

Taizé Community
71250 Taizé
France

Riga, 3 November 2015

Dear br. Alois,

Last year the parishes of Riga and its surrounding regions had the opportunity to open their homes and hearts to the young people from many European countries arriving to the Taizé regional meeting in Riga. This was the first time such meeting had been organized in Latvia.

The first young Latvians went to Taizé already before the fall of the Iron Curtain at the end of 1980ies. During these 25 years many generations of young people have passed through Taizé on their path of faith. Last year's meeting confirmed how important the calling of br. Roger and Taizé Community has been in their lives.

Latvia finds itself between the ever so different West and the East of Europe. Today more than ever we are urged to see these differences as a reason for fear instead something that enriches us. The history of Latvia is full of wounds and painful moments and their traces are visible in our society even today. Therefore here the love for Christ must be the bridge connecting parishes, churches, brothers and sisters as our country connects the West to the East.

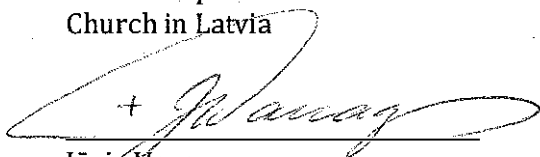
Taizé European meeting in Riga would be a sign of unity and a confirmation that Christ's commandment to love one another is stronger than the barriers built by history, languages, nationalities and politics. Desiring to follow that call **we cordially invite the brothers of Taizé Community to organize the 39th Taizé European meeting in Riga from 28th December 2016 to 1st January 2017.**

Together with the parishes of Riga and its surrounding regions we are looking forward to the opportunity to share this new stage of the Pilgrimage of Trust on Earth with you and the young people from all Europe and beyond.

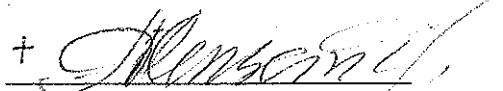
In Christ,



Zbigņevs Stankevičs
Archbishop of the Roman Catholic
Church in Latvia



Jānis Vanags
Archbishop of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church of Latvia



Aleksandrs
Metropolitan of Riga and all Latvia
Latvian Orthodox Church



Pēteris Sprogis
Bishop of the Union of Latvian
Baptist Churches