



DIALOGUE INTERRELIGIEUX MONASTIQUE
MONASTIC INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

Scandinavian MIDDIM meeting 2016

Tautra Mariakloster/Trondheim 27.-30.april 2016

Reza Shah-Kazemi was supposed to be the input person for our meeting, but he was unable to travel. This forced me to make contact with a priest in the Church of Norway (Lutheran) who has dialogue with the Muslim Society in Trondheim. We had a trial run of the program we are having for the European coordinators on Tautra Sept.12-16.

Imam Tayeb Berghout, translator Emir Krilic and Rev Olav Svanholm met us for lunch at Nidaros cathedral. Fr Egil Mogstad gave us a tour of the cathedral and then we hastened to the mosque for prayer at 13.30. The imam allowed us all, including the women, to be present in the main mosque for this prayer. Usually women pray in a separate room. After the prayer, we had about an hour and a half of dialogue with Tayeb and Emir. Tayeb is from Algeria and is French-speaking. Emir is from Bosnia and speaks English. Tayeb is a very open man, and opened the dialogue by saying that the most important thing is that we are all human beings first.

He explained that there are many mosques in Trondheim, and that his community is actually composed of three strands (I think). They tend to take the lowest common denominator among these different interpretations of the law. There are many immigrants in Trondheim. I guess they use Arabic for their prayer, but all their instruction, including the imam's preaching, is in Norwegian. The problem of many different languages is one of the greatest challenges to the Tautra community.

Ester Røen is the leader of the Kristent Interkulturelt Arbeid and is perhaps the person in Trondheim who has most contact and dialogue with muslims. She has recently joined our commission and will be participating in part of the current meeting.

Sr Sheryl Chen/Tautra Mariakloster