

>>> OUR LETTER TO YOU <<<

DIALOP NEWS

transversal dialogue project



IN STORM AND SUNSHINE

**All is born to blossom**

editorial

People often say "Wait and hope", but hope is above all the virtue of movement and the engine of change: It's a tension that brings together memory and utopia to truly build the dreams that await us. And if a dream fades, we need to go back and dream it again, in new form, drawing with hope from the embers of memory.

Pope Francis begins his autobiography with this introduction on hope. He and Ernst Bloch seem to have been good old friends, so close is their thinking, even if half a century divides them.

No dreaming may stand still, for this bodes no good. But if it becomes a dreaming ahead, then its cause appears quite differently and excitingly alive. The dim and weakening features, which may be characteristic of mere yearning, disappears; and then yearning can show what it really is able to accomplish. (E.Bloch on Karl Marx).

But is hope possible when irresponsible superegos undermine truth with lies? Any good will seems to be hypnotized by the fumes of warmongering outbursts and new forms of treacherous neo-capitalist variants crackling across the planet. Reason seems to be cut out, resistance silenced. But on closer inspection, this reaction reflects the outbreak of a feeling of shame rather than surrender.

The growth of the Left ahead of the German elections and the victory of democratic struggles against a nazist upcoming spectre in Austria are only two of the reactions, which confirm the sanity of the sensus populi, and give new hope to those involved in the firm resolve to work for a cohesive and just civilization. All is born to blossom, and life always prevails over death.

On January 28, 2025 a delegation of DIALOP made a visit to Card. Tolentino de Mendonca, Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education at the Vatican. The Cardinal appreciated the update of the dialogue activities and promised his contribution at the coming conference - cf.page 2. In those days Archbishop Zani, Prefect of the Vatican Library invited the group to an exceptional visit at the Vatican Archives and Library.



DIALOP LOCAL GROUPS



DIALOP groups are forming all around Europe. Not last in the series the Athens group around Angelina Giannopoulou and the Coimbra group around José Manuel Pureza.

Other locations are: Paris, Buenos Aires, Rome, Vienna, Bonn. Something is moving in Senegal.

Start a DIALOP group in your Country

Dialogue initiatives often arise out of casual circumstances and don't follow a pre-defined pattern.

A new DIALOP group grows completely autonomously and is not structurally linked to DIALOP, thus assuming the possibility of adopting a status of free association.

The characteristic of an Associate is the sharing of the methodology of differentiated consensus and qualified dissent in the experience of local dialogue, as well as full autonomy of organization, association, management, financing, work, research.

The possibilities of collaboration are the mutual participation in selected activities and in the annual meetings organized by DIALOP.

HUB-AND-SPOKES OF HOPE

A CONFERENCE ON HOPE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

On Friday 17 an Saturday 18 October 2025 DIALOP will be holding a conference with the title *HOPE in rough times. Challenges in politics, environment, economy* to which the local groups and individual persons related to DIALOP are invited. The central event will take place at the Sophia University Institute in Italy, while all other groups will be intermittently connected via zoom and will work on their own agenda, related to the central theme. Download the [save-the-date](#).

Ongoing updates on the www.dialop.eu/events

ENJOY THE END TIMES !

A question to Michael Ramming, Institute for Political Theology, ITPOL Münster - Germany

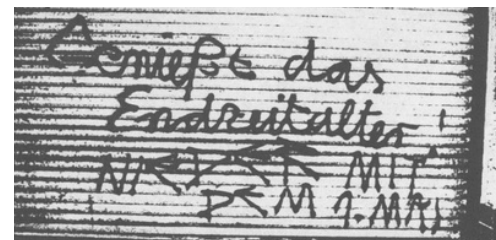
In your publications you uncover a source of new horizons for social and political resources, which become even more interesting in times of impending global catastrophes. Tell us more about this view.

It is clear to us that Christianity is a liberating message. And this can never be a liberation from the world, but only a liberation in the world. After all, we are convinced, with the political theology of Johann Baptist Metz, that our God is a "suffering-sensitive" God, that Christianity is a mysticism of "open eyes". After all, we are talking about God's creation. So, it is clear that it is about liberation, in the Old Testament about equality and autonomy, in the New Testament about feeding the hungry, freeing the captives etc. (Mat. 5:1ff., Lk 6:20ff.) This is not just the messianic hope, but the promise.

Life for all is possible. But how this is achieved is not only a question of faith, but also a question of implementation.

Liberation theology means: "critical reflection of faith in the light of practice", in the words of the recently deceased Peruvian liberation theologian Gustavo Gutiérrez. And this practice must also be guided by critical social theory.

We need to understand the world in order to be able to change it.



Michael Ramming with Barbara Imholz of Institute for Political Theology in Vienna