

## **Graduation of the 8th group of the Intercultural Theology students**

On Friday, July 6 the graduation celebration of the 8th group of the Intercultural Theology programme took place at the Theologische Stift in Goettingen. Many guests and the Intercultural Theology students of the 2nd semester joined the feast.

Dean Prof. Dr. Florian Wilk emphasized in his opening speech that “Humanity first” is our common goal to which any theological education is committed to. As written in the letter to the Galatians Gal 3,27f, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” That means there is no distinction of person, social or gender status. The Intercultural Theology programme analyses the cultural variety in our global world and fosters intercultural and interreligious communication and interaction among students. This serves our common goal.

In the part of the University of Applied Sciences for Intercultural Theology Hermannsburg Prof. Dr. Ulrike Schroeder, academic coordinator of the M.A. programme Intercultural Theology in Hermannsburg, congratulated the students. She expressed her hope that the students may take the achieved strength with them to the places they will live and work at. Following the famous theologian Friedrich Schleiermacher, Prof. Dr. Reinhard Feldmeier reminded that studying theology never comes to an end and that it remains our infinite task to study theology. Students of Intercultural Theology are important bridge-builders over continents and trenches.

The Intercultural Theology students gave thanks to all teachers, to responsible persons of the M.A. programme and to their fellow students. All the group discussions, common meetings and talks had been enriching, many ideas and new impulses have provided ‘food for thought’ to take along.

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult Martin Tamcke and Prof. Dr. Dr. Frieder Ludwig reminded of the beginning of the M.A. programme nine years ago. We are a learning community, Tamcke said, and learning from each other for a better understanding of each other as a value in itself is one of the columns of the programme.

Dr. Heiko Wojtkowiak and Student Council representative Jonas Trodler congratulated and expressed their gratitude to the students for their willingness to live together and to learn from each other.

PD Dr. Fritz Heinrich, academic coordinator of the M.A. programme Intercultural Theology in Goettingen, used the example of the red carnations as symbol of solidarity, emancipation, justice and peace to develop the goal of the M.A. program. He spared no pains to get seed of red carnations. All participants got some seed to plant these symbolical flowers. As a gift from the Theological Faculty the students also received a cup showing the Theologicum in spring time filled with chocolate.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who has helped to make this celebration a lasting good memory.

Cornelia Schlarb