

## BELGIUM

In Belgium are eight dioceses. Globally three dioceses are French speaking, four are Dutch speaking and one, the archdiocese of Malines-Brussels, is both French and Dutch speaking. In one diocese there is also a minority of German speaking. The Belgian Bishop Conference appoints two directors and two co-directors for the pastoral of vocation: two for the French speaking and two for the Dutch speaking. Sister Françoise Dardenne is responsible for the French speaking, and father Filip Hacour is the same for the Dutch speaking. Because of the difference in language they have in general their own projects. Nonetheless we do efforts for common projects, like they do try in Belgian politics also ;) We meet each other at least once a year. Sister Françoise and father Filip present here differently about the projects taken in the last year.

### **1. PASTORAL IN FRENCH AND GERMAN SPEAKING DIOCESES**

Presented by sister Françoise Dardenne

1. Le Centre National des Vocation (CNV) coordonne le travail des Services des vocations des diocèses francophones(SDV).  
Le Conseil réunit quelques fois par an l'évêque référent, les responsables des SDV et deux délégués de la Conférence des Religieux et des Religieuses belges (COREB).  
Le CNV est un lieu de réflexion et d'échange d'informations par exemple sur le fonctionnement des groupes de cheminement qui existent dans 3 diocèses sur 4.  
Nous avons aussi eu des contacts avec le responsable de la Pastorale des Jeunes en vue d'une plus grande coordination et d'une collaboration accrue entre nos 2 services.
2. Le CNV est un lieu de collaboration pour des activités communes notamment la préparation de la Journée mondiale de prière pour les Vocations.  
Nous désirons mettre à la disposition des communautés chrétiennes des documents sur les diverses vocations dans l'Eglise. Nous avons étalé la réalisation de ce projet sur 5 ans : en 2009, nous avons présenté la vocation de tous les baptisés à la sainteté, en 2010, la vocation sacerdotale et en 2011, la vocation à la vie consacrée.

Dans la rédaction de ces documents, nous avons tenté d'utiliser un langage simple, compréhensible par tous, notamment la tranche d'âge des 18/30 ans. Nous avons aussi voulu offrir une grande variété d'approches de la vocation présentée.

Voici la brochure réalisée cette année : elle a un nouveau format, plus petit que le A4 et donc plus maniable. La couverture reproduit l'affiche diffusée dans toutes les paroisses, communautés religieuses et écoles secondaires du réseau catholique. On peut « entrer » dans le sujet par diverses portes : une bande dessinée ; des textes de réflexion volontairement courts, seul celui dû à la plume du Cardinal Danneels est un peu plus long ; des témoignages d'hommes et de femmes engagés dans les multiples formes de la vie consacrée. Nous avons aussi donné la parole à des parents de religieuses et à un couple engagé dans la vie de l'Eglise. Enfin un mini-lexique car le vocabulaire que nous utilisons est abscons pour les non-initiés.

Chaque année nous réalisons un signet de prière. Voici les signets diffusés cette année:

- Un format connu par le grand public mais inhabituel pour la prière : des petites cartes que l'on peut glisser dans une poche ou dans un livre
- Un look qui diffère de la carte administrative ou commerciale habituelle :
  - Au recto, des photos symboliques différentes et une même invocation
  - Au verso, la silhouette de couleur orange renvoie à l'affiche et à la brochure et un texte de prière qui peut être combiné avec ceux qui sont reproduits sur les 2 autres cartes.

Ces documents ont été bien accueillis par les communautés chrétiennes.

### 3. Nos projets pour l'an prochain :

- Une brochure sur le diaconat permanent
- Une mise à jour du site et une présence plus active sur le web
- Une retraite de discernement, sans doute une semaine en janvier au Grand Saint Bernard
- L'organisation d'une marche des vocations : marche pour les jeunes prêtres, jeunes consacrés et jeunes en formation avec les évêques. Le

peuple chrétien pourra rejoindre les marcheurs pour l'Eucharistie en fin de journée.

D'une part, Il nous semble important de proposer aux « jeunes » engagés de se rencontrer pour qu'ils se connaissent mieux et s'affermissent l'un l'autre dans l'espérance. Et d'autre part dans notre contexte où les media insistent sur le côté pécheur de l'Eglise, il nous semble bon d'offrir à tous une image de l'Eglise heureuse à la suite de son Seigneur.

## PASTORAL IN DUTCH SPEAKING DIOCESES

Present by father Filip Hacour

1. Father Filip Hacour was appointed director in October 2010. The main task in the last year has been consolidating the good work done by the former director and co-director. Unfortunately there isn't yet a new co-director appointed. Fortunately there is a "team for vocation" of eight members who are meeting every two months (four priests, three sisters and one layman). An important new step during the last year is the presence of the director for the pastoral of youth.

- In this way we want to combine further more the **pastoral of vocations with the pastoral of youth**. Definitely, this mental step has been the most important fact during last year. Concretely we are thinking to appoint as a co-director someone who is already a pastor of youth. In preparation for the World Youth Days both pastorals are working more closely and will continue so.

- The **internet site** [www.roepingen.be](http://www.roepingen.be) has been totally renewed and is not anymore an independent website but is integrated into the official website of the Catholic Church in Flanders. We believe this gives more people the opportunity to visit the site. This site will grow organically and is at this moment rather limited. People can find contact-adresses, an invitation for youngsters to participate at the World Youth Days, different information about 'World Day of prayer for vocations' and two testimonies on "Is it possible to life a fruitful live as a celibate because of the Kingdom of God?" given by archbishop Léonard and sister Jeanne Devos, the most famous Belgian missionary at this moment. This last meeting with the archbishop and the sister was organised in the seminary of Louvain in May and brought thirty youngsters together.

- Because it has been a transition year we skipped to organise an national poster for 'World Day of prayer for vocations'. The archbishop wrote a

beautiful prayer for vocation which was spread by catholic papers and by internet.

- An important task for the pastoral of vocation is an aid to **schoolpastoral**. In secondary schools teachers in religion are able to invite a priest or a religious to testimony in the class about their vocation. There are some thirty priests and sisters involved in this project. Teachers are discovering this project and do invite us. It has been a success so far.

-Also a DVD with four testimonies, two young priests, a seminarian and one young sister made in 2008 by professionals and destined for use in religion classes in secondary schools is furthermore distributed. We are learning that more teachers are using this.

- In October 2009 a two-day congress organised by the pastoral of vocations was held in Antwerp. The conference texts of Amadeo Cencini and Eric Poinsoot were translated in Dutch and published in a little book. We distribute these books and invited parishes and different pastoral services (pastoral of school, hospital, youth, family, ...) to read and share in their groups about the content in order to make a mental turn to build a new vision on vocations. The central idea is that every pastoral is a pastoral of vocation.

2. For the coming year we focus on:

- a further collaboration between the pastoral of vocations and the pastoral of youth.

- Collaborating more often with religious congregations and orders to take care for vocations as one group.

- development of the internet-site

- a think-day in November with leading catholics from different groups and pastoral backgrounds. Uniting people involved in the pastoral of school, university, hospital, family, youth, acolytes, catechesis. People from new communities, youth movements, catechesis, catholic media,... The proposal is to consolidate the pastoral of youth and the pastoral of vocation. We will search how to become a more missionary pastoral. How can we unite the care for vocations with every other pastoral? How can we as a local Church take care and promote vocations? An analysis will be made of our strength and weaknesses, the opportunities and the menaces. At the end of the day we want to have some goals which will be the program for the pastoral of vocations for the coming years.

- Two weekends organised for young man to help them discerning a vocation.

- An initiative to organise in every diocese in at least one church one night of adoration of the Holy Sacrament in the night before the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.