

**Press release of Communion and Liberation  
on the occasion of the abdication from the throne of King Juan Carlos I**

The Catholic movement of Communion and Liberation unites with the sentiments the Spanish Bishop's Conference Executive Committee expressed in its note published on the occasion of the abdication of King Juan Carlos I. Together with the Spanish bishops, we would like to thank the sovereigns for their "generous dedication and their contribution to the recent history of Spain, in particular the establishment and consolidation of its democratic life, with special importance during the period of Political Transition [in Spanish history, the period from 1975-1982, with the death of Franco and the transition from dictatorship to parliamentary democracy, *Translator's note*]."

The King himself, in his message to the nation, spoke of the need for a new, younger generation to move forward "to face with renewed intensity and dedication the challenges of tomorrow." Thirty-nine years ago a generation shouldered its responsibilities, setting aside old conflicts and building a common life based on the conviction that the other is not an enemy to eliminate. In the same way, this new generation is called to express a true will for coexistence that excludes the aggressive and sterile dialectics that have discredited our democracy in recent years.

Today we must all renew this decision. As Benedict XVI said in his time, "incremental progress is possible only in the material sphere." Instead, "in the field of ethical awareness and moral decision-making, there is no similar possibility of accumulation for the simple reason that man's freedom is always new and he must always make his decisions anew. These decisions can never simply be made for us in advance by others—if that were the case, we would no longer be free. Freedom presupposes that in fundamental decisions, every person and every generation is a new beginning" (*Spe Salvi*, 24).

As at the beginning of the Political Transition, today as well the Church wants to be an active part in building society. Pope Francis invites all Christians "to show concern for the building of a better world. This is essential, for the Church's social thought is primarily positive: it offers proposals, it works for change and in this sense it constantly points to the hope born of the loving heart of Jesus Christ" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 183).

We Spaniards are embarking on a "new beginning." We ask the Lord of History to grant Crown Prince Felipe de Borbone and Crown Princess Letizia the intelligence, the capacity for affection and the responsibility needed to promote true coexistence among Spaniards, and to evoke in all of us the desire to affirm radically that the other is a good.

Communion and Liberation feels part of this new generation and desires to contribute with its own experience to this new beginning, especially by educating the faith of people capable of looking at reality in all its factors.

Communion and Liberation  
Madrid, June 2, 2014