

## **Power point presentation on occasion of the action „Love Letters from God“ (foil 1)**

For eight years the archdiocese of Vienna has organized the action „Love letters from God“ on St. Valentine´s Day. These letters are personally distributed in public places, bus or tramstops or hospitals. Our parish, being one of the parishes on the outskirts (foil 2), is situated at a traffic junction of trains, metros and buslines. That´s why many passengers pass by in this place. We took part in that project for the first time, although we had our doubts if people would accept this offer or rather throw away the letter into the litter bins without reading them. Moreover the proposed official wording didn´t please us. That´s why we made our own version of this loveletter with the following contents (foil3+4):

### ***Love Letter from God on St. Valentine´s Day***

***To you!***

***You are important to me. Do you sometimes think of me?***

***I always stay at your side. I accompany you. I am happy with you and I suffer with you when you don´t feel well.***

***You can read it in the bible:***

- ***„I am on the way with you“ (st. John 17,13)***
- ***„Who seeks me, will find me“ (Book of Proverbs 8,7)***
- ***„Don´t be afraid, I am with you“ (Isaiah 43,5)***

***If you want to calm down and listen to your innermost self you may get aware of it.***

***If you open your eyes to the beauties of nature,***

***if you open your ears to music,***

***if you meet people who love and appreciate you, you can meet me.***

***Also in the daily challenges awaiting you I am with you.***

***My house is open to you. Every day. Perhaps you´ll pass by.***

***The place is***

***Church Namen Jesu***

***1120 Vienna, Darnautgasse 3***

***(near Philadelphiabrücke)***

***You can speak in silence with me or you may write down what has been in your mind for a long time.***

***On St. Valentine's Day, February 14th, and additionally in the weeks before Easter, every Tuesday and Thursday, from 16 to 18 there will be meditative music and texts, and people you can address if you want to.***

***I am looking forward to you, because you are close to my heart.***

***In love with you***

***God***

Parish members distributed 1000 of these letters in the morning (from 6.30 to 8 o'clock) at the entrances of the nearby underground station. Approaches to many grateful people came about who got out of their daily routine trot (foil 5) and on whose faces the gift of the Valentine letter produced a miraculous smile. Later on we were told that some people had attached those love letters to the walls of their homes.

This love letter was to remind them that all of us are God's beloved daughters and sons and that we are accepted by Him without reservation.

Moreover the letter contained an invitation to pop in at our church, always accessible during the day, to which a new, clearly visible sign on the wall points the way saying „Time for you. Open church“ ( foil 6).

During the period from St. Valentine's Day to Easter there were additional offers, twice every week (foil 7).

Various stops were put up that encouraged praying and meditation.

There were also a so-called wailing wall (foil 8) and inspiring thoughts concerning our Cloth on the topic of Lent (foil 9) as well as various quotations from the bible to be taken home as an inspiration for the following week.

Meditation music live or from CD was played. Moreover two parish members were at disposal for talk.

Our experience was, that this action was a success.

More than 500 leaflets with quotations from the bible were taken away.

Numerous slips of paper with wishes, complaints and laments were deposited in a box provided. They were included in the prayers of Good Friday and burned on Easter morning (foil 10).

People stated that they were - and still are – especially grateful for our church, open all day through (foil 11), which offers the opportunity to stop in between, take a rest, supply energy for the daily routine and – perhaps – have a date with God.(foil12)