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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2nd Catholic Social Days for Europe

The Christian Faith and the Future of Europe

Madrid, September 18-21, 2014

From Thursday, September 18 until Sunday 21, Madrid will host the 2nd Catholic Social Days for Europe during which specialists in the social apostolate of the Church, coming from 29 European countries, will discuss on the topic: "The Christian faith and the future of Europe". The venue of the meeting will be the *Seminario Conciliar de la Inmaculada y San Damaso* (Calle San Buenaventura 9, 28005 Madrid).

The Social Days are organized by the two institutions of the Catholic Bishops of Europe (CCEE and COMECE) together with the Archdiocese of Madrid, with the collaboration of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Spain. Cardinal Rouco Varela offered to host the event in the archdiocese of Madrid. The first edition of the European Social Days took place in Gdansk (Poland) in October 8-11, 2009.

Opening Mass and opening ceremony

The 2nd Catholic Social Days for Europe will begin on Thursday, Sep 18, at 6 p.m. with a Holy Mass presided over by the Bishop of Calahorra and La Calzada Logroño, and President of the Commission for Social Pastoral Care of the Spanish Bishops' Conference, **Msgr. Juan José Omella Omella**. At 7 p.m., the Mass will be followed by the opening session with addresses, among others, by Cardinals **Antonio Maria Rouco Varela**, Apostolic Administrator of Madrid, **Angelo Bagnasco**, Archbishop of Genoa and Vice-President of CCEE, and **Reinhard Marx**, Archbishop of Munich and President of COMECE.

The Rector of the Ecclesiastical University of San Damaso (Madrid), **Don Javier Prades López**, will give the first lecture: "The contribution of the Christian faith for the present and the future of Europe: the human person".

The full program is attached.

A **press conference** to present our work will take place at the Seminario Conciliar of Madrid, Thursday 18 at 4.30 pm, with the participation, among others, of Cardinal **Reinhard Marx**, Cardinal **Angelo Bagnasco**, and Mr. **Jorge Nuno Mayer**, President of Caritas Europa.

It will be possible to follow the main working sessions via streaming at:
www.catholicdays.eu - www.archimadrid.es - www.conferenciaepiscopal.es

