

„What touched me most was the authentic community, the sense of solidarity, and the open dialogue. I valued the deep discussions, the cultural diversity, and the personal testimonies that brought our themes to life. Taking part in this experience has made me think about the future and how the church in my country might be look like in a few years.“
(Michał Dacka, participant 2025)



HOW TO FILE AN APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE SOCIAL ACADEMY

The application is required to

- be written in English
- be addressed to the Social Institute Kommende Dortmund
- be dated and signed by the applicant
- include a certificate of termination of the 3rd year of major seminary
- include the bishop's or seminary rector's approval
- be sent till March 1st, 2026 by mail.

FINAL ACCEPTANCE

Participation restriction: 25 attendees (in order of registration)

Once the application for access has been approved, the candidate will receive the confirmation by the Social Institute, which includes also a scholarship covering the accommodation and 50% of travel costs to Ružomberok and from Paderborn. The travel costs within the Social Academy are covered in full by the Social Institute Kommende Dortmund.

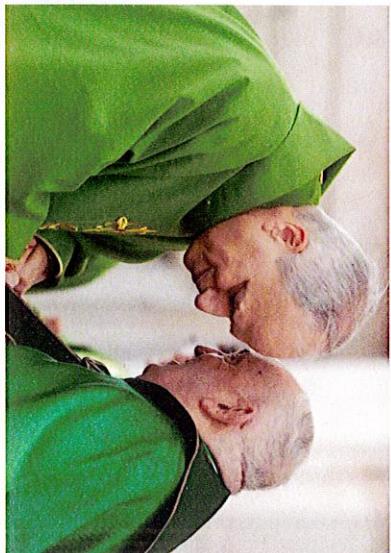
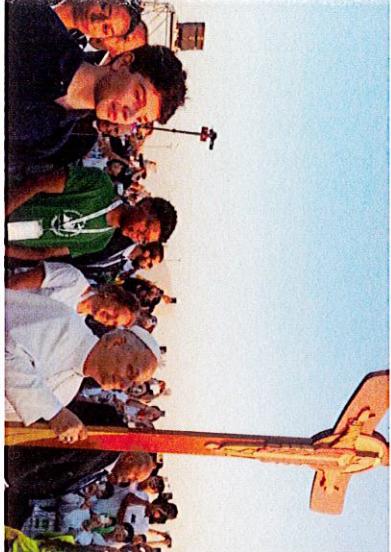
REGISTRATION:

Social Institute Kommende Dortmund
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Fon. +49 (0) 231 20605-502
Email: raphael.roewekamp@erzbistum-paderborn.de

Information about our processing of your data can be found under
<https://www.keft.de/1618-informationspflicht-Datenschutz.html>.
On request, we will gladly send you the privacy information also by post.

Social Institute "Kommende Dortmund" Pontificio Collegio Teutonico, Rome

Pope Leo's vision of the Church Continuity and Change Catholic Social Teaching Global Vision. Local Action.



Summer Academy for Seminarians

JULY 4 – 27, 2026

Ružomberok / Slovakia – Paderborn / Germany

Directed by Prelate Dr. Peter Klasvogt

Pontificio Collegio Teutonico di Santa Maria in Campo Santo



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Rome, August 3, 2025. The Pope Leo Catholic youth gathering has brought together a vast crowd at Tor Vergata on the outskirts of Rome during the Holy Year, where the pontiff has urged young people to seek justice, serve the poor, and help build a more humane world. The event forms part of the Catholic Holy Year celebrations and marks the most attended event so far under the current papacy.

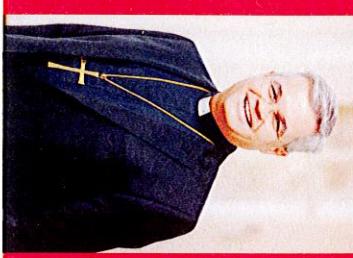
The election of Pope Leo XIV marked the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the Church. Pope Leo is the first missionary to become the successor of St. Peter, and right at the beginning of his pontificate, he programmatically expressed his mission and invitation: "I would like this to be our first great desire: a united Church, as a sign of unity and communion, which will become the leaven of a reconciled world." A plea for a Church in which all are called to "build up the house of God in fraternal communion, in harmony with the Holy Spirit and in a life of diversity."

One year after his inauguration, the special emphases of his pontificate are becoming apparent, and the question arises as to whether and how the goals of the universal Church can be implemented in practice in the local churches.

The Social Academy is once again under the proven leadership of Prelate Dr. Peter Klasvogt, long-time rector of the Paderborn Seminary and the Kommende Dortmund Social Institute, now rector of the Pontifical College of Priests at Campo Santo Teutonico in Rome.

I warmly invite seminarians from Eastern and Western Europe to join me in experiencing a diverse and united missionary Church.

Dr. Udo Markus Bentz,
Archbishop of Paderborn



SOCIAL ACADEMY FOR SEMINARIANS

Since 2007 about 350 seminarians from 16 countries participated successfully in the Social Academy, promoted by the Social Institute of the archdiocese and accredited by the Theological Faculty of Paderborn. The international summer school is a highly demanded formation

program for upcoming priests, which imparts the knowledge of the Catholic Social Teaching combined with best practice examples and projects of Church institutions and social organizations, imbedded in an atmosphere of confidence and fraternity. This year the program includes participation in the European Youth Festival in Ružomberok and will be continued at the Spiritual Centre "Maria Immaculata" in Paderborn.

Transmitting the Catholic Social Teaching into action, former participants developed in their local communities the youth movement "socioMovers. Giving Europe a soul", working on local social problems and practical solutions to target social and spiritual poverty.

As Prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, I thank you for your faith and social commitment, helping the marginalized nearby and far away, guided by Catholic Social Teaching.

Those who love are not alone, and each stranger in need helps you to become more and more who you should be in the eyes of God. For this I wish you strength coming from heaven: the Holy Spirit who will guide you.

(Card. Michael Czerny S.J., Prefect)

TOPICS

- Fundamental positions, principles and development lines of the Catholic Social Teaching and the Magisterium
- The Social Teaching of Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV.
- Political, cultural, and religious values and their importance for the community life in society
- Communion - Participation - Mission: the synodal richness of a Church united in diversity: Cultural, Theological and Pastoral Contribution of the Local Churches of Europe
- Practice and pastoral-social competences and understanding on joint youth social projects

FEATURES

- lectures, workshops and field trips
- prayer, liturgy and spiritual impulses
- meetings with personalities from church, economy, politics
- personal exchange and community building
- official certificate and scientific Credit Points

CONTENT

- Dialogue and New Evangelization - Caritas and Social Responsibility
- Global Impact - Human Dignity and the Common Good
- Christian Commitment - Peace and Community building
- Church in Europe - Vision and Mission in times of secularization

For many years, I have been watching the numerous SocioMovers projects that inculcate the Church's social teachings in the hearts of young people and translate their content into beautiful deeds. I sincerely thank you for the initiatives you have taken to strengthen relationships, deepening apostolic zeal, learning new forms and ways of action, as well as intensifying your involvement in local communities.

(Stanisław Gadecki, Arcybiskup em., Metropolita Poznański)

