

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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“Coffee Breaks with the Pope”: Cardinal honored in front of Denominations from around the Globe

(Bonn, 09.12.2016) Thomas Schirmmacher has dedicated his book “Coffee Breaks with the Pope” to Cardinal Kurt Koch for his efforts in connection with the “ecumenism of martyrdom.” In a small ceremony during the course of a joint dinner of the annual



Thomas Schirmmacher during his tribute to Cardinal Kurt Koch

Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Communions, which took place this year in Rome, Schirmmacher paid tribute to Koch as a farsighted moderator for ecumenical relations. As a representative of what is by far the largest church on earth, Koch never comes across in a commanding fashion but rather extremely humbly and showing great interest in hearing the viewpoints of others and willing to take them seriously. In

addition, he sees ecumenism from the perspective of Jesus Christ as the martyr above all others and of the martyrs who stand before God’s throne. That than is not a cheap and quickly organized community of churches, but one which thinks about the deepest mysteries of our faith and what has been given to us jointly.

Just one day after its release, Schirmmacher had presented Cardinal Koch with a copy of the book at the Cardinal’s official residence, and on the day thereafter a presentation had been made to Pope Francis himself. Upon the occasion of the next encounter with the Pope in Baku, Azerbaidjan, Schirmmacher presented an additional copy to the Papal photographer Francesco Sforza, from whom the cover of the book and numerous additional photos in the book originated. Up to now, the papal photographer has produced photographic documentation of about one-half of the times Pope Francis and Schirmmacher have met.

A joint platform for the following Bonn organizations on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance:

Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance
www.ead.de/akref

Culture and Science Publ.
www.vkwonline.com

Giving Hands – International Charity
www.gebende-haende.de

Help Worldwide – International Charity
www.hilfe-weltweit.de

Institute for Pro-life and Family Studies
www.bucer.de/ilfw

International Institute for Islamic Studies of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.islaminstitute.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.iirf.eu

Martin Bucer Seminary
www.bucer.org

Pro Mundis e. V.
www.thomasschirmmacher.net

Theological Commission of “Hope for Europe” (European Evangelical Alliance)
www.hfe.org

Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/tc/

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Downloads and Links:

- Reports on “Coffee Breaks”:
 - <http://www.jesus.de/druckansicht/blickpunkt/detailansicht/ansicht/kaffeepause-mit-dem-papst204455.html>
 - <http://www.pro-medienmagazin.de/gesellschaft/kirche/detailansicht/aktuell/oekumene-bei-einer-tasse-kaffee-97922/>
 - http://www.ead.de/fileadmin/daten/dokumente/eins/EINS_Magazin_3-16_Web_gesamt.pdf (pp. 24-25)
- Photos:
 - **Photo 1:** Thomas Schirmmacher during his tribute to Cardinal Kurt Koch © BQ / Martin Warnecke
 - **Photo 2:** Thomas Schirmmacher during his tribute to Cardinal Kurt Koch (from the left): Thomas Schirmmacher, Diop Ganoune, General Secretary of the Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Communions (CSCWC) und of the Seventh-day Adventists, Martin Junge, President of the CSCWC and the General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, Cardinal Kurt Koch, the delegate of the Ecumenical Patriarchate © BQ / Martin Warnecke
 - **Photo 3:** Koch and Schirmmacher after the tribute, in front Diop Ganoune and Martin Junge © BQ / Martin Warnecke
 - **Photo 4:** Pope demonstrably pleased to receive the first copy of “Coffee Breaks” © L'Osservatore Romano (Photo 305822_28092016)
 - **Photo 5:** Joachim Singhammer, Vice President of the German Parliament (Bundestag), with a copy of “Coffee Breaks” © BQ / Martin Warnecke

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