

Newsletter

JUNE 2025 Nr 2



St-Justin

FONDATION ŒUVRE SAINT-JUSTIN
STIFTUNG JUSTINUS-WERK

www.justinus.ch

CITÉ ST-JUSTIN FRIBOURG

Rue de Rome 3 | 1700 Fribourg
T. 026 351 16 16 | justinfr@justinus.ch

JUSTINUS ZÜRICH

Freudenbergrasse 146 | 8044 Zürich
T. 044 362 29 80 | justinzh@justinus.ch

ST-JUSTIN LAUSANNE

Avenue de Morges 66 1004 | Lausanne
+41 (0)22 731 11 35 | justinvd@justinus.ch

ST-JUSTIN GENÈVE

Rue du Prieuré 15-17 | 1202 Genève
T. 022 731 11 35 | justinge@justinus.ch

ST-JUSTIN SION

Chemin de la Sitterie 2 | 1950 Sion 2 Nord
T. 027 327 44 00 | justinvs@justinus.ch

IMPRESSUM

Publisher: Œuvre St-Justin | Rue de Rome 3
1700 Fribourg | T. 026 351 16 16 | CP 17-846-3
justinus@justinus.ch | www.justinus.ch

Publication 4x per year

Bulletin addressed to donors and benefactors
de l'Œuvre Saint-Justin

Editor: Maurice Page |

Isabelle Fleischmann | Marco Cattaneo

Photos: © St-Justin | Adobe Stock

Photographer: Bruno Maillard, Christoph Siebenthal

Graphic design: ACTALIS SA

Summary

EDITO

Pentecost in our hearts!

3

REPORTS 2024

4-5

Report 2024 Foyer Fribourg

6-7

Report 2024 Foyers Geneva and Lausanne

8-9

Report 2024 Foyer Valais

10-11

Report 2024 Zurich "Justinus House"

12-13

Accounts 2024

14-16

MARCO CATTANEO'S TESTIMONIAL

I didn't think I'd stay long (...)

18-21

NEWS

Feasts of Saint Rita 2025

22-23

SPIRITUALITY

Leo XIV: "Witness to joyful faith..."

24-25

NEWS

Feast of St. Justin, June 1, 2025

26-27

GENIUS OF CHRISTIANITY 15/18

The scandal of the cross

28-29

NEWS

Director's retirement party

30-32

Pentecost in our hearts!

"It was after the death of Jesus, on the evening of the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood in the midst of them, and said to them: Peace be with you!"

So, this Pentecost, each and every one of us is concerned. Let us open ourselves to the grace of this day: open doors to the Spirit! In practical terms, this means: let's **trust** in the Spirit. Are we looking at the world with an optimistic eye? Or are we attentive only to the negative, to the catastrophism of the media? If the world, as St. Paul says, is in labor pains, how can we not live in hope of what is to come?

Let us note the discreet **presence** of the Spirit. He gently suggests those words that can transform human relationships into communion. We need to detect his presence in our lives to perceive the density and depth of the events that mark them. The Spirit is "funny": the Spirit blows where it wills. He's like a child: We think he's at play or asleep, and there he is, playing in our legs, looking at us and smiling. He can be spotted: He is present wherever there is a desire for **unity**. In our families, in our associations, in our communities. Satan is the divider, the Spirit is the uniter. "How can you be sure that God has given you his Spirit? Ask your insides. If they are full of charity, you have the Spirit of God", said Saint Augustine.

Let's breathe in the Spirit! He's the **breath of God**. Let's let him enter us, just as our lungs breathe in essential air. It's a matter of spiritual life or death! Why so many useless sermons, so much unprofitable reading, where we don't take the time to listen to Christ and his Spirit? The sign of the Spirit's presence is profound **joy**, the kind that gives **peace** even in the midst of troubles, difficulties, illnesses and trials. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace and patience," explains St. Paul to the Galatians (Gal 5:16-22).

"Since the Spirit gives us life, let us walk under the guidance of the Spirit", concludes the apostle.

Marco Cattaneo, Christian director



2024, first year of the Fondation

At the start of 2024, everything has been put in place and organized to ensure a year of serenity and calm, with no events to disrupt our day-to-day tasks. The road well prepared, the staff in place motivated, the homes fully booked, the events planned, then the year 2024 can unfold.

The first challenge that comes along the way is **RENOVATIONS**. Everything had been planned, but some companies didn't really see the scope of their tasks, because a building from the 1960s always hides surprises. Together with François, the architect from Pages SA, we came up with quick solutions, some of them just right, some a little too costly.

In a renovation project, in order to avoid excessive delays and therefore additional costs, decisions have to be taken quickly, which sometimes involves tension between those who decide and those who carry out the work. The buildings affected by these renovations are Villa Jura 11 and buildings no. 2 and 3.

The second challenge was **CAD**, which stands for district heating. Everything had been planned with Groupe E, the company responsible for implementing this type of heating system, in order to provide the Fribourg site with a long-term solution for all its buildings. Discussions and calculations are well underway, and when Groupe E's decision is made, the works will be postponed by a year. Revisiting the entire organization of the Fribourg site required energy and time to rethink the project. New tensions arose with Groupe E management.

The third challenge is called **DEPRESSION BY EXHAUSTION**. Many of the people who worked with me kept telling me: "Be careful! it can't go on like this, you're going to have a health

problem...etc." And then, on March 13, 2024, the verdict came down. I was off work for two weeks, and that was only the beginning. All in all, it took me three months to recover and start working again in a different way.

I've managed it and have been back at the helm since July 1. I'd like to say a big thank you to all those who enabled me to return so quickly, and who held the company together with their unfailing commitment.

The fourth challenge is called **TAKING BACK THE LEAD**. I really thought it was going to be easier, but I have to say that the third challenge did more damage than I thought and it took me more time to regain the pleasure and passion that characterized me up to that point.

The fifth, sixth and seventh are challenges with a common denominator **CHANGE OF ORIENTATION**. In announcing their desire to leave our Foundation, Lara Kate Crettaz, head of the Sion home, and Jean-

Marc Wild, head of the Fribourg home, were able to tell me how they felt, and above all that it was a personal choice, and that working for Saint-Justin, has enabled them to know what path to take in their future lives.

As for the seventh challenge, it concerns my successor, especially my waiting, to get the process underway to find this person, which has taken some time. But now it's underway, and there's no stopping it. As 2024 draws to a close, interested parties have applied to the advertisements that have appeared, and the choice of potential candidates has been made. The office will have the task of presenting to the extraordinary general meeting of the Foundation Board on March 8, 2025 a choice of candidates so that its members can elect the new person to take over the management of the Foundation following my departure, announced for August 31, 2025.

As I look more closely at the events that have taken place on the Foundation's road to success, I realize that they have taken up a great deal of my energy, because they have demanded very special attention.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and deepest appreciation to you, our employees, board members and volunteers, for your work and commitment to this Work of the Lord.

Marco Cattaneo, director



Signatures of the deed of incorporation and articles of association of the Foundation by Messrs Georges Emery and Marco Cattaneo (top) at the office of Me Etienne Jeandin, Geneva, on January 19, 2023 (bottom).



Foyer of Fribourg

During the two university semesters, Fribourg posted an occupancy rate of 100%. The 202 rooms, spread over two houses and two buildings, are increasingly being allocated before the start of the contractual periods. For the autumn semester, we had to turn down a considerable number of requests for accommodation.

During the winter inter-semester, we welcomed a group from the United States. In summer, two other American groups and a group from the Haute École de Gestion stayed at St-Justin. In 2024, we welcomed students of 52 nationalities (see SA statistics). The traditional welcome aperitif took place at the beginning of October, just after the information evening for new residents. Volunteers rounded out the Student Council, which organized and hosted meetings and parties throughout the academic year. The "Swiss taste and touch" raclette evening prepared by Swiss students was a great success. Residents were able to discover Switzerland from different angles (culinary, musical, geographical and political). The evening was a great opportunity to exchange ideas and forge links between residents. The St Nicolas party was a convivial occasion that brought together friends, neighbors, staff and residents of the Cité St-Justin for Christmas tea and mulled wine, as well as pancakes made by the Student Council. The traditional outdoor games evening and spring barbecue were drowned out by a gloomy spring. Only the hike to Lac-Noir was able to take place between two showers. The feast of St Rita and the feast of St Justin brought the spring semester to a close, bringing together many friends and devotees for a mass, followed by a meal or aperitif-dinner.

Thanks to the Student Council! It has made it possible to meet, exchange and make friends in the Cité - three ingredients that keep the

spirit of St. Justin alive by fostering tolerance and solidarity in student community life.

As for our 6 tenant institutions (University, HEdS, OrTra, Délif, accueil extrascolaire de la Ville de Fribourg), the OrTra vocational training program left us in July. This departure provided the opportunity to start renovating the building envelope at Rue de Rome 2 and 3. New windows and extensive all-round insulation will significantly improve the energy balance of these buildings. Not all the work had been completed by the end of 2024, as planned, but at the end of December, it was clear that the renovation had been well integrated into the site.

In parallel, another project was completed during 2024 – that of Villa Jura 11. The oil heating system was replaced with a connection to district heating, and the entire exterior was renovated. This Villa, with Orthodox frescoes covering the entire northeast façade, is a jewel in the Foundation's heritage.

“The student city”



A warm welcome to new students in October 2024

The staff of housekeeping, janitorial services, reception, and pastoral care in Fribourg represents a total of 12.2 FTE (full-time equivalents). In June, Enrique Murillo left the team reception team to finishing his studies. Our well-appreciated collaborator worked for 2 years as an auxiliary receptionist at 30%.

At the staff dinner in December, we were able to thank Daniel Reber, who stepped down as concierge at the end of the year after 3 years of loyal service. François Julmy was welcomed as the new Concierge in charge of our Foundation

Our staff has devoted themselves wholeheartedly to making the Cité welcoming and pleas-

ant to live in. The reality of the construction site in the middle of the premises required a great deal of flexibility from all involved. Thank you to the entire Fribourg team!

The St-Justin Chapel, Our Lady of Good Counsel, remains a spiritual place at the heart of the City of Fribourg. Adriana Ruegsegger takes care of the Ste-Rita boutique and the chapel, which brings together various groups and communities for mass or prayers throughout the week. Many faithful stop by for a moment of prayer and devotion. Every Sunday evening, an Eucharist is celebrated, welcoming residents of the Cité and the surrounding neighborhoods.

On the initiative of Anne-Elisabeth Cattaneo, a prayer for and with the staff has been established every Wednesday at noon to entrust the mission and the staff of the Foundation to God's protection and providence.

Jean-Marc Wild

Foyer of Geneva and Lausanne

In Geneva, in 2024, we have achieved a calm stability and a climate of trust, despite some very difficult situations. The team is close-knit, employees have confidence in each other, and work is efficient.

GENEVA

At the beginning of the year, Silvia Melo, one of the cleaning ladies, was diagnosed with a brain tumor, fortunately benign, but which required several weeks of downtime and heavy, stressful examinations. She has to have regular MRIs to monitor it, but so far, so good. At the same time, I had the traumatic experience of losing my house in a brutal fire. It also took me several weeks of downtime to get my life back on track. But in the meantime, thanks to the whole team, Silvia and I were able to concentrate on our personal concerns without worry, knowing that Marylin, Leila, Isabel, Kamel and David were handling the situation perfectly. They did everything they could to ensure that we didn't have to worry about work, and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts for this kindness. From Easter onwards, the team was complete again and we were able to resume our routine with peace of mind.

We organized three major festivities: Saint-Justin in June, the welcome for new residents in October and the Christmas celebration. We also organized a free Lenten soup distribution for all residents, every Tuesday evening for 5 weeks. The event was a great success. Just like the chocolate bunnies we distributed to every room for Easter!

As far as occupancy of the Foyer is concerned, all our rooms remained occupied throughout the year. Requests are numerous,

and we can't satisfy everyone, but we've done our best to adapt on a case-by-case basis to help as many students as possible. Diversity is still the priority at our Foyer, and we are proud to have welcomed 81 different nationalities in 2024, spread evenly across all continents. Another year rich in learning and encounters.

Renovations 2024:

- Renovation of paintwork in studios 404, 501 and room 617
- Laying resin on balconies on floors 5, 4, 3 and 2
- Installation of anti-pigeon netting on terrace balconies
- Installation of a new layer of waterproofing around the domes on the terrace (above the great hall)
- Carpeting in the chapel
- Installation of a water softener
- Modification of the flushing mechanisms on the floors (installation of a pneumatic system)

A joyful welcome to our new students, October 2024



In 2024, we also consolidated several annual rentals of the Great Hall. We welcome a group of Senegalese on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings, and a group of Brazilians on Monday and Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings.

This provides us with a regular income to finance maintenance costs. On the other hand, we have decided to stop renting out our hall for parties, birthdays and similar celebrations. We try to concentrate our rentals on groups that make sense in terms of our Mission.

FOYER OF LAUSANNE

The 6 rooms in Lausanne were occupied all year round. Requests are pouring in, and we hope to see this home grow in the future! The cohabitation between residents and members of the Parish is going very well, with a few adjustments from time to time, but overall a great success that we hope will last. Leila, Silvia and Isabel have been cleaning our Lausanne home on a regular basis, and Kamel also goes there whenever necessary. I also go there once a week or so to maintain the link between the parish, the residents and our work.

Zoé Impini Mc Hugh

Foyer of Valais

***"A home
that radiates
around the world"***

As a regular visitor to the Sion "Notre-Dame du Silence" hostel, I get a very strong sense of the spirit of peace, calm, respect, sharing, curiosity and understanding that is alive in all the people who live at the hostel, those who work in the diocesan pastoral services, the caterer, and those who come for training, retreats, meetings or mass.

All these people, coming from different horizons, whether from the Valais, from regions all over Switzerland, from Europe and even further afield, also feel the spirit of Saint Justin, with arms

wide open to the world, welcoming and caring for the well-being of those who pass through the door of peace received from the Lord.

This house is truly a haven of peace, and when I walk through the door I feel a wind of tranquility blowing through this place to flood the inhabited areas with its gentle mercy. What a joy it is to feel this spirit of love. That's why I love being in this place, carried by the Lord's love.

I could sum it up with this motto: "We listen, we hear, we understand and we live in God's love".

This was made possible by the understanding of the values of our Work on the part of manager Lara Kate and her colleagues Maria and Anne. I can only thank these people from the bottom of my heart for their commitment with and from the heart for all the people who enter the home to live the life path that has brought them to this point.



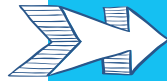
Shared moments of friendship in the garden,

At my request, Lara Kate wrote a few lines about her feelings about life at home in 2024, between joys and sorrows.

Through this testimonial, Lara Kate expresses her experience and her daily life with these young people from here and abroad.

As you know, we are in discussions with the Fondation Notre-Dame du Silence to acquire this site, so that we can continue to adapt it to the needs of the students' hostel and the people who are accustomed to it, while maintaining the values of Saint-Justin and Notre-Dame du Silence. This is one of tomorrow's challenges for our Work. Thank you to all those who give this place its mission of welcome.

Marco Cattaneo / Lara Kate Crettaz



"The pleasure when former residents come back just to visit their friends found at Saint Justin."

"Just like the pleasure of knowing that those who left the home but still live in Sion have kept in regular contact with the residents."

"The pleasure of knowing that they have their own little routine of activities:

on Tuesdays they go climbing, on Thursdays it's bowling as well as weekend outings

depending on the season."

"The pleasure, as they leave,

and they tell me "I'd like to come back""

"The sense of welcome that has spontaneously established towards new arrivals."

"The pleasure when a mother writes to tell me that her child has never felt so good."

"The pleasure of hearing them laugh from my office."

"Harder for me when they decide to give up pursuing their training because they're out of breath."

"Harder for me when I see the heaviness of studying today, the pressure they're under."

"It's hard for me when I see that an individual disrespects others and creates a rift in the group."

"It's hard for me when someone abuses our trust to act dishonestly behind our backs."

Foyer Zurich “Justinus House”

I have achieved my first year as manager the student house of Zurich. I remember a great year.

Almost all the rooms were occupied at all times. In summer, we were delighted to welcome a summer school from the Netherlands, who stayed with us for around two weeks. June also saw a major change among our residents.

Currently (and over the course of the year), 57 young men and 22 young women live with us, from the following countries: China, South Korea, Austria, Italy, Slovenia, Ghana, Germany, India, Romania, Australia, Switzerland, Turkey, Albania, Spain, France, Mexico, Kosovo, Brazil, Belgium, Portugal, Netherlands, Croatia, Slovakia, Greece, Liberia, Finland, Uruguay, USA, Tanzania, Montenegro, Sweden, Northern Macedonia, Bulgaria, Armenia, Ethiopia, Ukraine.

Together, the team, the students and I were able to put the house in order. A number of areas were tidied up, including the archives in the attic, the maintenance living room and various cupboards in the upstairs corridors. Further tidying will take place in the basement.

We were able to replace the old chairs and tables on the terrace with new furniture, and even install a raised planter, which was used by many residents last summer.

The new barbecue has also encouraged students to organize barbecues and spend evenings together on the terrace.

As in previous years, two semi-annual dinners were organized to welcome new residents and facilitate their integration into the community. One took place in the spring, the second in early October. For the first time, at the request of some residents, a Halloween party was organized.

Let's not forget our Christmas dinner, celebrated with raclette, a glass of wine and roasted chestnuts in the garden. Following the proposal to organize a "Secret Santa", many residents enthusiastically participated by secretly offering gifts. The beautifully wrapped gifts added a festive touch to the Christmas-decorated dining room.

As a team, we also really enjoyed our Christmas meal. Despite a few language barriers, we took advantage of the opportunity to talk about more personal matters.

What I found particularly pleasing was that our own scholarship holders, along with those from MAS, were able to take part in the soccer tournament in my

village (Langnau am Albis) at the end of June. The registration fees were covered by the organizing committee, and part of the transport costs by the Foyer. This enabled six scholarship-holders to showcase their talent over two days, while sharing moments of fun and conviviality.

Nathalie Hüppi



Competitive sports also thrill our students

Accounts 2024


*Comments
on the 2024
financial statements*

1. FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 2024:

- Total Income: 4'780'591.76 CHF
- Total Expenses: 4'769'618.07 CHF
- Surplus: CHF 10,973.69

2. ANALYZING THE MAIN SOURCES OF REVENUE
AND EXPENSES:

Revenue: We can analyze revenue from two points of view:

- **By type of activity:** Identify which activities generate the most revenue.
- **By location:** Evaluate revenues according to the regions or locations where the activities were carried out. [graph](#) 

Expense analysis: We aim to identify and analyze the Foundation's various costs in order to optimize the use of our resources. The main costs are broken down as follows:

- Overheads: These include
- staff salaries and benefits, office supplies, telecommunications costs, and other ongoing operating expenses.
- Scholarship costs: Funds allocated in the form of scholarships, grants or direct aid to beneficiaries.
- Operating expenses by sector: Costs required to maintain each home, broken down by region:
- Operating expenses Fribourg, Operating expenses Geneva, Operating expenses Zurich
- Operating costs Valais and Operating costs Vaud.

This detailed analysis will enable us to understand where our resources are most stretched and identify opportunities to improve our financial efficiency.

[see chart](#) 

Operating Expense Ratio:

Formula: $(\text{Overhead} + \text{Salaries}) / \text{Total Expenses}$

Objective: To measure the proportion of total expenses devoted to operating expenses.

Operating Expense Ratio:

The operating ratio measures a company's operating efficiency by comparing its overheads and salaries to its total expenses.

General expenses + Salaries:
2'684'264.67CHF

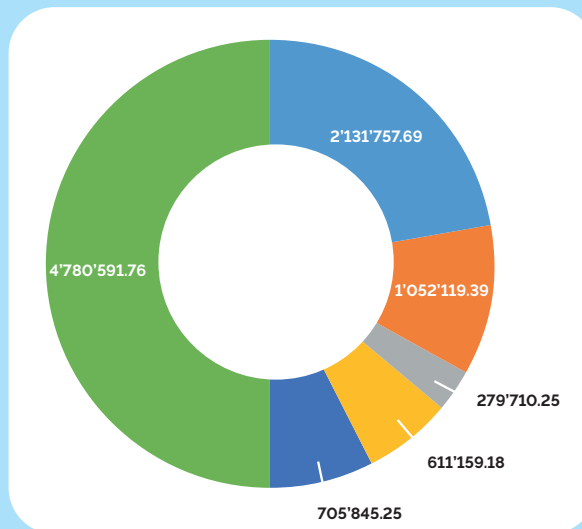
Total expenses : 4'769'618.07 CHF

Operating ratio = 0.56. This
equals approximately 56.00%.

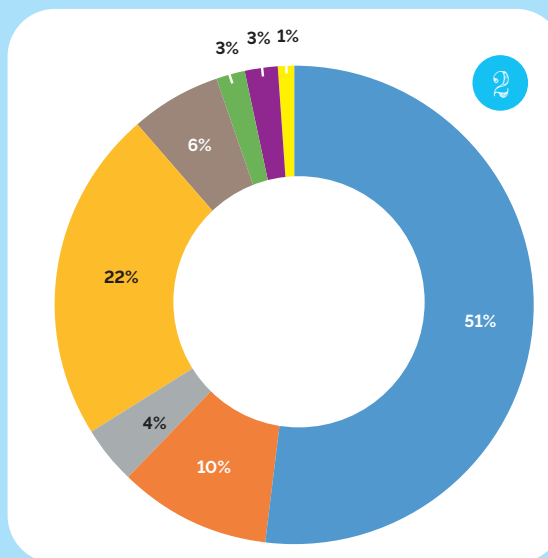
Interpretation:

This means that 56% of the company's total expenses are made up of overheads and salaries. A lower operating ratio generally indicates greater operational efficiency, as a smaller proportion of total expenditure is devoted to overheads and salaries.

Overall, the Fondation Œuvre St-Justin surpassed its expectations in terms of income, with relatively controlled expenditure management despite some overruns. The net result is positive, suggesting a solid financial position for the period. However, improvements can be envisaged to better align administrative and fundraising expenses with planned budgets. Particular attention should be paid to improving fundraising efforts to offset the negative variances observed in this category.



- Fondation
- Fribourg
- Geneva
- Valais
- Zurich
- Œuvre



- Personnel expenses
- Overheads
- Fellows' expenses
- Operating expenses FR
- Operating expenses GE
- Operating expenses ZH
- Operating expenses VS
- Operating expenses VD

REVENUE

RENT

Rent Fribourg

Rent Geneva

Rent Zürich

Rent Sion

TOTAL RENTS

DONATION COLLECTION

Missionary donations

Various donations

Institutional donations

TOTAL DONATIONS

SPONSORSHIPS AND BEQUESTS

Various sponsorships

Bequests

TOTAL SPONSORSHIPS AND BEQUESTS

OWN ACTIVITIES

Subscriptions to the St-Justin newsletter

Various incomes from own activities

TOTAL OWN ACTIVITIES

OTHER INCOME

Financial income

Various income

TOTAL OTHER INCOME

TOTAL REVENUE

ACCOUNTS
2024
in CHF

2 131 757,69 CHF

1 052 119,39 CHF

611 159,18 CHF

279 710,25 CHF

4 074 746,51 CHF

117 606,93 CHF

226 031,50 CHF

226 096,98 CHF

569 735,41 CHF

5 549,00 CHF

27 589,60 CHF

33 138,60 CHF

14 410,00 CHF

67 939,58 CHF

82 349,58 CHF

11 284,21 CHF

9 337,45 CHF

20 621,66 CHF

4 780 591,76 CHF

EXPENSES

GENERAL EXPENSES

Personnel expenses

Administration and miscellaneous expenses

Various activity expenses (Philately, Bulletins, etc.)

Various expenses

Financial expenses

TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES

SCHOLARSHIP EXPENSES

AND VARIOUS AIDS

Scholarships in Switzerland

Other scholarships and aid

TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP EXPENSES

OPERATING EXPENSES

Operating expenses Fribourg

Operating expenses Geneva

Operating expenses Zurich

Operating expenses Sion

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES

NET INCOME

ACCOUNTS
2024
in CHF

2 431 197,55 CHF

325 890,06 CHF

114 280,29 CHF

3 827,39 CHF

12 931,08 CHF

2 888 126,37 CHF

57 864,26 CHF

126 349,67 CHF

184 213,93 CHF

1 076 324,21 CHF

343 238,54 CHF

132 028,76 CHF

145 686,26 CHF

1 697 277,77 CHF

4 769 618,07 CHF

10 973,69 CHF

25th Stamp auction
IN FAVOUR OF THE WORK
OF ST-JUSTIN

IMPORTANT DATES

The stamp auction will
take place on

SATURDAY
18.10.2025
1pm

FRIDAY
17.10.2025
12pm to 7pm

SATURDAY
18.10.2025
8.30 am to 12pm

Visual
inspection
of batches

The catalogue will be sent at the beginning
of October 2024

Thank you in advance for saving
these dates in your diary.

The philately team of St-Justin

Providing good
training means
giving young people
a better future to
build peace
in the world!

How can you help us accomplish our mission?
With a gesture of solidarity and joy, such as:

A donation | a bequest | a sponsorship | a payment to
the Ste Rita fund for people in distress | a payment to the
Ste Monique mutual aid fund for the training of priests
and religious | subscribing to the St-Justin bulletin -
published 4x a year | sending us your stamp collections.

Contact: justinus@justinus.ch – www.justinus.ch
+41 (0)26 351 16 16
IBAN CH32 0900 0000 1700 0846 3
Post Finance 17-846-3



**Pay easily
with TWINT**



Scan the QR code
with the App.



Enter the amount
and confirm the payment.

Marco Cattaneo: "I didn't think I

After nineteen years at the helm of the Œuvre St-Justin, Marco Cattaneo will hand over the management of the Catholic institution dedicated to the training of students in the South on August 1, 2025. For cath.ch, he looks back on a human, social and political adventure marked by an unshakeable faith in Providence.

"I came into the Œuvre St-Justin in a rather funny way, or rather providentially," recounts Marco Cattaneo. I was standing by the pool of the Motta swimming pool in Fribourg, when I was approached by Jacques Piller, then vice-president of the Oeuvre St-Justin: 'Would you be interested in taking over the management of an important Catholic institution? I didn't say no, and one thing led to another and I agreed to apply for the job. I knew nothing about St-Justin, not even that it existed!' "After a few interviews, I was hired by Mgr Bernard Genoud, President of the Work as Bishop of Lausanne, Geneva and Fribourg (LGF). He knew what he was doing because, as chaplain to the Équipes Notre-Dame, he knew me well."

JUMPING INTO THE BATH

On September 1, 2006, Marco launched himself into a field he knew almost nothing about. He did not come from an academic background. His previous job in music publishing and cinema hadn't prepared him for working in a Catholic environment. "I didn't think I'd stay long," he admits today.

"What made me stick? My predecessor Nicolas Scherer had left a stack of files on the desk: 'These are the scholarship holders' files. When I read them, I was struck by the will and determination of these people, who wanted to learn so they could help shape their country's future. I understood the mission of St-Justin!

A few months after his arrival, Marco Cattaneo had the opportunity to inaugurate the new building for the Introductory Course to University Studies (CIUS) built on the St-Justin site in Fribourg. "It was a launching pad. Starting with an inauguration was a powerful symbol, all the more so as the CIUS was the first place where foreign students disembarked on their arrival in Switzerland."

RESPONSIBILITY AND TRUST

One of the new manager's first projects was personnel management. "The previous manager had imposed a rather authoritarian style, with a lot of controls. I didn't want that. I wanted to introduce more responsibility and more trust. This took some time. In passing, Marco Cattaneo would also like to thank his family, "who agreed that I should leave a comfortable, well-paid position for a more demanding service. But in the end, those closest to me also fell for it."

would stay long in St-Justin”



A DIFFERENT NOTION OF HUMAN DIGNITY

The main learning experience has been that of meeting a foreigner whose culture and background you don't know. "I had to open up to others. The exchange made me grow." The notion of human dignity, which seems obvious in the European context, has taken on a new meaning for Marco. "It's a different breathing of the human being, which is not linked to his performance or success, but to his very person. St-Justin's support goes to the poorest, not necessarily the top of the class. The way you look at a person can change a lot of things.

As Director, Marco Cattaneo is also often the confidant of the joys and sorrows of the fellows and hostel residents, both men and women. "Quite a few of them call me 'Dad', and I've kept many ties with the old-timers."

A father who also had to maintain order and crack down when necessary. "I was obliged to do so, even if it was sometimes hard when I had to fire someone or cancel a grant. But the credibility of St-Justin depends on it. For the director, respect is also expressed in the little things, such as order in the house, cleanliness of the premises, punctuality and politeness. "It's not just about studying. It's a job of education in the truest sense of the word, that of helping people grow."

Nineteen years at St-Justin

AGAINST A MIGRATION POLICY THAT IS TOO RESTRICTIVE

The reception of foreign students is also confronted with ever stricter rules from the federal and cantonal immigration services. "Waiting for a visa or residence permit, or for them to be extended, is often an ordeal and a source of suffering. I realized that I had to fight for them. I spent a lot of time talking to the authorities responsible, with some successes, but also some disappointments." Like when the Confederation decided to put an end to ICSU. "It was a heartbreaker, even if a satisfactory solution was found for the building now handed over to the University of Fribourg."

A RELIGIOUS DNA

Founded in 1927 to welcome students from Asia by Abbé François Charrière, who later became bishop of LGF, Œuvre St-Justin retains its religious DNA. It contributes to the theological training of priests, nuns and lay people. But from the outset, it has also supported students in all fields of study: law, health, education, science, economics, and so on.

For some time now, St-Justin has also been funding scholarships in the countries of the South. A growing number of countries now have suitable educational institutions. "A scholarship in Switzerland costs around 20,000 a year. In the South, it's more like 1,500 to 2,000 francs. In this way, we can help more people and avoid the problems associated with uprooting."

A CITY OPEN TO THE CITY

"When I arrived, St-Justin was living in a bit of a vacuum. We had to open it up to the city and its population. One of the first measures taken was to make access to the chapel more visible. Every year, St-Justin hosts numerous public events: conferences, concerts, music festivals, neighborhood aperitifs, pilgrimages to Saint Rita, etc. "In the company of scholarship-holders, I've also often gone to present St-Justin in parishes."

The St-Justin restaurant has long been the social nerve of the town. Open to the public, it was a popular meeting place. "When it had to close for lack of profitability, it was a very painful decision for me.

Renovations, conversions, extensions, Marco Cattaneo has often also donned the builder's outfit. "Maintaining the city's heritage and making it more functional has been a constant challenge."

A UNIFIED LEGAL STRUCTURE

Marco Cattaneo's last major project was the transformation of St-Justin's legal structure. Historically, each of the homes in Fribourg, Zurich and Geneva had depended on an independent association run by volunteers. Given the complexity of the work, the high financial stakes involved and the difficulty of recruiting competent staff, this situation was no longer viable. After three years of discussions, legal and administrative procedures, St-Justin has been a recognized charitable foundation since 2024.

TOWARDS THE CENTENARY

Marco Cattaneo sees two main challenges for the future. The first is to expand relations with the migration authorities, in order to raise awareness of the educational challenges facing foreign students. This is also clearly in the interests of universities and colleges. "Demand is not weakening. But it is becoming more specialized. Today, we have more requests for doctorates or courses of study in which Swiss universities are at the forefront, such as international relations."

Fundraising is the other major challenge. "Our donors are getting older. We have to keep renewing them by being inventive and creative."

In 2027, St-Justin will be able to celebrate its 100th anniversary. "But that will be up to the new management team," concludes Marco Cattaneo.

ST-JUSTIN AND THE AUGUSTINS

The election of Pope Leo XIV brought the Order of St. Augustine, of which he was Prior General for 12 years, back into the limelight. As it happens, the Augustinians played a decisive role in the development of the Œuvre St-Justin.

François Charrière, the founder of the Œuvre, entrusted responsibility for it to the Augustinian Fathers in 1951. The religious took matters into their own hands to get the Work back on track, having been more or less dormant during the years of the Second World War. The construction of new buildings and the opening of hostels in Zurich in 1954, followed by Geneva in 1970, contributed to the strong development of the Work. In 1982, the Augustinians handed over management to the Missionaries of Bethlehem Immensee, until the arrival of the first lay director in 1997.



St-Rita's Celebration 2025





To offer a little joy



Testimony to joyful faith in Jesus the

In his first homily, delivered on May 9, 2025 in the Sistine Chapel for the concluding mass of the conclave, in the presence of the 132 cardinals who elected him, Pope Leo XIV insisted on a personal encounter with Christ.

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mt 16:16). With these words, Peter, questioned by the Master along with the other disciples about their faith in Him, sums up the heritage that the Church, through apostolic succession, has guarded, deepened and passed on for two thousand years.

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, the only Saviour and the revealer of the Father's face.

In Him, God, to make Himself close and accessible to mankind, revealed Himself to us in the trusting eyes of a child, in the awakened spirit of an adolescent, in the mature features of a man, until He appeared to His own people, after His resurrection, in His glorious body. He has thus shown us a model of holy humanity that we can all imitate, with the promise of an eternal destiny that surpasses all our limits and abilities. [...]

Even today, there are contexts in which Jesus, though appreciated as a man, is reduced to a kind of charismatic leader or super-man, not only among non-believers, but also among many baptized people who end up living, at this level, in a de facto atheism..

Such is the world entrusted to us, in which, as Pope Francis has repeatedly taught us, we are called to bear witness to joyful faith in Jesus the Savior. [...] It is essential to do this first and foremost in our personal relationship with Him, in the commitment to a daily journey of conversion. But also, as Church, by living together our belonging to the Lord and bringing the Good News to all."

Savior



Leo PP. XIV

Celebrating St-Justin, 1st of June 2025

Mass for the feast of St. Justin, presided over by Father Joachim Negel, Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Theology at the University of Fribourg and resident of the student residence.

THERE ARE A FEW PASSAGES FROM FATHER JOACHIM'S HOMILY

Dear brothers and sisters, There are texts in the Gospel where you don't know where to begin; you can't find a beginning or an end, because they are eternal variations on the same theme. The little passage from Jesus' priestly prayer that we've just heard is just such a gospel: a never-ending prayer about us and our lives. The way we look at this text is like the way we use a kaleidoscope, which needs to be shaken over and over again so that the light can refract in an ever-new way and reveal a different image. In other words, to enter into the movement of thought of Jesus that is expressed here, all of us who are here should get together, and each and every one of us should start talking about the friendships from which he or she draws strength. The sum of these testimonies would give us an idea of what we're talking about here. For with this little passage from Jesus' priestly prayer (which concludes the farewell speeches in John's Gospel), we enter directly into the heart of the Christian faith...

...Now, here's what Jesus says here: "As you, dear Father, are in me and I in you, as we are one, may they all be one, so that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and I in them." Have you ever said goodbye to a loved one in this way? "As I want to be in you, be in me, and may the love that unites us go beyond our relationship so that others may share in it"? Maybe not, because to be able to talk like this requires a degree of

intimacy rarely achieved between human beings. Most of the time, we remain on the surface and content ourselves with good wishes. We rarely go any further...

...I truly believe that when we share our experiences with one another, we can discover much about the reality of God. Perhaps there are some among us who know each other so deeply that they can say of each other, "As you are in me and I am in you, so our love spreads to those with whom we live." It's true that we live off each other; the atmosphere that surrounds the friendships in which we live also enables others to live. "Atmosphere" is a wonderful word. There are atmospheres that shelter us, in which we can find space and air to breathe. When we read and pray the Pentecost texts these days you can almost physically feel the breath that resonates in these songs (I'm thinking in particular of a musical setting as sung at Taizé). A pleasant, invigorating spirit, holy because it heals, that's the atmosphere of the welcome....



A few moments of the Mass



The scandal of the cross

Father Bruno Holtz, who for decades was one of the pillars of the Œuvre St-Justin in Fribourg and Geneva, had written, shortly before his death in February 2012, a series of eighteen "tableaux" to popularize the life and thought of the 2nd-century Christian philosopher Saint Justin, patron saint of our Œuvre. In this 15th episode, Justin talks about the meaning of Jesus' death on the cross

In his Dialogue with Tryphon, Justin speaks several times of Christ's death on the cross. Tryphon quotes him from the book of Deuteronomy, where it is said that to die on a cross is a curse. Justin replies that the cross, Christ's death on the cross, is precisely the event that saves humanity from sin and death.

Moses' prayer with outstretched arms, which gave victory to the Hebrews, is a sign of the victory Christ won by dying on the cross. The Tree of Life in paradise is the proclamation of the Life Christ gives to mankind through the tree of the cross. Justin goes on to say that the wood of the ark, which saved Noah and his family, is a sign of the Salvation for mankind acquired through the wood of the cross.

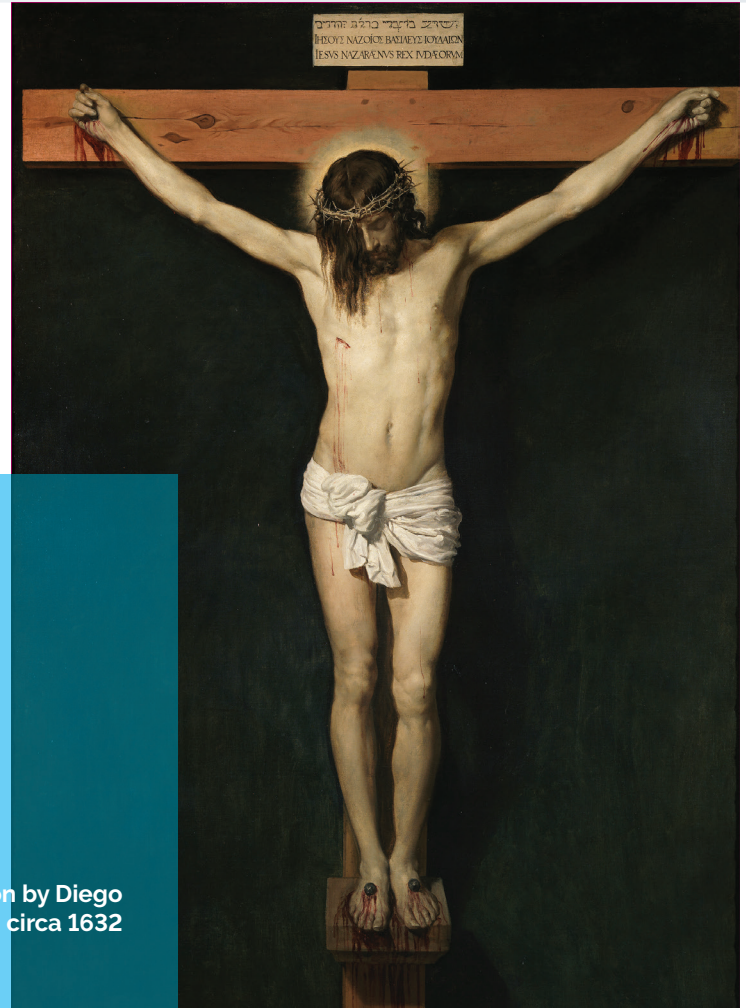
But the most important witness to Old Testament prophecy for Justin is Psalm 21, which he analyzes phrase by phrase, devoting eight chapters of his Dialogue with Tryphon to it.

It is Christ who says, as he hangs on the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" It's Christ who says, "I'm a worm, not a man, mocked by the people, rejected by the people. All who see me scorn me, they sneer and shake their heads." And again: "He was counting on the Lord: let him deliver him! May he save him, since he is his friend!"

The analysis continues: "I'm like water pouring out, all my limbs are dislocated. My heart is like wax, melting in my bowels. My vigor has dried up like clay, my tongue sticks to my palate." And further on: "These people are watching me. They divide my clothes among themselves and cast lots for my garment." Justin concludes his analysis of the Psalm with the praise of God that forms its final section.

Another of Justin's testimonies to salvation and healing through the cross is the brazen serpent on a staff, which the snake-bitten Hebrews had to look at to be healed. For Justin, the staff is the wood of the cross, the serpent the fallen angel who succeeded in bringing down Adam and Eve. Behind the serpent, Justin sees the body of Christ, who has conquered death.

Among many other references, let's mention a brief text from the prophet Isaiah: "I said, 'Here I am to the nations, to those who do not call on my name. All day long I have stretched out my hands to an unfaithful and contradictory people, to those who walked not in a good way, but as a result of their sins.'"



The Crucifixion by Diego
Velasquez circa 1632

Retirement celebration of the Director

....And that brings us to the concrete reason why we're celebrating the feast of Saint Justin today, June 1: the departure of Marco Cattaneo as Director of the Œuvre Saint-Justin. Of course, I can't say much about what Marco has achieved in his almost 20 years of service - those who will be giving their speeches at the reception later after mass will do that a hundred times better than I can. I can only say how I've come to know Marco Cattaneo in the ten years I've spent here: kind, attentive, helpful. Yes, especially helpful. A true comrade. And here we are again, with the work of the Holy Spirit creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Comrades are people who live in the same room, the same "camera" as we say in Latin and Italian... (excerpt from Father Joachim's homily at the June 1st mass).

Every time I think about it, a super-popular song in Germany comes to mind – maybe some of you know it. It's by the poet-singer Reinhard Mey and it's called "Gute Nacht, Freunde" (Good Night, Friends). Reinhard Mey also sings in French under the name Frédérik Mey...

Good evening, my friends,
It's time for me to go.
What's left to say
Lasts only a cigarette
And the time of a last drink

....It simply describes the well-being he feels under the roof of these friends, the obviousness with which they add an extra plate to the table when someone arrives unexpectedly, the patience and kindness of these people...

For this day, this night under your roof, thank you
For the place at your table and the wine in my glass
For the extra place setting that you set for me
As if nothing in the world was more normal

For these hours spent chatting, thank you
For your patience when our opinions were contrary
For not having tried to find out where I came from
Nor for where I'm going, nor when, nor why

Thank you for the goodness that shelters in your home
Behind this door that I have to go through
Perhaps it's through it that through your windows
The light seems warmer than elsewhere.





Goodbye director,
we'll never forget you

