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Excellence, Archbishop Evlogij
Rector of Sumy Theological Seminary

Per Mail

Fribourg/Freiburg, 26.11.2015/EJ

Your Excellence, dear Archbishop Evlogij,

with great joy I received the information about the opening of Sumy Theological Seminary. Theological formation is nowadays not only a contribution to the preparation of good priests and other pastoral collaborators in Christian communities, but also a service to the larger scientific community and to the society.

- Theology enables priests and pastoral collaborators to bear witness to the Christian faith and to transmit it on the basis of spiritual experiences, solid knowledge of the Holy Scripture, the Church Fathers, the ecclesial tradition as well as on the basis of a well-informed familiarity with the philosophical culture of wisdom.
- Theology equips students to collaborate on a better understanding of our complex world through an interdisciplinary exchange with other sciences and to discover traces of Gods mystery in all areas of life.
- Theology keeps alive, within the manifold threats and crises of our world, the potential for realizing peace, justice and reconciliation. It witnesses to the universal hope prepared for the individual person and whole humanity. To see the world as Gods creation is to be ready to act in an ecologically responsible way and to leave for the coming generations a cultivated space of life.

In our view, theology is closely linked with the search for a responsible form of life in today's modern and postmodern world. In our faculty we follow with vivid attention the preparations of the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church, as we commemorate this year in our catholic tradition the Jubilee of the 50th anniversary of the end of the second Vatican Council. May your Theological Seminary become a place in which, through prayer and reflection, a contribution is made to a fruit bearing witness, made by the Holy and Great Council, "so that the world may believe" (John 17,21).

The Theological Faculty of Fribourg cultivates, on the national and international level, an intensive exchange with other institutions of theological formation. We include in this exchange also theological schools of other Christian traditions. Our Institute for Ecumenical Studies maintains especially good contacts with theological institutions within the orthodox tradition. This Institute will be available in the future as a partner of dialogue for the collaboration on the level of students, doctoral students and professors with Sumy Theological Seminary.

May the Apostle Andrew, who guided his brother Peter to Christ, protect your Seminary and may our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who has become for us Bread of Life, bless the work of the Seminary. Mnogaya leta!

Hans Ulrich Steymans

Prof. Dr. Hans Ulrich Steymans o.p.,
Dean of the Faculty of Theology of Fribourg University