

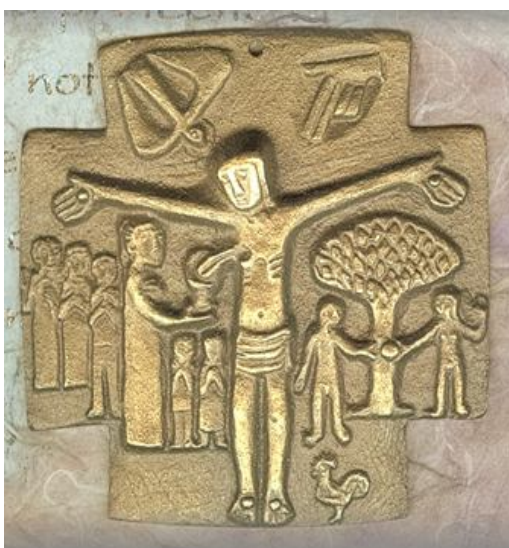
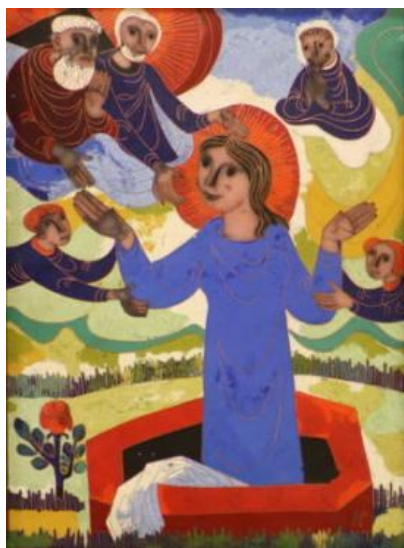
IN MEMORY OF EGINO WEINERT

A LAY ARTIST AT THE SERVICE OF THE GOSPEL HE EXPRESSED IN ALL HIS WORKS

Announcing the sad event of German artist Eginio Weinert's death on September 4th, we want to remember the artistic career and the difficult life of this great 20th century enameller.



Eginio Günther Weinert (aka Franz Stanislaus Günter Przybiski) was born on **March 3rd 1920** in Berlin in the quarter of Schöneberg. His childhood is soon marked by a deep faith in God¹ and a strong interest towards art; this passion pushed him to visit the museums in Berlin and to try and learn painting and sculpture at a very early age. He develops very soon the conviction to serve Christ by translating his Gospel into his art. His art wants to distance itself from the modern styles and to adopt stylized figures and a style later known as naïf.



Enamel, bas-relief and stained glass with the typical stylized figures by Eginio Weinert.

In **1934**, when he was just 14 years old, Eginio enters the Benedictine monastery of Münzerschwarzach as a student and after studying agriculture and commerce, he begins to work as a restorer and church painter by Brother Lukas in 1936. In **1937**, he studies sculpture by professor Valentin Kraus and **1941** it's the turn of goldsmith and silversmith arts. These are the years of Hitler's

¹ Eginio owes his faith to his mentor Romano Guardini (Verona, 1886 - Monaco di Baviera, 1968), teacher of Philosophy of Religion and considered one of the most influential theologians of the 20th century.

dictatorship, when Egino refused to perform the Nazi salute in public and was put under arrest. He was released two months from the prison of Würzburg later and forced to enlist in the navy during World War II. During the rest and recuperation leaves in the period **1942-1943**, he manages to continue his passion for art, mainly painting in Düsseldorf with his colleagues Günther Blunk and Ewald Jorzig and later goldsmith art in Bremen. In 1944, he graduated as master. At the end of the war, after long researches, he managed to find his mother who had moved in a quarter of Berlin under the control of the Russian troops.

In **October 1945**, Egino Weinert suffers a new terrible loss. During a black out, a Russian soldier gives his mother a fuse to turn the light on. But the fuse was filled with explosive: it was Egino's mother who unknowingly gave him the bomb that mutilated his right hand. After a long and difficult medical care in an American hospital, Egino is finally discharged and can try to be admitted in the Benedictine monastery of Münsterschwarzach, who has survived the war. Nevertheless, he is admitted solely as a goldsmith.



Egino Weinert works despite his handicap.

His loss of the right hand means that he couldn't produce any artistic works; nevertheless, Egino doesn't surrender and decides to exercise his left hand in the production of enamel works with Biblical and religious themes. In **1947**, he produces his first one-handed artistic work: the Peace Table. He also attends great artists and produces some bronze sculptures on his own.



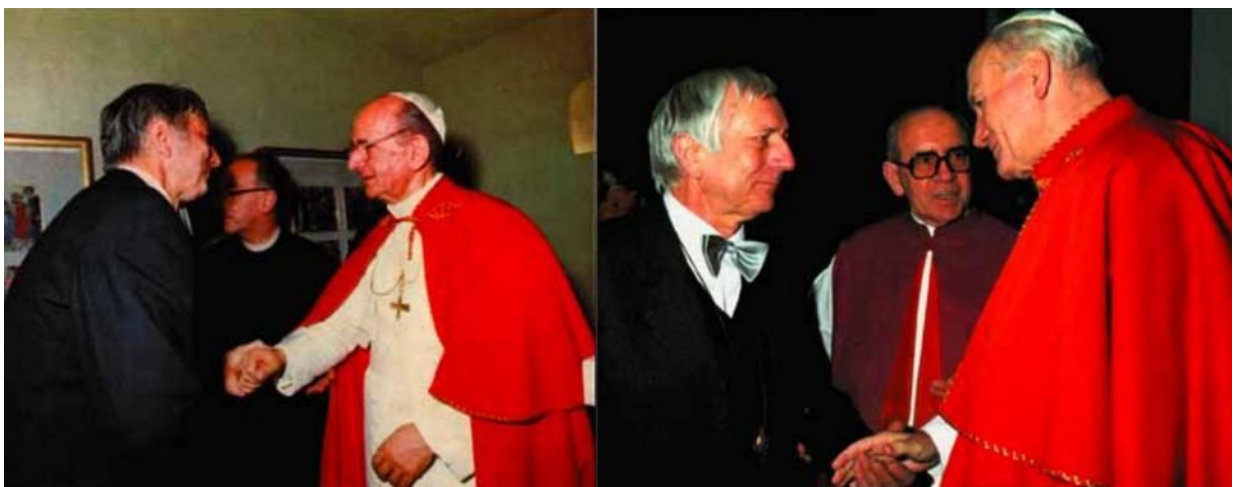
*The first one-handed work
of Egino Weinert:
The Peace Altar*

Egino wants to take his vows in the Benedictine Order, but in **1949** the Chapter of monks assembled and decided against his suitability because of his handicap and his reduced autonomy. The same refusal was confirmed by the Franciscans. The 29-years old artist was thus forced to return to live in the outer world after a whole monastery-oriented life. Egino obviously feels abandoned by all, but a meeting with *Teresa Neumann*² encourages him, claiming that God had new greater plans on him. He finds new hope and begins to expose his works for sell in Bonn in the library of *Anneliese Leopold*, a fatherless girl who will become his wife in **1951**. Egino founds his little private workshop and 1952 a second workshop in Lucerne: he can finally commit to his mission of lay artist. In this period, he fathers three sons and one daughter.



Cover of a Gospel book by Egino Weinert, decorated with enamel and gemstones.

In **1956**, he builds and opens both a new home and a laboratory in Cologne in Marzellenstrasse n.42. Important events are also the opening of his first workshop in Spain in **1963** and his first meeting with *Pope Paul VI*. Egino Weinert, now 43, seems to have found the balance and serenity he has been looking for throughout his life. During this period, his production ranges over a wide variety of sacred art. Many of his works have even been commissioned by the Popes of the last century.



Meetings of Egino Weinert with Popes Paul VI and John Paul II.

² A German nun and seer (1898-1962).

Nevertheless, Egino suffers a new disgrace, aged 65, when his wife dies in **1985** after a long illness. In the same year, the artist is awarded with the **Federal Cross of Merit**. Egino later marries Waltraud Foerster. Ten years later, in **1995**, Egino celebrates his 75th birthday with a Mass in his honor in the Cologne Cathedral.



*On the left: a postage stamp from Luxembourg after a work of Egino Weinert (Christmas 1997).
On the right: Egino and his second wife.*

In **2000**, Egino completes his wonderful stained glasses in the Benedictine monastery of Waegwan in the North Gyeongsang Province (South Korea) and publicly celebrates his 80th birthday. This event will be repeated in **2010** on occasion of his 90th birthday: this is the last public appearance of Egino in his long and fruitful career. Egino Weinert died on September 4th 2012, ages 92, and rests in the cemetery of Kleinkönigsdorf³.



A stained glass from the Benedictine monastery of Waegwan (South Korea).

³ A village north of Frechen (Rhein-Erft-Kreis district), about 20 minutes from Cologne by car.

Biography

- 1920** Egino G. Weinert is born on March 3rd in Berlin (Schöneberg quarter).
- 1934** The 14-years old Egino enters the Benedictine abbey of Münzerschwarzach.
- 1935** He studies agriculture and commerce for two years.
- 1936** He begins to work as restorer and church painter by Brother Lukas.
- 1937** He learns sculpture by Professor Valentin Kraus.
- 1941** He passes the examinations for professional suitability in goldsmith and silversmith arts.
He refuses to perform the Nazi salute and is put under arrest. He is released from the Würzburg prison two months later and is forced to enlist in the navy.
- 1942** He works as painter with colleagues Günther Blunk and Ewald Jorzig during R&R leaves.
- 1943** He passes the examinations to become goldsmith and silversmith in Bremen.
- 1944** Egino graduates as master.
- 1945** Return at the cloister in March; he is employed as goldsmith. In Autumn, he loses his right hand.
- 1946** Egino produces his first one-handed work, the Table of Peace.
- 1947** Painter Ewald Jorzig from Düsseldorf pays a visit to the cloister and persuades the abbey to send Egino to specialize at the art school of Cologne. The young artist studies goldsmith art in the classes of Professor Elisabeth Treskow, sculpture on metal by Professor J. Jaeckel, graphics by Professor Hußmann and artistic foundry for one semester.
- 1949** The Benedictine Chapter refuses his vows to the Order and expels him from the monastery. Egino attends the School of Painting by Professor Vordemberge.
- 1950** He founds his goldsmith/painting/sculpture workshop in Kronprinzenstraße, Bonn.
- 1951** Egino marries Anneliese Leopold in Bonn.
- 1952** His first daughter Gisela.
- 1954** Egino opens his first art gallery in Kronprinzenstraße. His first son, Clemens, is born.
- 1956** Egino moves both house and workshop in Cologne.
- 1957** His second son, Egino, is born.
- 1961** His third and last son, Fidelis, is born.
- 1963** Opening of the second workshop in Denia, Spain. First meeting with Pope Paul VI.
- 1980** The Cologne stadium and the exposition room in Waldstraße, Königsdorf are expanded.

- 1985** Death of his wife Anneliese after a long illness. Eginoweinert is awarded with the Federal Cross of Merit. He marries his second wife, Waltraud Foerster.
- 1994** He celebrates his 50 years of painting, sculpture and goldsmith art.
- 1995** Mass in the Cologne Cathedral on occasion of Eginoweinert's 75th birthday and celebrations with over 100 guests in Königsdorf.
- 1997** The Luxembourg Post Office prints a Christmas post mark after a painting of Eginoweinert.
- 2000** The stained glasses of the Benedictine monastery of Waegwan (South Korea) are completed. Celebrations for the 80th birthday of Eginoweinert.
- 2010** Mass in the Cologne Cathedral on occasion of the 90th birthday of Eginoweinert.
- 2012** Eginoweinert dies on September 4th, aged 92.



Four stained glasses from the Benedictine cloister of Waegwan, portraying the life of Jesus: from the left: childhood and baptism; public life and election of the twelve apostles; entrance in Jerusalem and Last Supper; Passion and Crucifixion of Christ.

Visit Eginoweinert's official website here: www.eginoweinert.de (German).
 List of some of his works: www.eginoweinert.de/werke-projekte/werklste.html.