



Pfarrer Dr. Christian Hartl

Welcome to the International Congress Renovabis 2020

„Actually, everything should have gone very differently.“

This is *generally* valid in these times of the Corona pandemic. This is also *especially* valid when it comes to this year's Renovabis Congress!

We would have liked to devote our attention to the subject of „Ecumenism in Central and Eastern Europe“. This is an important topic, which we are now postponing until next year, by when - hopefully - the Corona pandemic will have subsided.

„Should we just cancel the entire convention?“, we asked ourselves.

The congress always addresses at least two concerns, however:

- First of all, it is dedicated to a topic that is relevant and interesting in and of itself.
- Secondly, it offers the opportunity to get together with the many partners and friends of Renovabis who live in different countries and otherwise hardly have a chance to meet together.

Some people even refer to a „Renovabis family“, as a warm bond has developed between many partners over the years. „Especially in these strange Corona times, which have turned all plans and endeavours of people upside down, it is important that we know about each other,“ many have said.

That is how the concept for this year's 24th International Congress, which is to take place digitally, came about. „**Covid-19: A New Challenge for Church and Society in East and West**“ is the theme.

In seven online-based individual events we want to explore the topics of:

- Corona and the poor
- Corona and its psychological impact on different generations
- Corona and the Pastoral
- Corona and basic (biblical) theological considerations
- Corona and adult education
- Corona and European solidarity
- Corona and labour migration

On our homepage you will find more detailed information on the individual events and discussion participants, registration modalities and technical requirements.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped prepare, design and will attend our digital congress. And I would like to extend a warm welcome to all those interested! Let's stay connected - especially and even more so in these extraordinary months! May God bless you!

Your pastor, Christian Hartl