

Invitation To Protestants

A Reflection

If you are NOT a Catholic you are ardently invited - in the spirit of the ecumenical community of Taize - to join us in worshipping the Lamb of GOD together, in the recitation of the **Song of the Bride** in the **Heart of Mary Beads**.



Taize is a Christian ecumenical, monastic community in eastern France. Founded in 1940 by a Protestant - Brother Roger Schutz (1915-2005) the Taize community consists of over 100 brothers from Protestant, Catholic and Eastern Orthodox traditions from 30 countries.

The community is dedicated to the reconciliation of all Christians and peoples. Every year, Taize is a place of pilgrimage for tens of thousands of mostly young people from around the world.

Taize gives pilgrims an experience of **contemplative prayer** through the singing/chanting of brief, repetitive scriptural prayers, followed by periods of silence where the Presence of GOD is experienced in their hearts and in their gathering.

The community of Taize is an ecumenical community in **communion with the Catholic Church** and its Founder, Brother Roger, was loved by three Popes. Pope John XXIII described Taize as "That little springtime."



In 1986, Pope John Paul II said to Brother Roger,

"One passes through Taize as one passes close to a spring of water. The traveler stops, quenches his thirst and continues on his way."

In 1980, Brother Roger said, in the presence of Pope John Paul II at Saint Peter's Basilica, "I have found my own identity as a Christian by reconciling within myself the faith of my origins with the mystery of the Catholic faith, without breaking fellowship with anyone."

In 1982, recognizing the prophetic significance of Taize, Cardinal Ratzinger wrote in 'Principles of Catholic Theology, P304...

"For more than a decade, Taizé has been, without a doubt, the leading example of an ecumenical inspiration, emanating from a local center inspired by a particular 'charism'.



Similar communities of faith and of shared living should be formed elsewhere in which the foregoing of a communal reception of the Eucharist would, without ceasing to be a hardship, become comprehensible and in which its necessity would be understood by a prayer community that cannot answer its own prayer but is, nevertheless, calmly certain it will be answered."

In 2005, Brother Roger expressed his desire to Pope Benedict XVI that, "our Taize community wishes to walk along in communion with the Holy Father."

Brother Roger believed in the True Presence of JESUS in the Holy Eucharist "without breaking fellowship" with his Protestant origins. The members of the Taize Community are compelled to "forego" full, communal, sacramental communion with JESUS in the Eucharist of the Catholic Church, but they walk alongside us in **spiritual** communion.



And so, it is in this spirit of Taize, and through the prophetic spiritual paternity of Brother Roger, that you are invited to join us now in the **Song of the Bride** - in the Heart of Mary Beads,

...and in your own home, to turn the eyes of your soul toward the Lamb of GOD in the Blessed Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist upon all the Orthodox and Catholic altars of the world... or seated upon the throne of GOD and the Lamb in heaven... to contemplate and adore Him there and to invoke His coming **spiritually** into your soul.

As Pope Benedict XVI said on 12.29.12, to thousands gathered at a Taize, Saturday night prayer service, in Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome...

"A tireless witness to the Gospel of peace and reconciliation, ardently committed to an ecumenism of holiness... Brother Roger encouraged all those who passed through Taize to become seekers of communion. We should listen in our hearts to his spiritually lived ecumenism, and let ourselves be guided by his witness towards an ecumenism which is truly interiorized and spiritualized."



" The hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and truth."
John 4:23-24

" This passage...is the prophecy of a worship in which there will no longer be any temple, but in which the faithful will pray without an external temple in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and the truth of the Gospel, in communion with Christ; where what is needed is no longer a visible temple but rather the new fellowship with the risen Lord. That always remains important, because it signifies a major turning point in the history of religion as well." Benedict XVI-Light of the World

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