

## Upper Austria HARP Meeting - "To be a fighter for God"

Linz, Austria, 31. October 2013



**W**e held our first HARP meeting this school year. The meeting was organized by the staff of the Upper Austrian HARP leadership in cooperation with the leadership from the Tyrol. About 35, on average, 2nd gen between 11 and 24, coming from almost all regions of Austria, participated. We held the meeting in our new center in Linz, Humboldtstraße. The meeting's motto was "To be a fighter for God", which we tried to integrate in our activities.

Beginning of our meeting was on the evening of the 31st, which happens to be Halloween. So after having dinner, we gave the HARPies the opportunity to have a chance to go Trick or Treat for 2 hours. Additionally we held a costume contest, whose winner would get a 25 % on the fee. Before going to sleep, we each shared about our experiences and got ready for the next day.

For the next day, we planned a small Adventure Day/Challenge day. The Adventure day's, theme was a medieval one. Each team, had roles assigned (monk, princess, knight, thief, mule etc), that all had special abilities, and goal was to go through stations and get as many points as possible, based on performance, creativity, and investment. We chose the Eferdinger Becken (which is about 30 min drive) as our Adventure day site. Especially as Eferding and its surrounding are very rich in history and also

spirituality. Thanks to family Schmerda, we were able to have a shuttle from the train station to our main site, the Schaunburg (see picture below) and also have a station at their house nearby.

We finished around 4 pm and then headed back to Linz in order to be in time for Rev. Ahn's visit at the centre that night. Then we received Rev. Ahn, together with the Linzer community. He was quite glad, to see so many 2nd generation. He gave guidance for about 2 2/5 hours and also shared parts of his life testimony. Especially the older 2nd gen, were quite inspired and could really benefit a lot. The younger ones struggled a lot, mainly because of fatigue and language barrier. We ended the day, with a few games and gave them time to relax after such an intense day.

The next morning we had a lecture given by Reinhard and Kasia Bauer. The topic, that was chosen, was, referring to the meeting's motto, „Fighter for God“. They split their lecture into two halves, one focusing on the theoretical/spiritual part, the other on practical aspect. Core content included the questions, for example „What is a fighter for God“, „What to fight for“ and „How and when shall we fight“ and also a small meditation was done.

This was a good finish for our meeting. All in all it was quite successful, and we all had a good time.

*Gabriel Beutl*

