

Summer Academy on Christian Social Teaching for Chinese Theologians in Siegburg

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From 14th–25th August 2017 the “Second Summer Academy for Priests, Sisters, Seminar-ians and Lay Persons from China. Christian Social Teaching in Theory and Practice” was held at the Catholic Social Institute (KSI) of the Cologne Archdiocese on the Michaelsberg in Siegburg/Germany.

It was organized by the China-Zentrum in Sankt Augustin in collaboration with the KSI and the Verbiest Institute in Leuven. The course was attended by more than 50 Chinese sisters, priests, seminarians and lay persons who are studying in various European countries or in the United States, or who had come directly from China. The programme fostered a connection between theory and practice and proffered ideas with a view to the participants’ future activity in China.



Participants of the Summer Academy in the Catholic Social Institute on the Michaelsberg in Siegburg.
Photo: China-Zentrum archives.

German and Chinese speakers introduced the different social circumstances and demonstrated what it means for Christian social teaching constantly to be challenged by prevailing changes in society, without relinquishing the traditional, fundamental concepts. Thus the range of topics took in, among others, issues such as Europe and its development; solidarity and subsidiarity; social market economy and economic ethics; family ethics; responsibility for creation; micro-financing as a help towards self-help; ethical investment. Different representatives from China reported on their social commitment in the local Church setting with people with disabilities, disadvantaged persons in the cities, children and young people and also with minorities in rural regions. In addition there were visits to various establishments that gave an insight into the practice, such as the Don Bosco House in Siegburg, on the topics of “rehabilitation of former prisoners” and “assistance for the homeless.” The programme was rounded off with meetings with representatives from Catholic aid agencies who presented concrete possibilities for the support of projects in China, a visit to the German Bishops’ Conference in Bonn, as well as to the China-Zentrum and the Monumenta Serica Institute in Sankt Augustin. One highlight was the attendance at a Sunday Mass in Cologne Cathedral at which the 25 priest participants were allowed to concelebrate.

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