

Bishop Werner Freistetter

Short bio

The Austrian Military Ordinariate was established in 1986 by Pope John Paul II. It is responsible for the pastoral care of soldiers, soldiers, civil servants in the Austrian army and retired army members and their dependents.

Werner Freistetter was born in 1953 in Linz, Austria. His father was an officer of the Austrian Armed Forces. After his military service as a one-year volunteer, he joined in 1973 to the Vienna Seminary and studied theology at the University of Vienna. In 1975, he continued his training at the German College et Hungaricum and at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. In 1979, he was ordained a priest in Rome and then worked as a chaplain in Baden and Perchtoldsdorf. 1984/1985 Werner Freistetter was a military chaplain at the Golan in use.

After his return, he worked as an assistant at the Institute for Ethics and Social Sciences at the University of Vienna Catholic Theology. There he worked on the topics international order, peace ethics, and principles of international law. During this time, he was first curate in Altlerchenfeld and then priest in the parish on cordon. In 1993, he received a doctorate in theology and worked until 1997 at the Pontifical Council for Culture in Rome.

In 1997, he returned as head of, called by Military Bishop Christian Werner to life, the Institute on Religion and Peace of the Catholic Military Chaplaincy Austria to Vienna. The following years were marked by staffing and organizational structure of the Institute of Research on ethical challenges of military service, as well as extensive lecturing among others at the Navy Postgraduate School in the US. He worked for several years in the delegation of the Holy See to the OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe), was a military chaplain in Bosnia, Kosovo and Lebanon in use, and was pastorally active in various parishes Vienna. Freistetter since 2005 spiritual assistant of the International Catholic Organization soldiers AMI. In March 2006 he was appointed by Military Bishop Werner for Episcopal Vicar for Science and Research, theological fundamental issues and international relations.

The Military Ordinariate is divided into 18 parishes domestic and 2 overseas parishes and is responsible for approximately 90 000 people.