

Dear Friends,

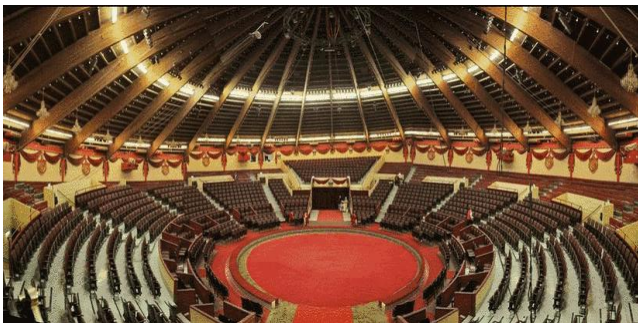
we want to keep you updated on the preparations for the Event which, as you know, will take place in Munich from 30th June to 2nd July 2016.

The profiles of the Congress and the Event are gradually becoming clearer. Over the last few months and weeks we have been working quite hard at different levels for this next big step of *Together*.

Currently we are forming teams for the Forums and the Round Tables of the Congress. Communities and Movements are invited to take part and collaborate in this process. In this way there will be greater dynamics in the preparations. Whoever is interested in knowing the current situation and would like to offer a contribution to the **Forums** are asked to contact with Sister Nicole: sr.nicole.g@christusbruderschaft.de

Instead the contact person for the **Round Tables** is Fr. Matthias Leineweber: leineweber62@hotmail.com.

There will be a greater participation in the Round Tables in comparison with the rest of the Congress.



The plenary sessions of the Congress will take place in the morning. Already during these preparations we are amazed to see the dynamic action of the Holy Spirit, over the last 15 years. This we hope will manifest itself in the Congress and converge in our proposed objectives in order to reply to present day challenges; to give a contribution both in the ecclesial area – to become a united people of God - as well as in the social area - making us grow together in our countries and in Europe.

We are on “unexplored territory” with regard to the concluding **Event**. In the past we prepared events, but an open event of this nature is, for the majority of us, something quite new. An open event asks for special dynamics. The programme will be continuous, one without intervals, composed of ‘fragments’, moving in a “wave” fashion; every spectator chooses when he or she wants to have a

break. There will be short talks, (incisive, but we hope captivating), statements and testimonies.

What precisely are we going to do? In a society that seems to be continuously eroding and in a Europe where long buried tensions are coming to the surface again, it seems to us that *Together* is indispensable. There is a great need for audacity and courage of *Together*. We want to share our experience of a reconciled togetherness and enter into conversation, on these topics, with Bishops and politicians. In a world in which fear is becoming more and more rife, we want to give, through the contents of the Congress and the Event, answers of hope taken from the Gospel, that are lived out in our *Together*.

Presently the programme is evolving in this way. After the first “fragment” comprised of witnesses and gratitude, three steps will form the central part:

I. Unity in reconciled diversity – 500 years of separation are enough (introduction, testimonies, input and contributions from Bishops.

II. Mercy and reconciliation. Here we will take up again the social challenges with the wounds of our society and let them be illuminated by the Gospel. In this part special place will be given to those from political and social fields who are able to bring a positive experience.

III. Mission. The whole event will finish with a “mission”; we are thinking of symbolically sending young people to take our message to the Churches and into society.

This idea is still to be elaborated on.

In the near future invitations will be sent to personalities of the Churches, political and social fields and we will anxiously await their reply, hoping in positive adhesions to participate.

Some Bishops have already replied that they will be present.

We are grateful that many of you are accompanying us with your prayers, on this *Together* journey. We feel more and more that a great deal of courage is necessary in order to arrive to the end of the road that lies ahead of us, without fear. We are consoled and receive strength knowing that there are many who are walking together with us.

With heartfelt greetings

Herbert Lauenroth, Gerhard Proß and Sr. Nicole