



Desmond Tutu to receive a Honorary Doctorate by the University of Vienna

The University of Vienna will confer the degree “Doctor Theologiae honoris causa” on the South African Theologian and Peace Nobel Prize Winner, Dr Desmond Tutu. The university based its decision on Tutu’s outstanding achievement of developing and establishing the so-called “Ubuntu Theology”. The Graduation Ceremony will take place on Friday, 12 June, 2009, in the Grand Celebration Hall of the University of Vienna.

Desmond Tutu is among the most distinguished contemporary theologians of the world. He has made major contributions to classical liberation theology by integrating the principles of South African Ubuntu philosophy into his theological thinking and developing it into “Ubuntu Theology”, which in academia is also referred to as “Public Theology”. The word “ubuntu” derives from the South African language of Nguni and may be rendered by “humanity”, “compassion”. Tutu developed his Ubuntu-Theology in the context of the South African Apartheid-regime (1948-1990) and against the colonial European theological backdrop of White dominance when he finally had the opportunity to apply it in the course of his commitment as Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. His thinking, his theology and his practical work in post-Apartheid South Africa has therefore attracted enormous international attention and had lasting impact on academic life as well as a considerable number of theological schools have meanwhile established academic units on “Public Theology”.

Charity Concert for the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation

Currently, Desmond Tutu devoted himself for the fight against the discrimination of homosexuals and against HIV and AIDS in South Africa, in particular concern for AIDS orphans. He also established the “Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation”, for which the University of Vienna powers a charity concert on Saturday, 13 June, 2009, starring Johan Botha and others.

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