



Top left picture: Maja Alsbach is always a happy baby ; **top right picture:** Inside St. Jakobus Old Catholic Church in Koblenz, Germany: Bishop Gérard LaPlante officiating at the baptism of Maja; behind him Deacon Herbert Swoboda, front left with his back to the camera the former Vicar General of the Old Catholic Church of Germany Fr. Hans-Werner Schlenzig, the Godmother Mrs. Daniela Klimatschka and the parents Mrs. Astrid & Mr. Jürgen Alsbach

Baptism in Koblenz, Germany

On a joyous Sunday, January 18, 2009, parents, grandparents, friends, and parishioners gathered at St. Jakobus Old Catholic Church in Koblenz, Germany to witness the baptism of Maja Carlotta Alsbach, born July 29, 2008 to Mr. & Mrs. Jürgen (Astrid) Alsbach.

For the occasion Bishop Gérard LaPlante of the Old Catholic Church of BC (Canada) - a friend for many years - traveled to Germany to administer the sacrament. Mr. Jürgen Alsbach was a member of St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church in Vancouver, BC; he joined *(continued on the next page)*

Below left picture: Family Alsbach with Bishop Gérard LaPlante **Right picture:** left to right, back row: The Rev. Fr. Hans-Werner Schlenzig, Bishop Gérard LaPlante. Front row: A family friend, Mr. Theo Alsbach (grandfather), Mrs. Daniela Klimatschka (godmother), Mrs. Hanni Alsbach (grandmother), Mrs. Astrid Alsbach holding Maja, Mr. Jürgen Alsbach





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Top left picture: Bishop Gérard LaPlante with the grandparents, Mr. Theo and Mrs. Hanni Alsbach. **Top right picture:** In the fellowship hall of St. Jakobus Old Catholic Church in Koblenz, Germany after the baptism.

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(Continued from the first page) the Old Catholic Church of Germany (Utrecht Union) and is a board member of St. Jakobus Old Catholic Church. Following the baptism Holy Mass was concelebrated by the Rev. Fr. Hans-Werner Schlenzig and Bishop Gérard LaPlante, assisted by Deacon Herbert Swoboda. Also present were Mr. & Mrs. Benno (Maria) Riehl, who were married in January 1991 at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church. They joined the Old Catholic Church of Germany and their two girls were baptized at St. Jakobus Old Catholic Church.

Thanks to the missionary spirit of the Old Catholic Church of BC and it's Bishop Gérard LaPlante, all these people are now parishioners of the Old Catholic Church in Germany.

Below left picture: Bishop Gérard LaPlante (left) with Fr. Hans-Werner Schlenzig, the former Vicar General of the Old Catholic Church of Germany. **Below right picture:** Bishop Gérard LaPlante holding Lina Alsbach, Maja's older sister. Lina was baptized by Bishop Gérard LaPlante in June 2006 at St. Jakobus as well.

