The Protestant Academy in the Rhineland

A Place to Meet in Bonn

The history of the Protestant Academy in the Rhineland dates back to the very beginnings of the German Federal Republic. On December 7, 1952 it was initially established by the Church of the Rhineland as the "Protestant Academy in Mülheim/ Ruhr". In 2004, the Academy relocated from the River Ruhr to the River Rhine, moving to the federal city of Bonn, located at the very geographical centre of the Protestant Church in the Rhineland. As the headquarters of many international bodies, in particular those involved in development cooperation and environmental policy, but also in scientific research and the economy, Bonn offers the Academy interesting opportunities in the field of conference work, cooperation and networking.

Today the Academy focuses on five important social topics: the economy, politics, science and culture, as well as intercultural and inter-religious dialogue. The three lead conference workers maintain contact with important organisations and counterparts in their field of work and develop conferences on central and current themes in their respective topic field.

At approximately 40 meetings and events each year, people of different personal backgrounds and from different sectors of society both from within and outside of the church meet at the Protestant Academy in the Rhineland to engage in exchanges and discussion. Central to this are social, ethical or religious questions, to which there are still no definitive and formulated responses.

Currently our society is characterised by greater diversity in social backgrounds as well as by it being increasingly distant from the churches. Given this backdrop, the Academy would like to contribute in its work towards strengthening and consolidating the voice of the Church. Impulses emanate from its work that enrich both ecclesiastical and social debates.

In addition to the conferences the Academy provides accompanying thematic and specialist dialogue in the media and therefore reaches a wider public. The Academy's publication of books along with its online and social media presence offer contemporary options for accessing information, engaging in discussion and general networking beyond those available at its conferences.

The European dimension is also included as part of all issues dealt with, such as the challenges of globalisation, peace policy, the dialogue with Islam and the ethics of science.

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