

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Phone: +49 / 4106 / 804806; Fax: +49 / 4106 / 804807

E-Mail: bq@bucer.de; <http://www.bucer.org/bq.html>

Released for free complete or partial reproduction

BQ 263 – No. 28/2013

WEA Ambassador for Human Rights issues appeal on behalf of persecuted Coptic Christians at the installation of a new Coptic bishop in Europe

Bishop Michael, head of the Kröffelbach cloister, is now the second Coptic bishop in Germany

(Bonn, 03.07.2013) The Ambassador for Human Rights of the World Evangelical Alliance, Thomas Schirmmacher, attended the installation of the new Coptic bishop in the German state of Hessen as the only ecumenical participant. In his speech during the worship service, immediately after the installation, Schirmmacher described the Coptic Church as the oldest church in the world that has been a shining example of holding fast to faith in Jesus while enduring pressure, persecution, and martyrdom, from the first centuries of the church, during a thousand years of Islamic rule, and in the middle of the current chaos in Egypt. The Coptic Church has long represented the global church of Jesus Christ in the way in which it has paid a high price for the faith. He called on the world fellowship of Christians, as well as on all countries of the world, to actively support the Coptic Church and to promote a peaceful future for the Copts in Egypt. He also praised the Copts in Germany for their serious contribution to social integration. Already several decades ago the Copts developed a program entitled "Mommy speaks German."



Schirmmacher congratulates newly appointed Bishop Michael

Schirmmacher also warned the Copts living in Europe not to throw away their faith in redemption in Jesus. "It would be a tragedy if families who have maintained their Christian faith during many generations of persecution would throw their faith overboard as soon as they experience freedom in the West."

Bonner Querschnitte *Bonn Profiles – Press Reports*

Text & Technology:

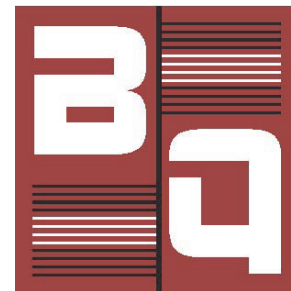
Titus Vogt (ViSdP)

Vorderer Kamp 52a, D-25479 Ellerau

Phone: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 06

Fax: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 07

E-Mail: Titus.Vogt@bucer.de



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.de

Giving Hands – International Charity

www.gebende-haende.de

Help Worldwide – International Charity

www.hilfe-weltweit.org

Institute for Emergency Counselling, Terminal Care and Grief Counselling

www.bucer.de/ist

Institute for Pro-life and Family Studies

www.bucer.de/lfw

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.de

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/commissions/tc/

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports



Bishop Michael thanked Schirmmacher for his moving words. “He spoke to us as Coptic bishops from the depths of his heart. The belief in salvation in Jesus Christ is intended for all people, and we want to be a witness to the people in Europe who no longer believe.”

Bishop Anba Damian, who was until this time the only Coptic bishop in Germany, explained that his diocese had to be divided because of the strong numerical growth of its members. In light of their numbers, it would be better for the church in Germany to already have four bishops, if that were possible, in order to properly care for the churches and members.

As Schirmmacher explained to the media, this installation of a new bishop is part of a very constructive program of the new Coptic Pope, Tawadros II, who was installed in November 2012, that recently was introduced to a gathering of European Coptic bishops and priests in Vienna. The plan is to develop more dioceses, each with its own bishop, because many dioceses are too large. All the parts of the Coptic Church in Europe, which previously were led directly by the Coptic Pope in Cairo, should receive their own leadership, so that the national and regional church leadership is closer to the local churches. Schirmmacher thinks this step could lead Coptic Christians to become a global Christian fellowship.

Previously Schirmmacher received extensive reports about the situation in Egypt from five bishops from Egypt.

The invitation to the installation was received via the Internationale Gesellschaft für Menschenrechte, (the International Society for Human Rights, IGFM) of which Schirmmacher is a board member. The IGFM has long been involved in protecting human rights in Egypt and has many Coptic Christians as members. Dozens of Coptic IGFM members from across Germany took part in the bishop’s installation.

The property for the Kröffelbach cloister was purchased in 1980. The new church was dedicated in 1990 and was the first Coptic Church in Germany designed and built entirely in the ancient Coptic style. The Institute for Coptic-Orthodox Theology, established in 2002, now has 50 men and women studying toward a four-year degree. Priest Abuna Michael El Baramousy, now Bishop Michael, helped with the development of their theological institute and with the building of the church. He has supported active ecumenical relations for decades.

Links:

- Kröffelbach Cloister: <http://www.stantonius-kroeffelbach.de/>
- Kröffelbach Cloister: http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kloster_Kröffelbach
- Bishop Damian: [http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damian_\(koptischer_Bischof\)](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damian_(koptischer_Bischof))

Downloads:

- [Photo 1](#): Schirmmacher congratulates the newly appointed Bishop

Bonner Querschnitte Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Text & Technology:

Titus Vogt (ViSdP)
Vorderer Kamp 52a, D-25479 Ellerau
Phone: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 06
Fax: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 07
E-Mail: Titus.Vogt@bucer.de

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.de

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

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

Institute for Emergency Counselling, Terminal Care and Grief Counselling
www.bucer.de/ist

Institute for Prolife and Family Studies
www.bucer.de/lfw

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.de

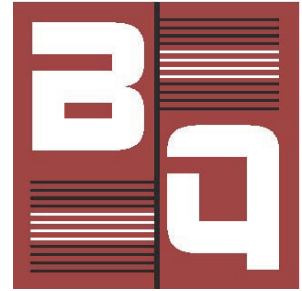
Pro Mundis e. V.
www.thomasschirmmacher.net

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

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

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports



- [Photo 2](#): Schirmmacher with the new Bishop (center) and Coptic Bishops from around the world
- [Photo 3](#): Bishops during the reading of the proclamation
- [Photo 4](#): Bishop Michael

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.de

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

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

Institute for Emergency Counselling, Terminal Care and Grief Counselling
www.bucer.de/ist

Institute for Prolife and Family Studies
www.bucer.de/lfw

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.de

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/commissions/tc/

Released for free complete or partial reproduction

DOWNLOADS OF GRAPHICS AND OF COMMUNICATION

<http://www.bucer.org/bq.html>

SUBSCRIBING OR UNSUBSCRIBING BONN PROFILES

If you want to begin receiving or no longer wish to receive the Bonn Profiles, please send us an e-mail.

Bonner Querschnitte Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Text & Technology:

Titus Vogt (ViSdP)
Vorderer Kamp 52a, D-25479 Ellerau
Phone: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 06
Fax: +49 / 4106 / 80 48 07
E-Mail: Titus.Vogt@bucer.de