



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



Maria Magdalena Window  
in the Manasteria Parintilor Carmelitani Desculti  
in Snagov (Romania)  
where we held our Study Days and General Assembly in 2019

July 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Andante, Dear Readers,

July 22 is the feast day of Mary of Magdala, the apostle of the apostles.

It was raised by Pope Francis from a commemoration day to a feast day in 2016.

"Mary Magdalene is a witness to the Risen Christ and proclaims the message of the Lord's resurrection like the other apostles. It is therefore right that the liturgical celebration of this apostle of the apostles should have the same degree of celebration as the apostles' celebrations in the Roman General Calendar and that the special mission of this woman should be highlighted, who is the example and model for every woman in the Church". (Archbishop Arthur Roche)

The feast of Mary of Magdala and her courageous witness seems a good opportunity for us to inform you in this short letter about what is going on in Andante during these special times. Now, because of the Corona pandemic, we can only reach each other electronically.

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, the coordination committee CoCoA has been communicating via a substantial number of e-mails and several online meetings.

In May we discussed the cancellation of the Study Days in Baden-Baden. It was very sad that we could not meet you in Baden-Baden. Almost all the preparation work was done: speakers and workshops were organised and it promised to be a good and rewarding programme. We hope to organise the theme "sustainability" (as planned for those days) in the future.

All the preparation for these study days not only needed a lot of time and attention, but also meant considerable financial investment. A number of the participants helped by donating their prepaid registration as a gift to us and we were also supported by several organisations. This allowed us to cover most of the expenses. Thanks to all.

We have all welcomed the importance of digital communication in these months marked by Covid-19, so CoCoA have decided to send quarterly letters to our members this year.

We are happy to send you this information now.

Our plans are for further letters after the holiday-season and at the end of the year.

We have updated our Strategy Document for the years 2020-2023, which you can find on our website:  
<https://www.andante-europa.net/en/aims/>

In our July “zoom”-meetings we dealt with the detailed planning of the next Study Days, which will take place **in Riga from 30th June to 5th July 2021** on the topic: **Our voice – our lives – our future Empowerment of women and women’s organisations**. Mark these days in your calendar!

We are now working on further details for these study days and we will inform you in our next letter about the definitive plans.

Our next CoCoA online meeting will take place in September.

Andante is a member in the Council of Europe's conference of international non-governmental organisations. We invite you to look on the Council of Europe website. On the first page you find the most important information concerning Human Rights and their violation in our neighbouring countries.

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal>

You can also find more about projects and activities regarding reunification for refugees and migrant-children:

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/launch-of-handbook-on-family-reunification-for-refugee-and-migrant-children>

Mary Magdalene and other courageous women should encourage us to proclaim and live the good news everywhere in Europe.

*May the good Lord bless us so that, like Mary Magdalene, we may always be fascinated and encouraged anew by Jesus, by his words, his message and his signs.*

With best summer greetings

The CoCoA

Vroni Peterhans, Sabine Slawik, Noemi Adorjani, Gisela Hoeve, Marleen Peters-van der Heyden, Sophie Rudge, Inara Uzolina

