

## Key Issue

### **“And by my God I leaped over a wall... to peace” (Psalms 18:30)**

Thirty years ago the Berlin Wall fell and the “Iron Curtain” opened up. Europeans continue to be very happy and thankful for this! “That which belongs together, grows together,” Willy Brandt exclaimed at that time. Ever since Europeans have been enjoying the freedom of travel! For many, these countries on the respective other side are no longer merely a “white spot” on the map. Some countries of Eastern Central Europe have joined the EU or have grown close to it.

However, there are new walls, walls in the minds and hearts. The consequences of the Balkan War have not yet been overcome. The crisis in the Ukraine, following the annexation of the Crimea Region, which was in violation of international law, continues on.

The countries of Eastern Central Europe still do not feel as if they were equal partners in the EU. And in some countries – both in the east and west – populism and nationalism are on the rise. Rule of law and humanitarian values are often questioned. Own interests are frequently placed above all else. Thus, new walls are erected!

In particular, we as Christians are called upon to overcome walls which separate people from one another and erect against each other. The unity of Europe shall be developed and Europe’s values strengthened! Where people set out to do this, they can expect God to be on their side. With His help new walls can also be overcome.

To this end, 120 young people from 9 countries are on their way to see us. Wherever encounters take place, walls are overcome. Therefore, we invite you all! Participate in the manifold program!

Dean Rolf Glaser,  
Parish Priest and Chairman of the Hedwig Forum

## Goals of the Hedwig Forum

In the Middle Ages, ST. HEDWIG strove towards reconciliation and equality between Germany and Poland. Nowadays, in the age of globalization, she has become a symbol for solidarity on an international level, especially in Frankfurt, where people from over 180 nations live and work.

The HEDWIG FORUM’s goal is to pass on and share its own enthusiasm for our faith and to awaken an interest in it in others, as well.

For us, “Kirche der Welt” (CHURCH OF THE WORLD) means encounters between people from different cultures, nationalities and religions. We would especially like to involve the Foreign-Language Parishes in Frankfurt.

We would like to involve CHILDREN and YOUNG ADULTS from our parish and from other parishes in the planning process. They should also be involved in the execution of projects and in forming important partnerships.

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE are the main areas of concentration. Existing contacts - also contacts with other countries – should be further developed.

#### **Our cooperation partners:**

Department of World-Church in the Diocese  
Department for Catholic City Church Work  
Ackermann Community in the Diocese  
Council of Christian Churches in Germany  
Caritas Society of Frankfurt Main  
Protestant Parishes of Nied, Griesheim, Gallus  
Pax Christi Peace Movement  
Catholic Workers Movement

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Katholische Gemeinden in  
Frankfurt Nied-Griesheim-Gallus



## Third International Days of Encounter from September 18 through 22, 2019

## Program

**Join Us!  
Help Us!  
Celebrate With Us!**

Further Information:  
[www.hedwigsforum.de](http://www.hedwigsforum.de)  
[www.itdb-2019.de/ITDB-2019/](http://www.itdb-2019.de/ITDB-2019/)

## Days of Encounter

The Second International Days of Encounter were in 2013 with more than 130 young people from 13 nations from Central and Eastern Europe. These were very successful, as were the First International Days of Encounter 2008.



In 2019, we are expecting up to 130 young people from 9 nations. In order to establish more personal contact, we would like to find accommodations for all visitors in private homes.

The main points of this event are in the areas of peace, understanding and faith. The program entails a public discussion forum, visiting and assisting in social projects, as well as a reception hosted by the City of Frankfurt and the Bishop of Limburg.

We see these days as our contribution to Europe moving closer together.



## Wednesday, September 18

### Arrival of guests at St. Hedwig, Griesheim:

Distribution of quarters  
Drive with your hosts to their homes



### Our guests come from the following countries:

Bosnia-Herzegovina, Italy, Kosovo, Poland, Rumania, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Belarus



### 19:30 – Opening Night and Meet and Greet

Presented by the Italian and German Parishes of St. Markus, Nied

22:00 - **Evening Prayer** in St. Markus, Nied

## Thursday, September 19

**9:00 - Morning Prayer** in Maria Himmelfahrt, Griesheim

Afterwards: **Day of Social Work (1):** Visit to social facilities

**14:00 – 17:00 - Day of Social Work (2):** Ship cruise with seniors and sick people.



19:30 - **Public Evening Event**  
“We need (more) Europe and Europe needs you”  
in St. Gallus, Gallus



**22:00 - Ecumenical Evening Prayer**  
in the Protestant Friedenskirche (Church of Peace), Gallus

## Friday, September 20

8:30 - **Morning Prayer** in Maria Hilf, Gallus

Morning: **Visit the Kaiserdom (Emperor’s Dome)**  
**Afterwards walk through the new Old Town**



12:00 - **Reception in the Kaisersaal (City Hall on the Römer) hosted by the City of Frankfurt**



Afternoon: **Spiel der Nationen (Game of the Nations) with award of the Klaus-Blessing-Cup**  
on the property of the DJK Griesheim at the Rebstock or alternative program in the city

18:00 – **Evening prayer in St. Pius, Gallus**

The evening has no set plans, e.g. for a tour of the city in small groups or a relaxed get-together in St. Pius.

## Saturday, September 21

**The guests and their host families** conduct the morning as they wish.



16:00 – in St. Hedwig, Griesheim:  
**Holy Mass with the Bishop of Limburg and subsequent reception**



Beginning at 19:00 - **7th Annual Griesheim Band Festival** in the Josefhaus, Griesheim. Ends approx. midnight.

## Sunday, September 22

**7:00 - Early Mass** in Maria Himmelfahrt, Griesheim

Departure to return home

For groups staying longer:  
programm with excursions