

## Press Release n. 1

### **Seeds are germinating at *Together for Europe***

#### **Meeting of the 'Friends' of *Together for Europe***

Ottmaring/Augsburg , 7-9 November 2019

Twenty years from the birth of the initiative *Together for Europe (TfE)*, the representatives of the ecumenical network from all over Europe will return to the places where it all started: Ottmaring and Augsburg.

#### **Program of the meeting of the 'Friends' 2019**

The city of Augsburg and the Ecumenical Centre of Ottmaring will welcome the representatives of *Together for Europe*. This ecumenical initiative is the fruit of the 'Joint Declaration on Justification' (JDJ) of Augsburg, and therefore it feels that there exists a strong bond with these places, especially on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of said Declaration (1999-2019).

Among others, there will be a keynote speech by **Bishop Dr Christian Krause**, former president of the World Lutheran Federation and co-signer of the JDJ. **Pavel Fischer**, a senator of the Czech Republic will have a look at today's Europe, "30 years without the iron curtain". On the evening of November 9, the participants will proceed to St Anne's church, in the heart of Augsburg, to pray for Europe. Other parts of the program include: feedback and updates from diverse European Countries, discussions, stock taking and future perspectives of *TfE*.

#### **Joint Declaration on Justification**

31.10.1999: The historical signing of the JDJ by the Catholic Church and the World Lutheran Federation at Augsburg. In the afternoon, the leaders of various Christian Movements and Communities met at the Ecumenical Centre of Ottmaring. Their wish: to translate the document into life.

#### ***Together for Europe***

2019: Twenty years later, the number of leaders of *Together for Europe* increased a lot and presently *TfE* embraces more than 300 Movements and Organizations that are committed to the unity of the people of God in Europe, from East to West. For this reason, the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, November 9, 2019, assumes a special importance even for this European network.

October 2019