

# Europe needs our prayer!

## Week 3: Asking prayer



for our movements and communities in Europe – Europe needs our prayer!

### The asking prayer

Amidst of the noise of daily commitments, as soon as one comes to face the day with its challenges, the impulse to look up emerges: it is the call to prayer. The creature wants to connect with his creator to begin a dialogue that gives meaning to life to joy, and to suffering. **So what is prayer?** Prayer is about building an intimate, personal and childlike relationship with God, in trustful surrender and in quietly listening to what He wants to tell us.

### How do you attain such a dialogue?

**1. Believe in God, who is love.** “God loves you infinitely”: This simple sentence, which was given to Chiara Lubich, opened her eyes to a certainty: “God loves you, He loves us infinitely.” It is the discovery of a Heavenly Father, who even counts the hairs on our heads; a discovery that brings hope, **and reassures us of His help in every context.**

**2. Ask with confidence,** ready to unconditionally and completely say “Yes” to the will of God.

**3. Ask for what is good, and always in love.**

**4. Be persistent in prayer** without becoming tired. The promise of Jesus is comforting: “Knock and it will be opened to you” (Mt 7:7).

**5. Ask together.** Praying on the basis of mutual love and experiencing the effectiveness of the promise “where two or three” which Jesus has put in our hearts, (Mt 18:19-20) is a great experience that we can have at any time. Let us rid our hearts of every reservation, every prejudice! Let's look at each other as true brothers and sisters, united by an unconditional love, and with courage and hope, pray together as one: “Heavenly Father, united in the name of Jesus, Crucified and Risen, we thank you for the fragments of living fellowship; consolidate it and promote brotherhood for the common good of Europe and the peoples.”

Maria Voce (President of Focolar-Movement)

### Germany

For me as a German, Europe is my home continent with over 40 nations and many languages. I really appreciate the time that I grew up in. My parents and grandparents told me about the war and austerities, but I have always been able to live in freedom and prosperity.

I am still grateful for the fact that the German unification in 1989 was possible in peace and freedom without bloodshed. I am realizing more and more that the era of peace in which I was born is the fruit of the suffering and sacrifices of many people who lost their lives through genocides and wars or who suffered reprisals.

Furthermore, I am aware that my nation has originated many ideologies and divisions from which the world is still suffering. This is the reason why I support the endeavor to find people in Europe and in the world, who create a new culture of love out of faith in the Triune God.

### Prayer:

Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, let many of the baptised realise and experience anew that they are your image and that you are dwelling in their heart.

Help all, especially the young people, to use media in such a way that they remain humane, empathetic and capable of creating bonds. Give them good people to accompany them.

Bless all parents who show their children the way to you and set an example for them.

Triune God, bless our community of faith and prayer and fill us with your Spirit, who makes all things new.

Sr. M. Lioba Ruprecht (Secular Institute of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary)