

Dear Everyone,

we'd like to share some news, with our heartfelt thanks to those who contributed.

Würzburg – Germany

“A very special day in our ‘Together’” - so the leaders of movements and communities of various Churches in Germany summarized the meeting of 7th December 2013 in Würzburg. 120 people involved in *Together for Europe* gathered to reflect on the past year and on the next steps to take.

Here is what Gerhard Pross wrote: “The day began with a reflection on a thought from Chiara Lubich in which we are called to *'Together'*”.

This was followed by a rich exchange of experiences of collaboration between movements and communities in various cities in Germany, such as the ‘Oasis of Peace and Prayer’, formed in Stuttgart.



Würzburg (Germany) 7th December 2013

The President of the German Bishops' Conference, Archbishop Robert Zollitsch wished to visit the conference. In *'Together'*, he sees an initiative which unites the Churches, gives an important

witness and is a sign of encouragement. He spoke particularly in view of 2017, the year which marks the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation.

He hopes that this anniversary will become an opportunity of encounter and of new understanding. In the ensuing dialogue, several aspects emerged. The ‘pact of mutual love’ came into relief, with which the network of *Together for Europe* was born. It is not enough to know one another; a real, fraternal collaboration is needed, which gives an example to the peoples of Europe.

‘For me it was an historic moment, there is someone who opens wide his arms’, said one of the Leaders. And another exhorted Archbishop Zollitsch to continue on this way with courage: “The people are on your side!”

During the conference reference was made to the meeting of the *'Friends of Together for Europe'* which took place last November in Paris. *'Together'* includes not only members of various Churches, but also belonging to almost all the peoples of Europe. This gives rise to a responsibility for a cultural, social and political contribution. Gerhard continues: “With the German Committee we prepared the day of 7th December with a prayer of ‘listening’. When we were able to put aside all our considerations and we tried to listen to Him, then we felt encouraged. Someone said: “The

Risen Lord is among us and says, ‘don’t be afraid!’”.

This meeting had a special grace and left in our hearts the certainty that *'Together'* will go ahead and that we have been able to intuit something of the ‘score written in heaven’”.

Ischia – Italy



Ischia, 7th September 2013.
Procession for Peace

More news comes from the island of Ischia: “On 7th September, 2013 - write Rita and Giulio Seller - on the occasion of the World Day of Prayer for Peace, the ‘Ischia for Europe’ Committee organized a major event for peace with a procession with songs and candles. As a sign of support, shops switched off lights and turned down sound. The march ended in the pine forest with speeches, poems and prayers about peace, contributed by Lutherans and Catholics, interspersed by musical pieces from some of the island’s artists. The Catholic bishop recorded a video message for the occasion.

Many left comments and reflections, expressing gratitude for the event”.

Gabriella Fallacara e Severin Schmid