

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to the next Andante Summer School, the theme of which is *'We are the inheritors of the Earth – What can we do to live responsibly?'*. The Summer School takes place from 11th to 15th July 2012, just a month after the Rio+20 Earth Summit, and therefore is a timely event. The venue will be the 'Exerzitienhaus St. Paulus', near Augsburg, Germany. It is located in peaceful surroundings, and has for more than 40 years been an ideal place for meetings and dialogue, for prayer and reflection, and for inspiring people to a new orientation in life. As such we think the place will be a welcoming venue for this summer's gathering of women working for or associated with Andante.

Context

After summer schools and conferences on interreligious dialogue (2006) and on intercultural dialogue (2007), on the issue of dealing with controversial opinions (2008), on media and public relations (2009), on democracy (2010) and on women's spirituality (2011), we want to focus this time on efforts to improve our own practices in daily life for a sustainable environment. The problems in this area are not new and have been discussed widely in different fora, by politicians and by people at the grass-roots. All seem to agree that not enough progress has been made to halt negative development. Yet it seems difficult to agree on decisions that may involve elements of cost or sacrifice for the individual or for the nation.

As an alliance of Catholic women, Andante will have as a focus the Christian, personal, and ethical aspects of the work for our environment. We will not compete with the UN or other expert groups that can give details about present threats or possible solutions. Instead, we will try to see how we – in a small and personal way – can contribute as citizens, in our homes or at work, towards the protection of Creation and how we can live more simply and in accordance with our vocation as Christians.



***"Every day we warm ourselves
by the Fire
wash ourselves in Water,
feel the Wind in our hair,
walk upon the Earth..."***

Aims

From ancient times, people have used the four elements EARTH, WIND, WATER and FIRE to illustrate mankind's closeness to nature. These elements are seen as the root of all existing matter but, in different ways, human beings have created problems in regard to all these elements of Creation.

The structure of the programme for the Summer School will be based on the four elements and challenges connected with these. Each element will be associated with a problem area (or areas) and with possible solutions that we can learn from. Special attention will be given to ethical questions.

Speakers will give introductions and guide us through discussions in dialogue groups. Time will be set aside for workshops on relevant themes, for a cultural evening with an international buffet, and for a visit of the city of Augsburg. Times for personal reflection and rest are part of the programme and a Eucharist on Sunday will conclude the Summer School.

The international dimension of the event and the opportunity to network and exchange views with women from different backgrounds and experiences will enhance the attractiveness of the event as well as inspire to action in local communities and organisations in one's own country.

Participation/registration

We want to invite women from all levels of the Andante member organisations – from the local, the regional, the diocesan and the national levels, as well as friends of Andante and other interested women to come to our Summer School.

Registration is possible directly on our homepage www.andante-europa.net and should have reached us by the 20th of May, 2012 at the latest.

Be aware that the number of places is limited! For any questions please contact: office@andante-europa.net

Languages

As our working languages are English, French and German, it is necessary that you are proficient in at least one of these languages.

Cost/payment

The participation fee is EUR 420. This includes a non-refundable registration fee of EUR 100, accommodation in en-suite single rooms, full board, simultaneous translation, a visit to Augsburg and other expenses connected with participation.

Payments: the total amount of EUR 420 has to be paid into the Andante bank account by 20th May at the latest.

Details of the Andante account:

IBAN: NL68INGB0005143288

BIC: INGBNL2A.

Those (organisations) for whom payment of the (full) participation fee is impossible are requested to contact us, please!

Travel information

The Exerzitienhaus St. Paulus is situated in Leitershofen, a neighbourhood of the small town of Stadtbergen at ± 10 km. from Augsburg and close to the *Naturpark Augsburg Westliche Wälder*. The nearest airport is Munich, at ± 70 km. There is a direct train from the airport to Munich central station (Hbf.) and from there to Augsburg. You then take a bus to the St. Paulushaus. You should count 1,5 to 2 hours to get from Munich airport to St. Paulus.

Further information on the St. Paulushaus: www.exerzitienhaus.org (only in German).

The Summer School starts on Wednesday 11th July at 17.00h. and ends on Sunday 15th July after lunch.

A detailed programme, a list of the workshops as well as more travel guidelines will be sent individually to all participants closer to the event.

Please forward this invitation to potentially interested women.

We look forward to welcoming you to an interesting and challenging Andante Summer School 2012!

With kind regards,

for the Andante Coordinating Committee,

Marie-Louise van Wijk-van de Ven
Chair, Andante

Andante - European Alliance of Catholic Women's organisations was founded in 2006 in Budapest and represents today more than 1.2 million women from 22 Catholic organisations in 13 European countries.

Andante has participatory status at the Council of Europe.

Organisations may apply for membership in Andante or you can join the Alliance as a Friend.

For more information, please consult Andante's homepage www.andante-europa.net



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

Invitation to the Andante Summer School

***We are the inheritors of the
Earth – what can we do
to live responsibly?***



Augsburg, July 11th - 15th, 2012