

Catechumenate in Austria (april 2019)

Statistics show an increase of baptisms especially with the interest of refugees.

2015: 323

2016: 452

2017: 863

2018: 567

2019: estimated 700

Also asylum-seekers are interested. In that case it is very important to be transparent and to follow the ordinary well-grounded way of catechumenate. Conversion might be respected in juridical treatment, but it is not at all guaranteed that it is considered as an important argument.

The office for „Katechumenat und Asyl“ of the Austrian Bishop’s Conference is very busy to handle with these cases in cooperation with the dioceses, according to the law.

In some dioceses there is pastoral care in Farsi and Arabic language including catechesis and catechumenate. To support this some materials were published lately in Farsi-language: a prayer book, the Youcat, a catechetical brochure.

Besides that also the number of catechumens of original Austrian residence is slightly growing.

There are responsables for catechumenate in every diocese; usually they are also occupied with (many) other topics of pastoral care.

We have an annual meeting with the diocesan responsables.

The diocesan responsables for pastoral care are informed regularly.

The first Austrian Workshop-day for catechumenate will take place in october 2019.