



20 November 2020

Dear Friends of the Cardinal Bea Centre,

It is our pleasure to invite you to participate in an online event we are co-organising with the *Facoltà Valdese di Teologia*: the **Presentation** of the new, second volume of “**La Bibbia dell'Amicizia – Brani di Neviim/ Profeti Commentati da Ebrei e Cristiani**” with prefaces by Cardinal Kurt Koch and Rabbi David Rosen. Speaking at the online event will be **Rabbi Amedeo Spagnoletto**, *Director of the MEIS (Museo nazionale dell'ebraismo italiano e della Shoah)* and **Dom Matteo Ferrari**, *Director of the Colloqui di Camaldoli* as well as the book's curators **Prof. Marco Cassuto Morselli** of *FEDERAEC (Federazione delle Amicizie Ebraico-Cristiane)* and **Prof. Giulio Michelini** of the *Istituto Teologico di Assisi*. The moderator will be the Cardinal Bea Centre's **Prof. Massimo Gargiulo**, and **Pastor Eric Noffke** of the *Facoltà Valdese di Teologia* will give the opening welcome.

The event will be held via Zoom on **Sunday, 29 November** from **18:00 (CET)** to **19:00**. The link, ID, and Passcode are provided below:

Zoom meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83727204263?pwd=RW5nNWdBaFFKQzBNaGR6T3NpbkZ4dz09>

ID riunione: 837 2720 4263 / Passcode: 835664

Many of you were at our presentation of the first volume of the “**La Bibbia dell'Amicizia**”, held on 18 March 2019 at the *Pontifical Biblical Institute*, and are already familiar with the incisive prefaces signed by Pope Francis and Rabbi Abraham Skorka of that volume of Biblical commentary, composed with multiple hands by Jews and Christians. I would greatly encourage your reading of it.

In this historical moment, with the return of anti-Semitic prejudices and a growing ignorance of the Biblical text, this collaboration between scholars of the two monotheistic religions that share most of the same Bible is a strong sign of our friendship. These volumes are born from the encounter of two realities: love for the Word of God and friendship between Jews and Christians. For millennia, Jews and Christians have read and meditated on the Bible separately. For some decades now, Jews and Christians have begun a path of dialogue to overcome hatreds and misunderstandings and listen to each other in new ways. Indeed, as Monsignor Ambrogio Spreafico, President of the Episcopal Commission for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue of the Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI), commented with respect to “**La Bibbia dell'Amicizia**”, “a common reflection on the Bible, such as the one now being proposed, may have an impact not only on the experts of Jewish-Christian dialogue but also on our respective communities”.

This is our hope. The unusual situation in which the whole world finds itself in this moment indeed allows us, through this and other online events, to listen to each other and to contemplate words spoken in a new and different way – singularly, quietly, and in our own private spaces – and this could potentially be a gift that enriches all of us in surprising ways. In that light, we look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Fr Etienne Vetö', written in a cursive style.

Fr Etienne Vetö ccn

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