



PONTIFICIUM CONSILUM
AD CHRISTIANORUM UNITATEM FOVENDAM

E Civitate Vaticana, die

3 June 2011

Prot. N. 990/2011/h

Message from Cardinal Kurt Koch
President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity
on the occasion of the 2011 Alpha Conference in London

On the occasion of the 2011 Alpha Conference in London, I send my warmest greetings and assurances of prayer to all the participants.

Our world has been never more in need of the saving words and work of Jesus Christ; he alone offers a path for humanity to realise its potential, to establish lasting peace among peoples, and to assure the dignity of every person. That message is ours to speak, but only if we ourselves have heard it echoing in the depths of our being. Christ renews and recreates us through a personal journey of conversion, enlightenment and fulfilment, which in turn enables and compels us to share it. As Pope Benedict has said:

“We cannot keep to ourselves the words of eternal life given to us in our encounter with Jesus Christ: they are meant for everyone, for every man and woman. ... It is our responsibility to pass on what, by God's grace, we ourselves have received.”

Through the Alpha Courses, and the testimonies of those who participate in their sessions and groups, faith is renewed, rekindled, takes root. This is an invaluable experience for many people, and a real sign of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

An additional aspect of the Alpha Courses is the ecumenical witness that they bear, uniting Christians of many traditions in a deepening of faith in Christ so that they may work together to present his message of good news to the world.

I pray that God may bless this conference and your work in the days ahead, so that you may be fervent witnesses to Jesus and to his Kingdom for the glory of God.

Kurt Cardinal Koch
President