



Veni Creator (canon)



Ve - ni Cre-a-tor, ve - ni Cre-a-tor, ve - ni Cre-a - tor Spi-ri -tus.

♪ **Come, Cre-a-tor**, Ho-ly Spir-it, come, Cre-a-tor Spir-it, come! / **Licht en wijsheid**, vuur en sterk-te, kom, o kom, Gij, hei-li-ge Geest. / **Pri-di, Stvar-nik**, pri-di, Stvar-nik Sve-ti—Duh.

Music: J. Berthier
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Dear members and friends of Andante,

"Come, Creator, Holy Spirit come," says the hymn. We pray and sing for this spirit at Pentecost, so we can be strengthened for our work in our own countries, and that the world, at least in our region, can be changed in a small way for the better. This is what we are working towards as members of Andante. We want to be able to contribute to a more just and peaceful life for everyone. Many of us have been very busy doing this over the last few months, as the corona virus has challenged us all. Depending on our circumstances we have all had to put our efforts into helping those affected by the crisis.

In his Easter message, Pope Francis calls on everyone to "give a further proof of solidarity, even if we have to follow new paths to do so". He emphasises a "concretely tangible spirit of solidarity, especially in today's circumstances, that rivalries do not resurface, but that all recognize each other as part of one family and support each other. Pentecost can encourage us to do this. Here is the link to the Pope's Easter message http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/urbi/documents/papa-francesco_20200412_urbi-et-orbi-pasqua.html

Europe Day is celebrated annually on 5 May to mark the founding of the Council of Europe in 1949 (https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/symbols/europe-day_en). Andante has been a member of the Assembly of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) of the Council of Europe since its foundation in 2006. The President of the Assembly, Anna Rurka, in her last circular of 7 May, thanks all the representatives for their commitment and courage and refers to a recently adopted declaration: [Declaration on the responses to the pandemic by strengthening the fundamental rights and values on which the Council of Europe is build](#)

With our representatives Sybille Bader Biland and Sabine Slawik at the conference of the INGOs at the Council of Europe, we make an important contribution to a common Europe and bring our concerns from a Christian women's perspective. We as women are helping to shape Europe, hence our Andante logo.

To ensure the Catholic Church also takes the necessary steps so we as women can continue to feel at home, Catholic women's associations and movements have networked in the *Catholic Women's Council CWC*: <https://voicesoffaith.org/catholicwomenscouncil> . One of their members spoke to us at our most recent Study Days in Snagov in the subject "overcoming silence". Perhaps investigate CWC and join them through prayers, actions or by subscribing to the newsletter, and share your experience with us? At the next study days, 30th June to 5th July 2021 in Riga we want to exchange views on what our associations are contributing to the renewal of the Catholic Church, and this will continue the theme of our study days in Snagov/Romania in 2019.

During this time we should have met in Baden-Baden. Unfortunately this was not possible due to the Corona virus regulations. This crisis will challenge all of us personally and economically for a long time to come, and certainly this will also have an influence on the work in our associations.

The CoCoA members are very busy with Corona-related actions: work from home, cancellation and reorganization of meetings, food banks, support of family, relatives and people at risk, neighbourhood help, video conferences, and online teaching etc.

As an Andante member organisation or as a participant of ANDANTE Study Days, we would be pleased if you would share with us any of your experiences, activities and ideas during this corona virus pandemic, which is unprecedented for all of us, and enter into a mutual, sisterly exchange with members. We hope to share this exchange of experiences in our next letter and next meeting.

We are all invited to pray at this time that the Holy Spirit will enlighten and strengthen us all, so we can take the necessary steps to make a better world. We include this suggestion from *Renovabis*, the Eastern Europe Relief Organisation of the Catholic Church in Germany, who are one of our loyal sponsors for our study days: https://www.renovabis.de/site/assets/files/11084/novene_2020-web.pdf. "Blessed are those who make peace. East and West in common responsibility" to unite us in prayer across borders:

Andante implies movement forward: At Pentecost God sends all people out with the Holy Spirit to go out and live and proclaim His message. So we go *andante*.

We wish you all many spiritual blessings and a happy Pentecost,

on behalf of the CoCoA

the chairs

Vroni Peterhans and Sabine Slawik

