



europäische allianz katholischer frauenverbände
european alliance of catholic women's organisations
alliance européenne d'organisations féminines catholiques

Women in the Church make the difference – Andante Study Days and General Assembly 2019

The theme of the Study Days of Andante, the European Alliance of Catholic Women's Organisations, held in April 2019 in the Carmelite monastery in Snagov, Romania, was "Women in the Church make the difference".

60 Catholic women from 13 different European countries met for five days to discuss this subject.

Since the beginning and through the centuries women have been making a difference in the Church and in the spread of the Gospel. They have been disciples, saints, scholars and educators.

Women today want the Catholic Church to become a home where all are welcome and all can flourish. A Church which looks outward and which uses the gifts of the Spirit in all its members.

But many women do not feel at home in the church. They often feel silenced, marginalised and excluded from decision-making.

Women are able to use their special gifts in service in many respects, but often find themselves unable to use their expertise and experience in leadership roles within the church. Here the contribution of women religious could be most profitably employed.

The appointment of a token number of women to decision-making posts is not sufficient. There needs to be a change to a more inclusive culture at all levels. We can learn from experiences in other Christian churches.

In order to impose changes in the Church, the participants of the Andante Study Days exchanged ideas for current and future activities. The diversity of cultures and spiritual traditions inside the Andante network empowers and encourages women in working together in Europe.

The mission of Andante is to work for the common good and a human-oriented Europe. The importance of women taking part in the forthcoming European elections was emphasised.