10 maggio

10 May

**Friendship Day among Coptics and Catholics**

A journey of reconciliation and friendship undertaken together.

The 10th of May is a particularly significant day in the history of relations between the Catholic Church and the Coptic Church of Egypt. It all started on 10 May 1973 when Pope Paul VI and Pope Shenouda III, Patriarch of the Orthodox Coptics of Egypt met in Rome. This was an important moment in the relationship between the two Churches which led to many fruitful contacts.

40 years on from that meeting of their predecessors, **Pope Francis and Pope Tawadros II** - Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St Mark, head of the Orthodox Coptic Church of Egypt - met in Rome on 10 May 2013.

In order to commemorate the anniversaries of these encounters which took place on the same day of the year, the 10th of May has been proclaimed Friendship Day Between Coptics and Catholics.

**Giornata dell’amicizia fra copti e cattolici**

*Un cammino di riconciliazione e amicizia intrapreso insieme.*

Il 10 maggio è una data particolarmente significativa nella storia dei rapporti tra la Chiesa cattolica e la Chiesa ortodossa copta d’Egitto. Tutto è iniziato il 10 maggio 1973 quando si incontrarono a Roma Papa Paolo VI e Papa Shenouda III, Patriarca della Chiesa ortodossa copta d’Egitto, incontro decisivo per le relazioni tra le due Chiese, che aprì la strada a molti e fecondi contatti.

A distanza di quarant’anni dall’incontro dei loro predecessori, Papa Francesco e Papa Tawadros II - Papa d’Alessandria e Patriarca della Sede di San Marco, capo della Chiesa ortodossa copta d’Egitto - si sono incontrati a Roma il 10 maggio 2013.

Ricorrendo gli anniversari di questi incontri nel medesimo giorno, il 10 maggio è stato definito il *giorno dell’amicizia tra copti e cattolici*.

17-24 May

*The theme chosen for this year's Week of Prayer is "Give me to drink" (John 4:7) and the biblical texts were complied by an ecumenical editorial team in Brazil. Various initiatives are being held throughout the world.*

Traditionally the week of prayer is celebrated between 18-25 January, between the feasts of St Peter and St Paul. In the southern hemisphere, where January is a vacation time, churches often find other days to celebrate it, for example around the Feast of Pentecost, which is also a symbolic date for unity.

To pray for the unity of Christians is undoubtedly an indispensable condition in the ecumenical journey, and the Week of Prayer for Christian unity is very important in this regard.

In January, many initiatives were held in Northern European countries. We would like to live this together also with the people in the Southern Hemisphere through joint events promoted by brothers and sisters of the different churches which help to make visible the prayer of Jesus "May they all be one" (Jn 17:21), according to the reflection proposed for this year: *“Give me to drink”* (Jn 4:7), which we have been reminded of in the [January's Word of Life.](http://www.focolare.org/en/news/2014/12/28/gennaio-2015/)