

## **28th International Congress Renovabis**

**10 - 12 September 2024**

in Freising and as Livestream

### **Having a Mission – Bearing Credible Witness. Dealing with Secularisation and Religious Indifference in Europe**

St Corbinian was the first bishop of Freising. At first, he lived as a hermit, later he travelled around as a missionary and spread the Christian faith. The congress, inspired by Corbinian, will talk about how the Christian message can be perceived positively today. The focus will be on how people can find hope and meaning in Christianity and how faith can also help society. We will analyse the situation and discuss the question how the church can deal with secularisation and the increasing indifference towards religion that is widespread in large parts of Europe. After all, everyone wants to lead a successful life. However, for many, this is apparently also possible without a link to a higher power. In addition to similar developments in the East and West, the experiences with church reconstruction in the former communist countries in Eastern Europe – which are quite differently – will enrich our discussion.

#### **International Congress Renovabis**

The International Congress Renovabis, which has been held annually since 1997, serves to inform and discuss important developments in the church and society in Central and Eastern Europe, but also addresses topics of pan-European significance. Thanks to the participation of numerous guests from all parts of Europe, the congress has developed into an important forum for dialogue between East and West.

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## Programme

### Tuesday, 10 September 2024 – Optional offer for the Corbinian Year

- from 15:00      **Guided tours through the Bavarian State Exhibition** (optionally)  
in the Diocesan Museum Freising in German and English,  
start every quarter of an hour, last tour at 15:45  
Duration: approx. 75 minutes, further information at:  
<https://www.hdbg.de/basis/ausstellungen/tassilo-korbinian-und-der-baer-bayern-im-fruehen-mittelalter.html>
- from 16:30      Registration and distribution of congress documents at the congress reception  
in the Asam Building
- 17:30            Dinner (Buffet) in the Asam Building
- 19:00            **Vespers in the Byzantine rite**  
in the parish church of St George  
with the Apostolic Exarch for the Catholic Ukrainians of the Byzantine Rite in  
Germany and Scandinavia, Bishop Dr Bohdan Dzyurakh CSsR,  
and Auxiliary Bishop Wolfgang Bischof, Archdiocese of Munich and Freising  
Vocals: Schola of the Collegium Orientale, Eichstätt
- approx. 20:00   **Opening of the exhibition „Icons against the War“**  
in the parish church of St George  
  
followed by drinks, informal talks and a get-together in the parish hall of  
St George

### Wednesday, 11 September 2024

*Venue: Asam Building*

- from 08:00      Registration and distribution of congress documents
- 9:00            **Opening** of the congress by Rev. Prof. Dr Thomas Schwartz, Managing Director  
of Renovabis, Freising
- Welcome and introduction to the congress**  
Welcome by Tobias Eschenbacher, Mayor of the City of Freising  
Introduction to the Corbinian Year by Dr Theresia Reischl, project manager for  
the Jubilee of the diocese

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### **Will the Son of Man (still) find Believers when He returns? (cf. Lk 18,8) Understanding the Faith and Church Crisis in Europe**

09:30 **Life without God? Causes and Background of the Current Faith and Church Crisis in Europe**  
Keynote speech by Prof. Dr Detlef Pollack, Sociologist of religion at the University of Münster

10:00 **Highlights on Religiosity, Faith and the Church in various Central and Eastern European Countries**  
Prof. Dr Bojidar Andonov, former Head of the Department of Systematic and Practical Theology, University of Sofia/Bulgaria  
Sr Lindita Spaqi, directress of Loyola-Fillore, Prizren/Kosovo  
Marta Titaniec, St Joseph Foundation of the Polish Bishops' Conference, Catholic Intelligence Club, Warsaw/Poland

followed by a **panel discussion**

10:45 Coffee break

### **What now, Church? – Mission in the Tension between Universal Mandate and Concrete Living Conditions**

11:15 **Pastoral Care in the Face of Emptiness. Challenges and Perspectives of Future Christianity in Europe**  
Keynote speech by Prof. Dr Jan Loffeld, Pastoral theologian at the Tilburg University, Utrecht/Netherlands

### **The Czech Republic as a Laboratory of Secularisation and a Place of Christian Hope**

Keynote speech by Prof. Dr Tomáš Petráček, Church historian at the University of Hradec Králové/Czech Republic

13:00 Lunch (Buffet) in the Asam Building  
Coffee, tea and cake

*Venues: will be announced*

15:00-16:30 **Dialogue groups on various topics**

- Healing and Salvation – The Therapeutic Dimension of Religiosity
- Search for Silence and Contemplation: Method, Time-out, Lifestyle?
- „Influencers in the name of the Lord“ – Church and media communication
- Going to the Edges – Calling and Testimony of Faith in Social Commitment
- Raising your Voice in Concern for the Common Home – The Prophetic Dimension in the Commitment to Environmental and Climate Protection
- Young People as the Future of the Church? Desires and Reality for the Path to Faith

17:00 **Eucharistic celebration** at Freising Cathedral

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- 18:15 Dinner (Buffet) in the Asam Building
- 19:30 Public evening event in cooperation with the Domberg-Akademie Freising in the Asam Building
- Theatre, panel and discussion on the topic „Where is God today?“**
- We all want to lead a successful life. For many people today, this is possible without reference to a higher power and religious practice. Scenes from a theatre play lead us to the questions of what role religion and faith play today, in order to survive in this world full of crises, and where God can still be sought and found today. We talk to guests from church, society and culture from East and West about resources for meaning and hope.*
- Dr Yasemin El-Menouar, Senior Expert Religion, Values and Society at the Bertelsmann Stiftung, Head of the project „Religion Monitor“, Gütersloh
  - Michaela Burch, freelance wedding and funeral speaker, Gerzen
  - Bishop Dr Tomáš Holub, Pilsen/Czech Republic
  - Christian Springer, Cabaret artist, Munich
- Moderation: Dr Claudia Pfrang, Directress of the Domberg-Akademie, Freising
- approx. 21:00 Opportunity to meet and talk informally over a drink in the foyer of the Asam Hall

### Thursday, 12 September 2024

- 07:30 Opportunity to attend a mass in Freising Cathedral and in the Pallotti-Haus (Concelebration option for bishops and priests)

*Venue: Asam Building*

- from 08:30 Registration and distribution of congress documents at the congress reception in the Asam Building
- 09:00 **Spiritual impulse of the day**
- 09:10 **Reports from the dialogue groups from 11 September 2024**
- 09:30 **Crisis and Future of Christianity in a Globalised World**  
Keynote speech by Prof. Dr Andrea Riccardi, Founder of the community of Sant'Egidio, Rome/Italy

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- 10:00      **„For it is in Hope that we are Saved“ (Rom 8,24)**  
**Future Prospects for the Church and the Christian Faith in Europe**  
Panel discussion with audience participation
- Archbishop Dr Gintaras Grušas, Vilnius/Lithuania
  - Archbishop Dr Heiner Koch, Berlin
  - Dr Doris Reisinger, Würzburg
  - Prof. Dr Andrea Riccardi, Rome/Italy
  - Sr Dr Marie Pavlína Kašparová OP, Brno/ Czech Republic and Cambridge/  
Great Britain
- Moderation: Prof. Dr Claudia Nothelle, Berlin
- 10:30      Coffee break
- 11:00      Continuation of the discussion
- 12:15      **Closing words** by Rev. Prof. Dr Thomas Schwartz, Freising
- 12:30      Lunch (Buffet) in the Asam Bildung
- approx. 13:30      End of the congress

Any changes/updates to the congress programme and any further information will be published on the Renovabis website. See [www.renovabis.de/congress](http://www.renovabis.de/congress).

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### **Dialogue groups**

All in-situ participants attending the congress in Freising are cordially invited to take part in the dialogue groups on 11 September. Various topics will be discussed and illustrated with Best-Practice-examples. An overview of the topics can be found in the programme. The groups will be selected during registration on site. One representative of each dialogue group will present the results, discussion points or open questions of the dialogue group in the plenary session on 12 September. These contributions give all participants the opportunity to gain an insight into the discussions of the various groups. You will receive detailed information about the dialogue groups on site.

### **Speakers, participants in the panel discussions and moderators**

among others

#### **Prof. Dr Bojidar Andonov**

Professor emeritus and former Chair of Religious Education and Homiletics, Orthodox Theological Faculty of the University „St. Kl. Ochridski“, Sofia/Bulgaria

#### **Auxiliary Bishop Wolfgang Bischof**

Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Munich and Freising, Freising

#### **Michaela Burch**

Freelance wedding and funeral speaker, Gerzen

#### **Bishop Dr Bohdan Dzyurakh CSsR**

Apostolic Exarch for Catholic Ukrainians of the Byzantine Rite in Germany and Scandinavia, Munich

#### **Yasemin El-Menouar**

Senior Expert – Religion, Values and Society/Democracy and Cohesion at the Bertelsmann Foundation, Gütersloh

#### **Archbishop Dr Gintaras Grušas**

President of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences, Archdiocese of Vilnius/Lithuania

#### **Sister Ursula Hertewich OP**

Chaplain and spiritual counsellor, Arenberg Monastery, Koblenz

#### **Bishop Dr theol. Tomáš Holub**

Bishop of the Diocese of Pilsen/Czech Republic

#### **A. Sofie Jannusch**

Consultant for Central and Eastern Europe and Asia, CAMECO Catholic Media Council, Aachen

#### **Sister Prioress Dr Katalin Ágnes Juhász OPraem**

Prioress of the Premonstratensian Order, Zsámbék/Hungary

#### **Sister Marie Pavlína Kašparová OP**

Artist and theologian, Directress of Studies at the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge/Great Britain

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**Ph.D., Dr. habil. Victor Khroul**

Research assistant at the University of Bremen and member of the Lab „Media and Religion“, Bremen

**Mattias Kiefer**

Head of the Environment Department, Archdiocesan Ordinariate of Munich – Policy and Strategy, Spokesman of the Working Group of Environmental Officers of the German (Arch)Dioceses (AGU), Munich

**Archbishop Dr Heiner Koch**

Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Berlin, Chairman of the Renovabis „Aktionsrat“, Berlin

**Prof. Dr habil. Jan Loffeld**

Pastoral theologian and priest, Tilburg School of Catholic Theology – Department Religion and Practice, Utrecht/Netherlands

**Magdalena Meier**

Actress, Lenggries

**Prof. Dr Claudia Nothelle**

Vice President of the Central Committee of German Catholics, Professor of Television Journalism, Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences, Berlin

**Pater Stanko Perica**

Director Jesuit Refugee Service South East Europa, Zagreb/Croatia

**Prof. Dr Tomáš Petráček**

Theologian, priest and church historian, University of Hradec Králové – Faculty of Education, Hradec Králové/Czech Republic

**Dr Claudia Pfrang**

Director of the Domberg-Akademie, Foundation for Adult Education of the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising, Freising

**Prof. Dr Detlef Pollack**

Senior Professor of Sociology of Religion, University of Münster

**Father Andrij Rak CSsR**

Provincial Superior of the Redemptorists of the Province of Lviv, Novojavoriv's'k/Ukraine

**Dr Doris Reisinger**

Philosopher and theologian, research assistant, Goethe University Frankfurt, Würzburg

**Imre Rencsik**

Founder and Director, Posticum Meeting Centre, Oradea/Romania

**Prof. Dr Andrea Riccardi**

Founder of the Community of Sant'Egidio, Rome/Italy

**Sister Lindita Spaqi**

Director of the primary school „Loyola-Fillore“, Association „Loyola-Gymnasium“, Prizren/Kosovo

**Christian Springer**

Cabaret artist, Munich

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**Prof. Dr phil. Dr med. Gabriele Stotz-Ingenlath**

Professor of Mental Health, Catholic University of Applied Sciences, Munich

**Marta Titaniec**

President of the St Joseph Foundation of the Polish Bishops' Conference, Vice-President of the Club of Catholic Intelligentsia, Warsaw/Poland



## Organisational information

**Conference languages:** German, English and Italian (simultaneous interpreting)

### Registration

To register for **in-situ participation** in the 28th International Congress Renovabis in Freising, please fill in the online form on the Renovabis website:

<https://www.renovabis.de/en/mitmachen/international-congress-renovabis/anmeldung-zum-internationalen-kongress-2024>

The registration deadline is **25 August 2024**. A confirmation will be timely sent to you by e-mail. Please note: Your registration is only valid after receipt of this confirmation. Due to the space available, the number of presence participants is limited. Registrations will be considered according to the date of receipt.

**No registration** is required to use the **livestream**.

### Follow the congress free of charge via livestream

Those who are unable to attend this year's Renovabis Congress in Freising will have the opportunity to follow the plenary sessions of the Congress in all three conference languages via livestream. A link will be available on the Renovabis website in advance of the event: [www.renovabis.de/congress](http://www.renovabis.de/congress). There won't be any livestream broadcast of the dialogue groups on Wednesday afternoon.

### Participation fees for in-situ participants

Those attending the congress **in-situ in Freising** pay a **flat rate of 80,- EUR** for participation (including meals). Guests from Central and Eastern Europe pay **half** the fee, i.e. **40,- EUR**. Certain groups of persons (students, etc.) can apply for a 50 percent reduction. A complete exemption from the participation fee is possible with a justified written application.

With the confirmation of registration you will receive the request to transfer the fee together with the necessary details.

Please note: In case of **cancellation of your registration** after 1 September, only 50 percent of any fees will be refunded. If you cancel after 8 September, no refund will be possible.

### On-site registration

In view of the necessary registration in the Asam Building (Marienplatz 7, 85354 Freising), we ask all participants to arrive timely.

Opening hours of the congress reception:

- 10 September: 16:30 - 18:45
- 11 September: from 8:00
- 12 September: from 8:30

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## Venues on 10 September 2024

### Guided tour through the Bavarian State Exhibition

(participation is optional; please indicate when registering if you wish to take part in the guided tour of the Bavarian State Exhibition in German or English)

Diocesan Museum Freising  
Domberg 21  
85354 Freising

### Vespers and opening of the exhibition „Icons against war“:

St George's parish church  
Marienplatz  
85354 Freising

### followed by a social gathering

St George's parish hall  
Rindermarkt 10  
85354 Freising

## Venues on 11 and 12 September 2024

### Plenary sessions and evening event

Asam Building  
Marienplatz 7  
85354 Freising

### Dialogue groups

The rooms for this will be announced on site

We recommend that guests travelling by car find out about parking facilities in the old town of Freising or at the respective hotels in advance.

## Accommodation and meals

Please indicate in the registration form which **meals** you would like to attend.

If you would like to stay overnight in Freising, we kindly ask you to find your **accommodation** on your own. The following hotels have a some rooms available for you to call off:

Hotel Bayerischer Hof Freising  
Untere Hauptstr. 3, D-85354 Freising  
[www.bayerischerhof-freising.de](http://www.bayerischerhof-freising.de)

88 Euro (SGL), 102 Euro (DBL/single use), 138 Euro (per night for 2 people in a double room) – each including breakfast

Booking **by 31.07.2024 at the latest**, stating the keyword „Renovabis“:

Tel.: +49 (0)8161 53830 | [info@bayerischerhof-freising.de](mailto:info@bayerischerhof-freising.de)

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Gasthof Lerner

Vöttinger Str. 60, D-85354 Freising

[www.gasthof-lerner.de](http://www.gasthof-lerner.de)

95 Euro/105 Euro (both SGL), 125 Euro/135 Euro (both per night for 2 people in a double room)  
– each including breakfast

Booking **by 31.07.2024 at the latest**, stating the keyword „Renovabis“:

Tel.: +49 (0)8161 5375999 | [info@gasthof-lerner.de](mailto:info@gasthof-lerner.de)

Mercure Hotel München Airport Freising

Dr.-von-Daller-Str. 1-3, D-85356 Freising

<https://all.accor.com/hotel/A0Q8/index.de.shtml>

99 Euro (SGL), 109 Euro (per night for 2 people in a double room) - each including breakfast

Booking **by 12.08.2024 at the latest**, stating the keyword „Renovabis“:

Fax: +49 (0)8161 532100 | [ha0q8-re@accor.com](mailto:ha0q8-re@accor.com)

ACHAT Hotel Corbin München Airport

Wippenhauser Straße 7, 85354 Freising

[www.achat-hotels.com/hotels/corbin-muenchen-airport](http://www.achat-hotels.com/hotels/corbin-muenchen-airport)

125 Euro (SGL) including breakfast

Booking **by 10.07.2024 at the latest**, stating the keyword „Renovabis“:

Tel.: +49 (0)8161 88690 | [freising@achat-hotels.com](mailto:freising@achat-hotels.com)

München Airport Marriott Hotel

Alois-Steinecker-Str. 20, D-85354 Freising

[www.muenchen-airport-marriott.de](http://www.muenchen-airport-marriott.de)

145 Euro (SGL), 165 Euro (per night for 2 people in a double room) - each including breakfast

Booking **by 01.08.2024 at the latest** via:

<https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1713343151043&key=GRP>

or respectively stating the keyword „Renovabis“:

Tel.: +49 (0)8161 9666250 | [reservation@munich-airport-marriott.de](mailto:reservation@munich-airport-marriott.de)

The **granting of a subsidy for travel and accommodation costs** is possible after appropriate justification and application in advance (e-mail to [kongress@renovabis.de](mailto:kongress@renovabis.de)). The subsidy will be paid by bank transfer after the congress once it has been approved and all original receipts have been submitted. Unfortunately, cash payment during the congress is not possible.

If you have any **questions** please contact:

Renovabis

Thomas Hartl (Tel.: +49 (0) 8161 5309-71)

[kongress@renovabis.de](mailto:kongress@renovabis.de)