

May the Easter Season continue as a time of great joy in the Risen Christ. Two events, one past on Good Friday, and one coming up May 1-4, are very noteworthy for those interested in witnessing to the Risen Christ as Christians converge to do so better.

I was invited by Dr. Bob Brenneman, whom many may remember from his presentation at St. Patrick's Church, St. Paul, MN, on April 15/16, 2015, to attend "Good Friday Prayer for Muslims," with him and his daughter Lela, at Wooddale Church, Eden Prairie (an evangelical mega-church), on Good Friday, from 11 am to 1 pm. About 80 evangelicals, for the second year in a row, prayed for Muslims to accept Christ, and to be welcome in the Twin Cities area. The meeting began with a Scripture text and Dr. Brenneman explaining the verse from the Koran which states that Jesus did not die on the Cross (4:157). We then each prayed at our table, which held about 8 people, from a program of 10 topics, beginning with a description of Twin Cities Muslim People Groups, and ending with Our Muslim Friends, that God would stir up a curiosity in them to learn more about Jesus. We heard from two who have accepted Jesus and are looking for a hospitable church .

Dr. Brenneman invited me to describe the conversion experience of the 24 year old St. Eugene de Mazenod, on Good Friday, 1807, and his visit to Tunisia as a bishop in 1842, when he and several other clergy observed Friday prayer in a mosque. Lamenting that the Moslems did not know Christ, he nonetheless urged that "unworthy Christians, who do not know how to pray and who daily profane our temples by their irreverence" would imitate Moslem public prayer. The evangelicals welcomed my remarks.

You may see a photo of Dr. Brenneman at St. Pat's, and summary of his presentation there in 2015 on the MUD website, Dialogue/Islam page, "Witnessing to Moslems--Is It Possible?"

The second event is the hosting of the National Workshop on Christian Unity at the Hilton Hotel in Minneapolis, from Monday evening to Thursday noon, May 1-4. You may pull this up on the internet. The diocesan and religious order officials responsible for ecumenism in the R.C Church (CADEIO), Eastern Christianity, Episcopalian (EDEIO), Lutheran (LEIRN, and Methodist (UMEIT) have been gathering yearly in a different city in the USA since 1969. This year, for the first time, the Consortium of Evangelical Networks for Unity (CEN) will join us. Some of events are open to the public and will be very inspiring.

Many thanks for your prayers following our last communication of April 11, which enabled me to participate in the Good Friday evangelical service. Please pray for the success of the NWCU, and consider attending one of the events.

Fr. Harry