

# St. Ambrose Parish

APRIL 25, 2021  
BEEHIVE

## Hans Küng

Ecumenist and  
Spiritual Teacher  
1928-2021



Swiss-born Catholic priest and theologian Hans Küng, the renowned scholar and prolific writer, died April 6<sup>th</sup> at his home in Tübingen, Germany. He was 93.

Few men throughout Christendom have had as much to say or had their work seen by as many Christians — and others — as Küng, the celebrated and controversial Swiss theologian and Catholic priest. Open a magazine or turn on the television in Europe and it's likely the viewer caught the face and heard the Germanic-toned voice of the famous Swiss professor who lived, taught and lectured more than 40 years in Germany.

Tens of thousands of his readers living beyond Europe's borders in America, Australia, Asia and Africa had heard him too, or at least read one or more of his tomes. Reasons for his popularity were ubiquitous: readability, clarity, erudition, honesty, fearlessness. He was smart, occasionally profound. Someone less intellectually gifted could understand his arguments and be drawn to his texts and his talks for just that reason. He said and wrote what he thought needed to be aired in what he deemed his relentless struggle for intellectual freedom and his passionate search for truth.

In his most popular book — *Christ sein (On Being a Christian)* — released in 1974, Küng said he probed theological issues that are of concern to any educated person. He wrote for those “who believe, but feel insecure,” those who used to believe “but are not satisfied with their unbelief” and those outside the church who are unwilling to approach “the fundamental questions of human existence with mere feelings, personal prejudices and apparently plausible explanations.”

For such a wide audience, Küng kept the Scriptures and the daily paper close at hand. From age 10 when the Nazis invaded Switzerland's neighbor Austria, thus initiating World War II, the lad Hans — eldest of seven Küng children — began reading the daily paper. It was a discipline he maintained to his death despite declining vision. Keeping up on world and religious affairs rendered him “a realist, not a romanticist,” he told this reporter at a number of our meetings.

Often controversial, the name “Küng” came with its own brand of adjectives in conservative church and political publications: He was Küng the dissident, the *bête noire*, the disobedient, the heretic, the apostate, the errant, the Prot-

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# Hans Küng, 1928-2021

*Continued from page 1*

estant. In short, “*l’enfant terrible* of the Catholic Church,” yelled many a headline.

His 1971 book, *Infallible?: An Inquiry*, caused an uproar across the Catholic world, challenging the papal infallibility declaration promulgated in 1870 at the First Vatican Council. Küng probed its theological basis and found the claim of supreme papal authority to be an impasse to reunion with other Christian churches. The book appeared only three years after the Vatican had asked Küng to answer charges brought against his earlier volume, *The Church*. Catholic officials disputed the theologian’s understanding of papal authority and requested he appear in Rome to answer charges. Küng stood his ground. He would not recant.

Besides taking on infallibility, Küng also criticized the law of celibacy, favoring instead a married clergy and a diaconate, with both open to women as well as men. He argued compulsory celibacy was the chief reason for the shortage of priests, and he accused the hierarchy of preferring to deny the faithful a close-to-home celebration of the Eucharist for the sake of maintaining mandatory celibacy. The law contradicted the Gospel and ancient Catholic tradition and ought to be abolished, he wrote.

His historical critical approach to research led him to conclude that the early Christian communities in Corinth and elsewhere had had lay members preside over eucharistic services in the absence of a priest.

He took issue with the church’s ban on artificial contraception and its inhibitions in matters of human sexuality. He even had the chutzpah to critique the first year of the pontificate of John Paul II. In an essay appearing in eight papers across Europe, the Americas and Australia, Küng questioned whether the new pope was open to the world, was a spiritual leader, a true pastor, a collegial fellow bishop, an ecumenical mediator or even a real Christian. Küng acknowledged that traditional Catholics would find the putting of such questions to the popular pope “more unforgivable than blasphemy.” But he said his criticism arose from “loyal commitment” to the church and he felt “the pope has a right to a response from his own church in critical solidarity.”

## License to teach revoked

Headline writers and broadcasters had their day Dec. 18, 1979, when the Vatican pulled the rug out from under Küng’s teaching career, revoking his *missio canonica*, or license to teach as a Catholic theologian at the University of Tübingen, where he had been since 1960. Such a license is required to teach as a Catholic theologian at a pontifically recognized institution, like Tübingen’s Catholic theology school.

In the end, Küng retained his professorship, not in the Catholic faculty, but in the university’s secular Institute for Ecumenical Research, which he had founded and directed since the early 1960s. He also remained “a priest in good standing,” which upset those who sought his excommunication. Despite his outspokenness, Rome recognized his lifelong devotion to the church and allowed Küng to preach and to publish until illness and disability slowed him in 2013.

For years, Küng had asked priests and bishops to show some courage against what he called a repressive Roman system that demanded obedience over reason and conformity over freedom of conscience.

What was it in fact that gave this renegade thinker such abiding confidence in the midst of decades of struggle?

A hint is provided in *On Being a Christian*. Küng called it “a small Summa” on which he worked for seven years. Its 720 pages probe whether Christian faith could continue to meet the challenges of the modern world and whether the Christian message was an adequate one for today’s men and women. Küng said he wrote it because he did not know what was specifically Christian, and he needed to find out.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome opened a secret file on Küng shortly after he wrote his first book and doctoral dissertation, *Justification*, in 1957. In it, Küng predicted that an agreement in principle between Catholic theology as set down at the 16th-century Council of Trent and 20<sup>th</sup>-century Reformation theology was possible.

Although only 28 when he published this conclusion, it would be the first of many ecumenical and interfaith inquiries that solidified his own roots in a living faith in Christ, which he said lasted his entire career and helped him always to be open to other faiths. Indeed, Küng long held that steadfastness in one’s own faith and a capacity for dialogue with those of another belief are complementary virtues.

Four decades after writing *Justification*, Küng brought out volumes on Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Chinese religions. In the course of his research, he met frequently with religious leaders in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Of these meetings, he said he initially had more questions of faith (dogmatics) than of ethics (morality). But in the course of time, it dawned on him that despite dogmatic differences between the religions, there were already decisive common features in ethics that could be the foundation for a global ethic.

So, at the start of the 1990s, Küng was well-prepared to take on the task of preparing a Declaration Toward a Global Ethic for the Parliament of the World Religions that convened in Chicago in 1993. The most referenced part of the

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# All Things Considered

For over 30 years, the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) of the Archdiocese of Detroit has been a particularly successful way we have come together to advance our mission.

The ministries, programs and services funded by our annual appeal reach every soul in our six-county Archdiocese, strengthening urban and rural faith communities alike. No one individual or parish could possibly accomplish all these good works themselves. Truly, the CSA transforms our diverse family of believers into, in the words of Pope Francis, a “band of joyful missionary disciples.”

Please respond to the appeal which has been made to you by our Archbishop. The CSA campaign is updating its approach to better fit our lifestyles. To go paperless, log onto [give.aod.org](http://give.aod.org).

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Brother Anthony Kote-Witah, who was our Deacon Intern here, has just marked the second year of his ordination to the priesthood. And what a tumultuous time these past 24 months have been!

But the troubles Fr. Anthony faced recently here in the United States during Covid, pale in comparison to what he went through in his native country. “I have had a great deal of chaos in my life, but many blessings as well,” he explains. “I fled my native country, Nigeria where I lived in a refugee camp for three years; I was given asylum by the United States; and I was resettled by the Catholic Social Services in Lincoln and then Omaha, Nebraska. It was in the United States that I discovered my calling to religious vocation and joined the Capuchins.”

Nigeria, a nation of more than 206 million people, is deeply di-

vided along ethnic and religious lines. Islamic extremists have specifically targeted Christian communities as a way of pushing a Shari’a law agenda. According to Open Doors’ 2021 World Watch List, more Christians were killed for their faith in Nigeria than in any other country in 2020—3,530, up from 1,350 in 2019. The current focus of attacks is on priests and bishops.

Yet Nigeria, the site of so much Christian suffering and persecution, is also the country which now has the world’s sixth-highest Christian population, and its seminaries are filled.

Fr. Anthony, whose current assignment is at the Solanus Casey Center here in Detroit, was last in his homeland to visit his family shortly after his ordination. Since that time, he has embarked on a personal project of establishing an orphanage in Nigeria. He’s received some tutorials from Bud and Sue Ozar and the Kenyan orphanage of Fr. Francis Riwa. It might be an appropriate time to send Fr. Anthony greetings and good wishes as he negotiates troubled times here and abroad.

✠✠✠

Holding the front desk in our rectory office for coming up on twen-



Fr. Anthony Kote-Witah

ty years now is Mary Urbanski. Mary came to work for us after her boss, Bishop John Nienstedt, was transferred out of state to Minnesota. Prior to that, Mary had worked for Crain Communications.

In these two decades with us, Mary has become our encyclopedic source for parishioner history. Stored in her memory for quick retrieval are the names and addresses of most of our parishioners including their occupations and the names of pretty much most of their family members and in some cases their pets. And when it comes to pets, Mary, who is a life-long resident of Hamtramck, cares for many of that city’s stray cats

Mary has outlasted five office managers and currently shares duties with Peggy O’Connor. Mary has most certainly “seen everything” and been a part of “everything” that has happened here starting with the building of the ARK, multiple fund-raisers, twenty CSA campaigns, and a lot of crazy projects thrown at her by this pastor.

I mention all this because Mary celebrates a landmark birthday this weekend – the one which many people use as a reason to set sail. But despite a leg injury last November, Mary shows little sign of pulling up anchor. For that and for decades of unsung and long-suffering service to me and this parish, I want to wish her “Sto Lat.” And while it’s indelicate to discuss a lady’s age, I’ll just tell you that the wish will come true 35 years from today.



Mary Urbanski

## Dispensation Expired

While the general dispensation that relieved all Catholics in the Archdiocese from their moral obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days has expired, our Archbishop Vigneron said he will continue to grant “particular dispensations” to those in need, including those who are at high risk of Covid-19.

Others who may continue to be excused from their Sunday obligation include:

- Those who are ill or whose health would be significantly compromised were they to contract a communicable illness;
- Those who care for the sick, homebound or infirmed or someone in a high-risk category;
- Pregnant women;
- Those age 65 or older;
- Those who cannot attend Mass for other reasons (such as a lack of transportation or being turned away because of capacity limits); and
- Those who have “significant fear or anxiety of becoming ill by being at Mass.”

Anyone who exhibits flu-like symptoms or believes they might be asymptotically carrying COVID-19 or another communicable illness also are asked not to attend Mass “as an act of justice and charity” toward others, Archbishop Vigneron states.

“In allowing the general dispensation to expire, we welcome back to Mass all Catholics who have already been engaged in other activities that would present a similar or greater risk of exposure, such as eating out at restaurants, traveling, partaking in non-essential shopping, and widening one’s circle of contacts,” the Archbishop wrote. “These individuals should also prepare to return to Mass in recognition of its preeminence in our lives as Catholics.”

Masses will still be offered online and serve as “a means to help Catholics nourish their souls” when they could not be present for Mass.

## You’ve Read the Book. Now See the Movie

When the Bible is brought to the silver screen, there is hope that it is done well. However, it is usually incredibly difficult for films to capture the events of Scripture both accurately and authentically. Many films can come across as overly reverential and somewhat boring. On the other hand, some films try to reinterpret events in an edgy or provocative way which changes the meaning completely. Here are some films (and a TV series) that strike that balance well and help us delve more deeply into the mystery of God’s Word.

**The Chosen** (2017), starring Jonathan Roumie, Shahar Isaac, Paras Patel. Directed by Dallas Jenkins – The series is the result of a crowd-funded effort to tell the story of the Gospels. What makes this series so unique is its ability to capture the reactions of those who come to meet Jesus. Looking at how those respond to Jesus during his life is also what is most familiar to us as those who have chosen to respond to the Lord in our own lives. In the Gospels, there are many different reactions to Jesus. Some respond with anger or confusion while others respond with faith and surrender. The one thing that never happens when someone meets Jesus is that they walk away bored or complacent. The series captures this reality well.

**The Miracle Maker** (2000), starring Ralph Fiennes, Michael Bryant, Julie Christie. Directed by Derek W. Hayes, Stanislav Sokolov. – For families looking for a way to invite their younger children to learn the Gospel and the life of Christ, the 2000 film, “The Miracle Maker,” is a great choice. The animated film uses plasticine figures, much like the “Wallace and Gromit” films, to depict the public ministry of Jesus. The film is still the only feature-length animated film on the life of Christ. While the style of clay animation might be jarring to some, there is an authenticity to the film that makes it very compelling.

**Ben-Hur** (1959), starring Charlton Heston, Jack Hawkins, Stephen Boyd. Directed by William Wyler – The critically-acclaimed film “Ben-Hur” invites the viewer to enter into the world of Scripture and imagine the life of those during the time of Christ. It tells the story of Jewish nobleman Judah Ben-Hur. As the story of Judah’s life maps on to the life of Christ, Jesus is hardly ever seen and his face is never revealed but it is clear that the two stories relate and impact one another. As Judah finds himself in need, he encounters Jesus along the way of the cross. Recognizing Jesus as the mysterious stranger who helped satisfy his thirst long before, Judah is able to offer Jesus a cup of water in the time of his greatest need. While the film is not explicitly based on Scripture, it still is a classic and worth a watch!

*By Fr. Matthew Hood for [unleashthegospel.org](http://unleashthegospel.org).*

### Teen Summer Mass Series

Inviting all teens to join us for monthly themed Masses followed by food, fun, and fellowship on the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Plaza! You are encouraged to dress according to the theme...

- June 27: Aloha!
- July 18: Christmas in July
- August 29: Detroit Sports

Bring along a donation of canned goods to benefit local food pantries.

For more information or to RSVP, please email [brose.christine@aod.org](mailto:brose.christine@aod.org)



## Faith Formation Station

*"My dear young people, the church needs you, your enthusiasm, your creativity, the joy that is so characteristic of you!" Pope Francis*

Our eighth grade candidates have begun their Confirmation journey. During this journey, the students are given the opportunity to learn more about their Catholic faith and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. By the end of the preparation process it is our goal that they have a good understanding of whom God is and how the Catholic Church helps us to know, love, and serve God. We designed our programming to meet three main objectives: (1) develop a more personal relationship with Jesus Christ, (2) strengthen their faith and prayer life with the help of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and (3) become a more active, visible sign of Christ's love at home, school, and here at St. Ambrose parish through liturgical ministries, social activities, and special annual events.

Traditionally all religious education programs offer a retreat as part of the final preparation for Confirmation. Retreats provide a unique opportunity for students to spend extended time in discernment and reflect on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, their relationship with God, and their faith life – usually with a little fun and fellowship mixed in. Through the years, St. Ambrose has offered one-day retreats at Old St. Mary's, Subiaco Retreat Center, an overnight retreat at the Capuchin Retreat Center planned by Father Robert, and a weekend retreat away at the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Ohio. Last year, the school shutdown began on the day of our scheduled retreat and it was canceled at the very last minute. This week our students participated in an online retreat with St. Clare of Montefalco's Confirmation students. The retreat was facilitated by NET Ministries. Every August, 175 young Catholics aged 18-28 leave behind their jobs, school, family and friends to devote nine months to serving the National Evangelization Team (NET). Divided into 16 teams, they travel across the U.S. to share the Gospel with young people and their families. Since 1981, NET teams have led over 34,000 retreats and ministered to more than 2.1 million young Catholics. The retreat presented the youth with the truth of how they are as God's children and how true joy and meaning in life are found by accepting Christ's gift of salvation and living as His disciple. Students engaged in group discussions, inspirational witness talks, music ministry, and guided prayer.

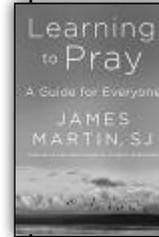
In a culture where 5 out of 6 young people confirmed today will no longer be practicing their Catholic faith within 10 years of their Confirmation, where over half of Americans raised Catholic no longer identify as such, and where more than 70% of American Catholics no longer attend Mass regularly, we hope to inspire this group of young people to be on fire for the Lord and share that energy with their fellow classmates and parishioners. At our April catechist zoom meeting, we discussed the need for more faith programming for the teens in our parish and in our vicariate. We know this much to be true – that we need to work together to help build a church where the following are true: (1) generations of Catholics live a faith that is deep, contagious, and joy-filled, (2) youth and families are filled with gratitude for the gift of Jesus and their Catholic faith, (3) young people's hearts are consumed with love of God and not the things of this world, and (4) Catholics actively live the adventure of their faith in their schools, workplaces, and communities.

### Program Reminders:

- Grade 2 – Solemn Eucharist: Online reservations must be submitted for our May 1<sup>st</sup> Solemn Eucharist celebration by 5:00 p.m. this Tuesday, April 27.
- All – May Crowning: We hope you can join us for a special May Crowning liturgy on Sunday May 2, 2021 at 11:15 a.m. to celebrate the closing session of our online faith formation sessions until the fall.

Kelly Woolums

## Marcellina's Book Club



In *Learning to Pray: A Guide for Everyone*, Jesuit James Martin, one of America's most beloved spiritual leaders and the New York Times bestselling author of *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything* and *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* teaches anyone to converse with God in this comprehensive guide to prayer

Martin lays out the different styles and traditions of prayer throughout Christian history and invites us to experiment and discover which works best to feed our soul and build intimacy with our Creator. Father Martin makes clear there is not one secret formula for praying. But like any relationship, each person can discover the best style for building an intimate relationship with God, regardless of religion or denomination. Prayer, he teaches us, is open and accessible to anyone willing to open their heart.

## The Beehive

is the parish weekly bulletin of the St. Ambrose Catholic Community Detroit/Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

**Pastor:** Rev. Timothy R. Pelc  
**Pastoral Minister:** Charles Drowiewski  
**Religious Education:** Kelly Anne Woolums  
**Minister of Music:** Dr. Norah Duncan IV  
**Office Manager:** Peggy O'Connor  
**Secretary:** Mary Urbanski

### Sacramental Celebrations

**Masses:** On the Lord's Day –

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

**Baptism:** Arrangements for both adults and infants to be made by contacting the rectory.

**Penance:** As announced and by appointment.

**Marriage:** Couples should contact the rectory office a minimum of six months in advance of the proposed date to make arrangements.

**Funeral:** Normally celebrated within one week after the deceased's passing.

### Directory

**Parish Office:** 15020 Hampton

Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230

**Tel:** (313) 822-2814 **Fax:** (313) 822-9838

**Email address:** stambrose@comcast.net

**Religious Education:** (313) 332-5633

**Pastoral Ministry:** (313) 332-5631

**Ark Scheduling:** (313) 822-2814

**Parish Website:** stambrosechurch.net

## Liturgy Schedule

**April 26**

*Easter Weekday*

**April 27**

*Easter Weekday*

8:30 a.m. – Valerie Dryden, Paul Yeskey, Kenneth Nowicki

**April 28**

*St. Peter Chanel, priest & martyr*

*St. Louis Grignon de Montfort, priest*

**April 29**

*St. Catherine of Siena, virgin & doctor*

7:00 p.m. – Mass – Marilyn Lhota

**April 30**

*St. Pius V, pope*

12:00 – p.m. – St. Pope John Paul II

**May 1**

*St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, priest & martyr*

1:30 p.m. – Solemn First Communion

4:00 p.m. – Mass – For All People

**May 2**

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

8:30 – Mass – For All People

11:15 – Mass – For All People

## Spending Spotlight

During this Easter season, the church has looked especially lovely, adorned with beautiful spring flowers and plants. The total cost of Easter flowers inside and out was \$3,283.11

## Scriptures for the 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter

**April 26**

Acts 11: 2-28

Pss 42: 2-3; 43: 3-4

Jn 10: 1-10

**April 27**

Acts 11: 19-26

Ps 87: 1b-7

Jn 10: 22-30

**April 28**

Acts 12: 24-13: 5a

Ps 67: 2-3, 5-6, 8

Jn 12: 44-50

**April 29**

Acts 13: 13-25

Ps 89: 2-3, 21-22, 25, 27

Jn 13: 16-20

**April 30**

Acts 13: 26-33

Ps 2: 6-11b

Jn 14: 1-6

**May 1**

Acts 13: 44-52

Ps 98: 1-

4n 14: 7-14

**May 2**

Acts 9: 26-31

Ps 22: 26-27, 28, 30, 31-32

1 Jn 3: 18-24

Jn 15: 1-8

## Fifth Sunday of Easter May 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>

**Saturday at 1:30 p.m. Solemn First Holy Communion**

*(broadcast online on Sunday starting at 8:00 a.m.)*

**Saturday at 4:00 p.m. - Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.**

Seating at mass is now up to 50% of the building's capacity – roughly 300 persons.

To participate electronically, go to: [facebook.com/stambroseparish](https://facebook.com/stambroseparish) where the Saturday liturgy will be available for viewing starting at 8 a.m. on Sunday.

**The general dispensation from the Sunday obligation has ended – with particular dispensations granted. For specifics visit [aod.org/comehometohope-dispensation](https://aod.org/comehometohope-dispensation)**

## Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish requires a *minimum* of..... \$10,100.00

**On Sunday, April 18, 2021**

in envelopes we received ..... \$1,980.00

in the loose collection ..... \$2,553.00

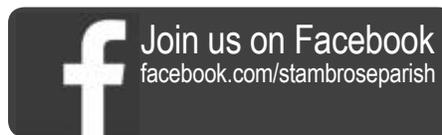
in electronic donations ..... \$2,991.00

for a total of ..... \$7,504.00

**Under** budget for the week.....\$2,596.00

Number of envelopes mailed ..... 709

Number of envelopes used .....41



## Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Bp. Thomas Gumbleton, Mae Christine Busque, Pat Blake, Karen Culver, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Jeanne Noto, David Schumacker, Matthew Elias, George Bucec, Emilie Kasper, Darby O'Toole, Anna Noto Billings, Eileen O'Brien, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, Alexandra Cullen, Charmaine Kaptur, Frank Gregory, Alex Billiu, Jerry Hansen, Jackie Walkowski, Kristen Kingzett, Maria Simcina, Brian Tague, Sharif Hannan, Anne Purvis, Chris Walsh, Jerry Gutowski, Kevin O'Connor, Mike Lesnau, Giovanni Morreale, Albina Checki, Steve Daudlin, Judy Sivanov and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with COVID-19.

2	0	CSA
2	1	Box Scores

Number of Families ..... 800

Returns to date ..... 2

Average Gift in '20 .....\$596.00

AoD Quota in '21 .....\$93,007

Property/Liability Insurance ... \$52,000

Adjusted parish target ..... \$145,007

Received as of 4/20/2021..... \$ 4,500

- The CSA target number assigned by the Archdiocese is based on a complex formula which is based in measure on a three-year average of the offertory and Christmas collections. Since CSA is exempt from the 7% diocesan tax, we try to 'piggy-back' our insurance premiums to this campaign. That happens only after the \$93,007 target is reached.

## Prayer - Study Community - Service

Aquinas College in Grand Rapids welcomes high school students to our campus for our upcoming AQ-Day on Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Experience firsthand what it means to be a Saint!

Events include an overview of the college and a campus tour. This event will allow high schoolers to explore AQ's academics, athletics and scholarships, as well as our Dominican pillars of prayer, study, community and service.

See their mission in action and how small is indeed mighty! Details and registration can be found at [aquinas.edu/visit](https://aquinas.edu/visit).

## Hans Küng, 1928-2021

*Continued from page 2*

declaration was no peace among the nations without peace among the religions.

None of this would have happened had he not been ordained a Catholic priest. That event took place in 1954 in Rome. He completed a further three years of study in French for his doctorate at the Sorbonne and the Institut Catholique in Paris, where he wrote his Justification thesis.

Küng returned to Switzerland, serving two years as an assistant priest in Lucerne. Barth invited him to lecture in Basel on the theme: The church always in need of reform. Some in the audience found his enthusiasm for renewal over-optimistic. However, on Jan. 25, 1959 — the week following his talk — Pope John XXIII called for a Second Vatican Council. And Küng in preparing his reform lecture of Jan. 19 had already amassed extensive notes for a volume on just such a venture.

That book, *The Council, Reform and Reunion*, became programmatic to a number of Vatican II documents, including those on scriptural study, worship, liturgy in the vernacular, on dialogue with other cultures and faiths, on reform of the papacy, religious liberty and on the abolition of the Index of Prohibited Books. Not only was *The Council, Reform and Reunion* a best-seller, it bore the approval of Vienna's Cardinal Franz König. Shortly after the book's release, Küng's bishop, Carl Joseph Leiprecht of Rottenburg, Germany, invited him to be his personal *peritus*, or expert, at the upcoming council. Küng was hardly keen about a return to Rome. But a number of colleagues persuaded him that the council promised to be the church event of the century and Küng dare not miss it. At 34, Küng was the youngest expert at the council.

His spring 1963 lectures in the United States, following the first session of Vatican II, drew more than 25,000 people. President John Kennedy welcomed Küng to the White House, introducing him to Vice President Lyndon Johnson and congressional leaders with the words: "And this is what I would call a new frontier man of the Catholic Church."

In November 1983, on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kennedy's assassination, Küng shared with this reporter how privileged he had felt to live during "the reign of the two Johns." Noting that John XXIII's death had come only five months ahead of Kennedy's, Küng recalled that each man's time in office was cut short. Yet each had a brief window of opportunity that they seized — the pope in calling the council, the president in working on arms control with the Soviets, Küng said in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he was teaching the autumn semester at the University of Michigan.

*Edited from an April 16-29, 2021 article for the National Catholic Reporter by Patricia Lefevere. Read the full text at <https://www.ncronline.org/news/people/hans-k-ung-celebrated-and-controversial-swiss-theologian-has-died>*

## World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Today, April 25<sup>th</sup> is the World Day of Prayer for vocations. The purpose is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2).

While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), consecrated life in all its forms (male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity), secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, and to the missionary life.

Here are some tools for building a climate in your home that encourages vocations. It is in the context of the family that we first learn who God is and to prayerfully seek His will for us. In the following bullet points you will find some suggestions on how to build your "domestic church" through a life of prayer that can help all the members of your family.

- Begin praying as a family and reading from Scripture daily, certainly before meals, but also first thing in the morning or before bed. Find a time that works for your family. Use the liturgy of the Church as a model for prayer, and try to include heartfelt unstructured prayer as well.
- Pray a Family Rosary (each member leads a decade, and everyone shares intentions).
- Have a crucifix in a prominent place in the home, and in every bedroom.
- Make the Sacraments a regular celebration – take the whole family to Confession and Mass!
- Begin family traditions based on the seasons celebrated in the liturgical calendar.
- Make part of your vacation a pilgrimage by visiting the shrines and saints of our land and the world.
- Make worshiping God a priority. Never miss Mass, even while traveling – go to: [www.MassTimes.org](http://www.MassTimes.org) to find a church near you!
- Teach stewardship and charity to your children, through word and example.
- Demonstrate love for your spouse, your children, your neighbors, and the world. Remind their children that they are loved by God and have been given gifts to serve others.
- Talk freely about the presence of God in the joys and sorrows of your life.
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