



# Council 50

Towards a Church-Inspired by the Gospel-for the world  
Rumbo hacia una Iglesia-inspirada en el Evangelio-para el mundo  
Vers une Eglise-inspirée par l'Evangile-pour le monde

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## Letter n°3 May 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Following the two previous letters that were mailed to most of you, respectively in March and December 2014, to tell you about Council 50 and to invite you to contribute to its success, we are pleased to up-date you on the progress of the process initiated one year ago and that will lead to the Council 50 event, a gathering of delegates from the contributing groups, associations, communities, parishes, that will take place in Rome November 20-22, 2015.

For your convenience, we attach letters 1 and 2 to this letter and the updated program of the event in Rome with the updated list of workshops. As you will see, Dr. Nontando Hadebe from South Africa and Zimbabwe, and Father Jose Maria Castillo from Spain will serve as our Keynote speakers, and will report on the contributions and proposals received.

Many organisations have already expressed their interest and a number of them have already contributed by providing their experiences, their documents and their prayers, in order to prepare the event planed in November and finalise the Charter Council 50, which will be offered to the Pope during his jubilee celebration of the close of Vatican II next December in Rome.

It is time now for all the organisations interested and willing to contribute to confirm or express their interest in participating in the process of Council 50 in order to allow the organizing committee to plan the attendance at the Rome event, to ensure that it is the widest and most representative participation, and to prepare the appropriate logistics.

With this third letter, we are therefore pleased to update you on the steps that have been made, and to ask for your feedback, in order to make sure that all those who are interested in this initiative can meet in Rome in November 2015.

**1) Council 50 is a project that gives an opportunity to all communities, groups, parishes and associations to share, on an equal footing, their vision for a 21st century Church inspired by the Gospel for the world, thereby responding to the calls of our Pope Francis.**

For over a year, the Pope Francis has made repeated calls to all members of our Church to ensure that she lives according to the Gospel, and to live in the spirit of Jesus in our complex world. It is precisely these initiatives and proposals of groups, associations, communities, parishes, often fruits of the seeds sown during the Council Vatican II, that Council 50 aims to collect and compile during the worldwide gathering of delegates scheduled in Rome from November 20-22, 2015 to create the Charter of Council 50, which will be offered to the Pope during his jubilee celebration of the closing of Vatican II.



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This project also hopes to bridge the gap between the institution of our Church and its base, which is too often ignored. That is we are making regular attempts to approach the Pope; as of now, we have direct contacts with the Vatican Secretariat of State.

## **2) A project that is growing day by day and relies on the work of the groups and local communities.**

New contributions arrive weekly. Moreover, in addition to the events mentioned in the second letter, new meetings of interest to Council 50 are scheduled. For example:

- in Asia from August 16 to 25, 2015, annual meeting AYA / ATF (Asian Youth Association and Asian Theology Forum).
- in Europe, May 21-22 in Merville (LGBT Forum), October 23-25 in Strasbourg (Parvis), from October 2-4 in Strasbourg (General States of Christianity), Italy on May 9, 2015: Chiesadituttichiesadeipoveri.
- in Latin America October 26-30, 2015 : Theological Congress "Iglesia que camina con Espíritu y desde los pobres" Belo Horizonte.
- in the USA April 10-11, 2015 in Boston, COR meeting at which a member of the organizing committee of Council 50 was invited; September 2015 in Philadelphia
- In India at Chennai December 5-9, 2015.

The organizers of Council 50 ask you to:

- **Keep sending examples of achievements, renewal of testimonials, proposals for the renewal of our Church and its action in the world.**
- **Widely spread this letter.**
- **Do not hesitate to share your remarks and comments on this program.**

## **3) The time has now come** to identify your delegates so that they can quickly register for the gathering of delegates that will take place November 20 - 22, 2015 at Casa LaSalle in Rome.

(<http://www.casalasalle.com/index.php?lang=%20en&lang=en>)

Send us your confirmation of attendance and extend this invitation to the associations, groups, communities, parishes that you know.

You will find enclosed:

- A pre-registration form with its explanatory note to return as soon as possible
- An updated provisional program of the event and the provisional list of working groups.

## **4) For your information**, a conference on the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pact of the Catacombs will be held November 11-17, 2015 in the same place where our Council 50 events will take place. Delegates participating in the Council 50 event who are interested in attending this conference can contact the organizers of this conference:

[Katakombenpakt@pro-konzil.de](mailto:Katakombenpakt@pro-konzil.de)



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**5) Cost should not be an obstacle to your coming thanks to the solidarity fund** that has been set up.

We invite all those individuals and associations, who would like to, to donate to this solidarity fund, so that all delegates who need to support with their expenses for coming to Rome can attend the event at reduced cost.

For organisations who want to take part in the event and to support brothers and sisters that would not otherwise have this possibility, the estimation of the average amount needed to cover the costs of a delegate coming from a non-European country for attending the event is approximately 800 € (\$870 US). Please let us know if you are willing to contribute to the solidarity fund.

All the organisations that would like to participate and require economic support should inform us as soon as possible, in order to allow us to estimate the resource needed and to plan travel and hospitality.

**We appeal to those who can contribute to this solidarity fund to do so.**

- By transfer to the bank account of the project:

Réseau Européen (EN-RE) 'Concile 50'

**IBAN:** FR76 1027 8060 7500 0210 5210 423      **BIC:** CMCIFR2A

Communication: Solidarity fund C50 + Name

- By check made payable to EN-RE Concile 50 to be mailed to

Raymond Godefroy, 95 Avenue du Maine 75014 Paris France

**6) Together we will thus**

- Finalise the Charter "Council 50" which will be submitted to the Pope,
- Have a better understanding and knowledge of each other and of what we do,
- Set up a network that can monitor the proposals of the Charter in the various countries,
- Draft and edit a brochure: "Council 50, for the renewal of our Church and its action in the world" that will include, among others: The Council50 Charter with an introduction, the two talks delivered during the plenary session, discussions, workshop reports, contributions, documents from the fair, and photos of the event.

**First inputs to the charter from received contributions will be mailed in a fourth letter.**

We pray to the Holy Spirit to enlighten us in our endeavour

I am looking forward to meeting you in Rome.

With my best regards,

François Becker, coordinator of the project, on behalf of the organizing committee.

Postal Address: c/o EN-RE 68 rue de Babylone 75007 Paris - France      Lettre 3 p. 3/3

[www.council50.org](http://www.council50.org)      Contact : [francois.becker@council50.org](mailto:francois.becker@council50.org)