

## Prayer Path to Europe Day on May 9<sup>th</sup>, Week 2 4.4. - 10.04.2020

### “We say Yes to a Europe of mercy and humanity”.

The Christian belief has shaped the history of Europe. It is a cosmopolitan belief. Praying and working (ora et labora) belong together. Humanity and mercy derive from the crucified and abandoned Christ and shape the continent. This causes a commission for Europe which is not yet finished.”

(Together for Europe 2016)

### *Word of the Gospel: Matthew 27, 46-54*

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, ‘This man is calling Elijah.’ And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, ‘Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.’ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, ‘Truly this was the Son of God!’

*The question about suffering is as old as humankind itself. People have always tried to find an answer to it. But the problem remains and above all concrete and tangible suffering remains throughout the world. One day my attention was drawn to the cry of Jesus at the cross: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? - Meeting Him, who has experienced the deepest abyss, became the meeting of the greatest love.”*

*(Chiara Lubich: The left Jesus. Friedberg 2016)*

*The European history knows suffering, merciless and misanthropy. The heritage of fascism, nationalist egocentricity but also the heritage of hegemonic claims about countries and continents today lead to responsibility and commission, if we seriously like to bring about the crucified and abandoned Jesus and ground our lives on the human and merciful hope of resurrection, carried by the love of Jesus.*

***Prayer:***

O Lord, our time is full of oppression.

The cause of Christ seems to reside in agony.

But in spite of this, never before through his days on earth did Christ stride more powerful,

never before has His coming back become clearer; never before His closeness more noticeable; never before His service more precious than now.

So during this peculiar moment between the storms of our earthly days, let us pray:

O Lord, only You can enlighten the dark, only You can do this. AMEN!

***Song or prayer:***

Father, make us one, that the world may know Thou have sent the Son. Father, make us one.

***Intercession:***

During this week we especially pray for these European countries:

Andorra

Denmark

Greece

Croatia

Moldova

Austria

Sweden

Czech Republic

Belarus