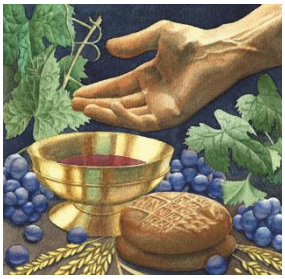
Many thanks



Dear friends and supporters,

It was with great pleasure and deep gratitude that – on October 11, 2026 – I was able to celebrate my 30th anniversary as a priest and the 10th anniversary of the foundation *Korbgemeinschaft*. The celebration involved a large gathering of friends and supporters who, with a loving and brotherly kindness, support the aid projects of *Korbgemeinschaft* for the benefit of needy people in Syria. There were touching and deeply moving moments, both in the church and in the parish hall, which personally encouraged me to continue my priestly and charitable ministry with renewed strength and determination. More than 150 friends from several countries joined to share the joy of the anniversary celebration with me. Many other friends sent their apologies – either because of scheduling conflicts or because the trip to Vienna would have been too arduous for them.

In my sermon, I focused on the hand of the Lord, which was laid upon me during my ordination by the hand of the shepherd. This hand signifies a mission that comes from the Lord and, at the same time, the power and strength to fulfill that mission. The mission is: to reveal the glory of God, especially in times of need. “Do everything for the glory of God!” (1 Cor 10:31) was the motto for my ordination in 1996. Through *Korbgemeinschaft*, which arose out of the crisis in Syria, I see this glory in the hands of many supporters. God is at work in these times of crisis. He acts through our hands.

I think it’s wonderful what our Lord accomplishes through our hands. When I look back on the past 10 years and the projects we have carried out, I think to myself, “The priestly life is like a dream.” This dream becomes reality because there are still helping hands at work to make it happen. Our God is truly glorious.

At this point, I would like to thank all of you for your helping hands, which support and strengthen me in my priesthood.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the wishes of happiness and blessings, which have given me so much strength and confidence; thank you for the symbolic gifts and for the generous donations, which show great compassion and solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Syria.

At the request of many friends, I am sending you the text of the sermon and some photos of the thanksgiving celebration, along with a YouTube link to the video produced by the young helpers in Syria and shown during the celebration in the parish hall.

United with you in prayer,

Your Fr. Hanna Ghoneim

Vienna, November 19, 2026