 2012)

– **Blog "Church and Society"**

[Fighting Evil](#) – during my trip to Ukraine in April and May 2012, I visited the alcohol rehabilitation and prevention programme of the Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) "For a Sober Way". It left a favourable impression. The work that is being done is immensely important, because alcoholism is perhaps the greatest evil in Ukrainian society of today.

[Back in the USSR](#) – sometimes it dawns on you... In this post, I wanted to express my amazement at how much and how little has changed in Ukraine. Are real changes merely cosmetic?

[A Blessed Euro 2012](#) – tells the story of a hand painted Euro 2012 Maria Pokrova icon.

– **Blog "Church under Totalitarianism"**

This is a time consuming activity, and, for that reason, the topic remained underdeveloped. There are however a few more entries:

[Church Fiction](#) deals with how the Russian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate views the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. This post is exemplified with a 1983 Moscow Patriarchate publication and a 2010 statement by the Russian Orthodox "Secretary of State" Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk. Actually, nothing much has changed over the last 30 or so years.

[Holocaust 2: Too Tenderly](#) is about the (psychological? intellectual?) difficulty to give an accurate account of the World War II experiences of the Catholic Church. The highlights, and they are quite many, are underlined, while the nasty bits are left out.

[Holocaust 1: Half-Truth or Open Lie](#) discusses the way in which Ukrainian nationalist imagined before WW II what a future Ukraine state should look like, and how they adapted their convictions during and after WW II.

Sincerely,
Frans Hoppenbrouwers.

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From the previous newsletters 2011 1/2

Travel Reports/Country Reports

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

Articles

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

You receive this newsletter twice each year. If you don't want to receive it, please let us know.