**47. European Meeting**

**Madrid, Wroclaw, Turin, Rostock, Ljubljana ... and this year Tallinn!**

From December 28th, 2024, to January 1st, 2025, the 47th European Youth Meeting will take place in Tallinn and its surroundings. The Estonian Council of Churches have invited the Taizé community from France to prepare this meeting together with them. Several thousand young adults from all over Europe are expected to attend: they come to pray together, to get to know each other and to discover the life of our communities and parishes.
In our parish **[name of the parish]** we will also host pilgrims. In order to offer them a warm welcome and give them the chance to get to know us, it will be important to open our hearts and homes for them. It also means to reach out further, to ask our friends, neighbors, colleagues and the community around if they could be a part of this meeting through welcoming and help us in different ways.

**What is Taizé?**

Taizé is an ecumenical monastic community of around ninety brothers from more than twenty different countries. Their life is rhythmed by common prayer, work and hospitality. For sixty years, generations of young people have been visiting the small village of Taizé in southern Burgundy in order to share the life of the community. They participate in the prayer times, engage in Bible reflections, share about their challenges in life and society, and help with practical tasks.
Relationships between the Taizé community and Estonian Christians date back to the 1970’s when Anna-Maija Raittila-Nieminen paid visits to Estonian Christians and kept them informed of what was happening in Taizé. In those years, young Russians in contact with Taizé came to take part in summer camps organized by the Lutheran Theological Institute in Tallinn. Young Estonians started to regularly visit Taizé and take part in European meetings beginning in 1989. In May 1990, 250 young Estonians took part in a North European Meeting which Taizé was invited to organize in Linköping, Sweden.

**Why the European Meetings?**

Those who come to Taizé do not become members of an organized movement, but are invited to take creative responsibility in their own lives and churches. The European Meetings aim to accompany this back home. Like similar meetings in Africa, Asia, and America, they are stations on the "Pilgrimage of Trust on Earth" initiated by Brother Roger over forty years ago. In essence, every human life is a "Pilgrimage of Trust," and the European Meetings are a special opportunity to express and experience trust. The hosts do not know in advance whom they will receive, and the participants only find out where they will stay when they arrive. Trust is a risk, but it allows for remarkable experiences of deep human kindness.

**What will happen in our parish?**

The pilgrims aged 18 to 35 who will be welcomed in our parish **[name of parish]** will bring a sleeping bag and a mat with them, so they only need two square meters indoors for 4 nights, along with 4 breakfasts and lunch on January 1st. They leave their host’s home at around 8 am and return between 9 and 10 pm. They travel with a combined public transport ticket.
The morning program takes place in our parish: after a morning prayer there is time for reflection groups or meetings with people of hope that allow the pilgrims to get to know our parish and **[name of neighborhood / town / village]**. Then, lunch, midday prayer and afternoon workshops are held at various locations in the city center of Tallinn, while dinner and evening prayers will take place in Tondiraba Hall. All events are public and open to people of all ages.
On December 31st at 11pm, a prayer for peace and a ‘festival of nations’ takes place in our parish to enter together into the New Year.
On January 1st, after a service for New Year, the pilgrims will be happy to share the midday meal with their hosts before their journey back home in the afternoon.

**How can we engage in this adventure of trust?**

We need to find enough hosts for all the pilgrims! If you are ready to welcome two or more young adults, you are invited to take a flyer in the back of our church and to fill in the host form. Don’t hesitate to also take flyers for your friends, relatives and neighbors if you think they could be interested in this event!
We are happy too about everybody who is willing to help with the organization of the welcome on 28 December and the morning program in our parish. For this, please get in touch with **[name and phone number/e-mail of the coordinator of the parish preparation team]** from our parish preparation team.

Since mid September, brothers from Taizé have been in Tallinn together with an international team of volunteers. **[Name of the volunteer]** from **[country of the volunteer]** is accompanying our parish during the whole time of preparation. **[She/He]** has already visited us here in **[name of neighborhood / town / village]** and will come back to meet again very soon!
You can find more information about the general preparations online: <https://taizetallinn.ee/>

Everybody is invited to Taizé prayers held in various locations in Estonia (location shared on [https://www.laudate.ee/prayers/#](https://www.laudate.ee/prayers/)). From Monday to Saturday you can also join the meeting preparation team at 12:30pm in the Mustamäe Maarja Magdalena Kirik (Kiili 9, Tallinn) for midday prayer.