

Newsletter

DECEMBER 2025 Nr 3



St-Justin

FONDATION ŒUVRE SAINT-JUSTIN
STIFTUNG JUSTINUS-WERK

Happy
Holidays...

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To simplify reading, the editorial team uses the masculine form in a generic manner.

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Pave the way

"Hope begins when we offer a smile to those who no longer have one."

Mother Teresa

At a time when social ties are weakening and some societies are faltering, **St-Justin is a shining example of community spirit**. Hundreds of different cultures coexist in our homes, which offer security and kindness, just like the nativity scene.

Democracy, freedom of expression, respect and trust are key values that we are proud to share every day. For almost a century, St-Justin has been supporting thousands of students thanks to the generosity of thousands of donors. **Thank you.**

Being a witness of hope means choosing to treat every person with dignity, to believe in the possibility of goodness, peace and brotherhood, and to take concrete action that opens a path where everything seems closed. This is St-Justin's guiding principle for 2026, a year in which we want to open new avenues:

- inviting you to place a wish on the wishing tree located in the heart of the Cité in Fribourg, in a symbolic space open to all,
- offering you the opportunity to meet and exchange with students,
- coming to meet you to get to know you and discover your vision of St-Justin and your ideas for the future.

This first editorial is not a statement of intent, but rather an invitation. An invitation to meet, to show solidarity, to build a vision for tomorrow together, to trust and to be trusted.

On behalf of the entire St-Justin team, I hope you enjoy reading this and wish you a wonderful holiday season.

I look forward to meeting you.

Natacha Roos, Director



Natacha Roos, an altruistic director

"Her desire to take concrete action to create a fairer world by supporting the education of students from emerging countries makes her the ideal director to guide the Foundation into the future."

Mgr Charles Morerod, Bishop, President of the Oeuvre Saint-Justin Foundation

The St-Justin Foundation Board has appointed Natacha Roos as director of the institution. She is the first woman to hold this position since the organisation was founded in 1927. She took up her post in August.

Natacha Roos oversees five university residences in Fribourg, Zurich, Geneva, Sion and Lausanne, comprising 450 rooms allocated to students of 110 nationalities, and supports 115 scholarship holders from emerging countries, assisted by 43 staff members.

A UNANIMOUSLY WELCOMED APPOINTMENT

The recruitment process was conducted in a participatory manner, with staff representatives included in the selection committee. At the end of this process, the Foundation Board unanimously appointed Natacha Roos. She impressed with her strategic and operational experience, her unifying leadership, her ability to listen and her deeply human and intercultural vision.

THE JOURNEY OF A COMMITTED WOMAN

Natacha Roos, 47, is the mother of two teenagers. She studied history and geography at the University of Fribourg before training in cultural management and then public administration in Lausanne. Her professional career began in the cultural and socio-cultural fields, which she explored for around ten years in French-speaking Switzerland. For eleven years as head of the City of Fribourg's Culture Department and manager of the Agglomeration's cultural fund within Coriolis Infrastructures, she developed a culture for all based on numerous interdisciplinary partnerships.

In 2021, she was elected to the 'Forum des 100', which recognises influential figures in French-speaking Switzerland. She founded and directs OrganiCité, a nationally active organisation that promotes social and cultural innovation. In 2024, this initiative was recognised with two awards. In 2025, Natacha Roos was elected to the committee of Médiation culturelle suisse. She now puts her skills, Swiss network and energy at the service of the St-Justin Foundation.

"It has always been important to me to work concretely for people's well-being; that has been the guiding principle of my career.

With St-Justin, I want to encourage and promote young people from around the world through the memorable experience they have with us, but also the people here who want to work for the common good."

Natacha Roos, Director



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The Œuvre Saint-Justin Foundation

The Foundation allows us to be more effective and focus on our true mission: putting our residents and scholarship recipients at the centre of our attention.

Roland Carrupt, Vice-President.

Founded in 2023, the Foundation was created from the merger of the four associations that previously managed the homes. This new legal structure lays the foundations for a solid organisation. Director Natacha Roos is supported by a Foundation Board composed of recognised and committed individuals with strong values from all over Switzerland. It is chaired by Mgr Charles Morerod, our highly visionary bishop, and vice-chaired by Mr Roland Carrupt, who is very dynamic and committed.



MEMBERS OF THE FOUNDATION COUNCIL

Charles Morerod
Roland Carrupt
Fouad Bitar
Françoise Defferard
Georges Emery
Edgar Jenny
Daniel Känel
François Membrez
Darcy Molnar
Antoinette Musard
Michael Rappo
Benoît Robyr
Erwin Tanner

Giant first steps

A five-step action plan sets out a clear framework until the centenary launch in 2027.

The new director faces exciting challenges: structuring the Foundation, organising its work, strengthening internal and external collaborations, and above all, building relationships. Added to this is a challenge that affects us all: supporting and encouraging students in an uncertain international context, where access to education, security and mobility can no longer be guaranteed.

1. August 2025: **active listening**: not as a spectator, but as an active participant: visiting every household, sleeping on site, meeting and working with everyone, listening to what is going well and what needs to change. This approach says it all: the future of St-Justin is being built with those who work, live and spend time there. Not from a distance, not from above, but together.
2. September 2025: **the reorganisation begins**, supported by all employees. Nine colleagues from Fribourg spend a day helping the Geneva team clear out the home, then one caretaker and one housekeeper work one day a week on site, providing an opportunity to forge good relationships.
3. October-November 2025: **the initial guidelines** are approved by the Executive Committee and then the Foundation Board: setting out a vision for the future of the Foundation.
4. January-September 2026: **development of the 2040 vision** through a participatory process involving people from different backgrounds.
5. December 2026: **approval of the vision**.

2027: CELEBRATION OF 100 YEARS OF ST-JUSTIN AND PRESENTATION OF THE 2040 VISION.



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Let's meet on Thursday

**29 January at 4 p.m.
in Fribourg**

**5 February at 10 a.m.
in Sion**

**19 March at 4 p.m.
in Geneva**

**26 March at 4 p.m.
in Zurich**

Dear readers, dear friends of Saint-Justin,

With the desire to imagine and then implement with you a vision for the future of St-Justin, we are pleased to invite you to meet us in different locations across Switzerland. The first discussions will take place in our homes, providing a wonderful opportunity to discover them and meet students in a warm setting, over a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits.

We want to get to know you and gather your opinions and ideas on the present and future of the St-Justin Foundation so that we can develop it harmoniously, through discussion and co-construction. The mission of supporting the students of the OEuvre St-Justin is essential to ensuring the prosperity of the values we hold dear.

You probably also have some excellent ideas about this newsletter or about the centenary of St-Justin in 2027. Well, we're all ears. These moments of exchange are the perfect place to discuss them. Our door is also open all year round for suggestions.

For organisational purposes and to provide you with further details, please register by calling 026 351 16 16 or emailing justinfr@justinus.ch at least 7 days before the meeting.



Anish Ghimire, a Nepalese PhD student in biomedical sciences at the University of Bern, surrounded by Sima Tashtish, Scholarship Officer, and Natacha Roos, Director.

Providing good training means giving young people a better future

How can you help us accomplish our mission?
Through a gesture of solidarity:

A donation | a bequest | a sponsorship | a contribution to the St. Rita Fund for people in need | a contribution to the St. Monica Fund for the training of priests and religious | subscribe to the St. Justin newsletter, published four times a year | send us your stamp collections.

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10 TESTIMONIAL



Meet one of our scholarship recipients, learn about their background and their work on remembrance during a convivial gathering.

Just with

To get to know the students welcomed and supported by St-Justin, discover their work and the homes where they stay, we are offering a new event called "**Juste avec**" (Just with). For about twenty minutes, the future graduate presents their personal journey and then the subject of their dissertation or thesis. A convivial moment over tea allows participants to continue their discussions and forge links.

On the 11th of December, we welcomed Narindra, a Madagascan priest who is the recipient of a St Justin scholarship and has just completed his canonical degree in theology at the University of Fribourg. His thesis, entitled 'Divine Providence in Saint Luke (Luke 12:22-32)' under the supervision of PD Dr James Maurice Morgan, explores the theme of divine providence. He demonstrates that the theme of Providence is present in this pericope written in ancient Greek, despite the absence of the term 'Pronoia' (Providence). Narindra's interest in this theme stems from his personal history, which he defines as guided by Providence.

Born into a modest family, he never imagined that he would one day have the opportunity to study at one of Europe's most renowned theological faculties. After training as a priest and studying philosophy in Madagascar, Narindra obtained a Bachelor's degree in theology in Italy. In September 2023, he joined the University of Fribourg thanks to a scholarship from the St Justin Foundation.

During his years in Fribourg, Narindra also became involved in the local Christian community, spending his weekends working with the Saint-Pierre Les Roches, Notre Dame de La Brillaz and Sainte-Trinité pastoral units. He is very grateful to the Oeuvre St-Justin, which enabled him not only to continue his academic career, but also to enjoy a deeply enriching personal experience. He remembers his time in Fribourg fondly for the many connections and friendships he forged with other priests and students in the intercultural



Narindra

Tsirinaina Urlick Narindra is a Malagasy priest, ordained on 17 July 2022. He holds a degree in Theology (Faculty of Theology of Southern Italy, Italy). With a St Justin scholarship for his canonical licentiate in Theology at the University of Fribourg, he presented his thesis on 18 December 2025.



environment of the Cité St-Justin. He marvelled at Swiss precision and discipline, while delighting in the kindness of the residents once the ice was broken.

Narindra thanks the Saint-Justin Foundation for its support and guidance over the past two years. He cherishes his experience in Fribourg, which will accompany him in his future projects: a doctorate in Paris, then a return to his Malagasy community where, in the spirit of St Justin, he will pass on his knowledge and experience to serve the needs of the local Church and his country.

OUR NEXT EVENT

Thursday, 5 March 2026 at 5 p.m. in St-Justin
Fribourg

Just with Jean Coëvence Razanakolona

Free admission, registration at 026 351 16 16 or
via justinfr@justinus.ch until 26 February 2026

Donated stamps = 20 annual scholarships

The 25th Œuvre St-Justin stamp auction took place on 18 October 2025 in Fribourg. It was a resounding success, demonstrating tremendous solidarity with our mission to educate young people around the world.

Thanks to Alois and his team, Ursula, Bruno and Elisabeth, with the help of our staff, scholarship holders and volunteers, a total of CHF 31,000 was raised. This money will be awarded in full in the form of scholarships to young people in training around the world.

This result is the fruit of a great deal of work carried out throughout the year by our team of philatelists, who maintain contact with loyal donors and catalogue the various valuable items we receive for this initiative.

A CONCRETE POSITIVE IMPACT TO SUPPORT EDUCATION

As every year, all proceeds from the auction are donated to support the education of students around the world through scholarships awarded to deserving students. This amount provides annual scholarships to twenty university students abroad.





SUPPORT STUDENTS IN TRAINING IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

We accept valuable items (stamps, watches, precious objects, and collectibles) throughout the year for our annual auction. You can also support scholarship recipients by purchasing collectible stamps and watches at any time via our website (<https://justinus.ch/philatelie/>) or by contacting Alois Müller by telephone on 076 386 61 96 or by email at almueller@bluewin.ch.

OUR NEXT SALE

The next auction will be held on 17 October at 1 p.m. in Fribourg.

Come to Fribourg, it's worth the detour

The St-Justin team is delighted to invite you and your loved ones to enjoy some wonderful moments together during the festive season. There are lots of new things to enjoy this year, including:

- **The Christmas crib**, enhanced this year by **Boris Dennler**, an internationally renowned artist from Fribourg, who describes his approach as follows: "A simple blue disc, symbolising the divine brought down to earth, with the sacred fire of birth at its centre. A freely composed scene where all living beings are equal. A museum-quality art installation that highlights the work of wood sculptors Ferdinand Stuflesser and his magnificent timeless pieces from St-Justin."
- **The wishing tree** lights up the heart of the city of Fribourg as a symbol of hope. **Everyone is invited to make a wish between now and 4 January**, using the materials provided on site. Inaugurated on Saint Nicholas Day on 5 December, which brought together around a hundred people for an enchanted evening, this tree is a symbol of intercultural encounters.
- **The glass canopy**, complete with a table and lights, also installed in the garden at the heart of the Cité, allows everyone to come and share a drink, a chat or even a fondue with friends, or simply find the materials to write their wish before hanging it on the Christmas tree.

OUR NEXT EVENT

- **Epiphany**, on Sunday 4 January, will be an opportunity to enjoy galette des rois and tea after the 4pm Mass, during which blessings and prayers will be given.





My wish FOR 2026 WOULD BE...



Come and place your wish on the Wish Tree located in the student home of Fribourg by 4 January. The wishes will be blessed on Epiphany. The 4 p.m. mass will be followed by a complimentary Three Kings' Day snack.