

Prayer Path to Europe Day on May 9th, Week 4 18.04. - 24.04 2020

“We say Yes to a Europe which strongly connects East and West”

Europe reaches from Portugal to the Ural, so it is much bigger than the European Union (EU), which still represents a highly valuable instrument of peace and encounter. Especially in encounters of East and West the appearing different developments need be considered.”

(Together for Europe 2016)

Word of the Bible: Luke 13,29

“And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God.”

“During the euphoria of success there was no room for the dark sides of the end of the post war order. But, still, the dissolution of the order did take place and has affected the political order, the social order, moral and cultural orientation. The disappearing of the “iron curtain” paralleled with pulling up new borders, since, for instance, all of a sudden the national states replaced the former super powers. The age of ideology did come to an end, but it also became a starting point, since the rebirth of old-new ideologies and myths now comes into play. (...) Years, decades of turbulences, in which new and old issues, new freedom in moving and the longing for old-familiar went hand in hand, causing a deep gap between families and friendships - losers and winners in close neighborhood. (...)

Central and Eastern Europe were touched by these rejections and shifts, and even more: what had been in the intersection of interests of the rival super powers for half a century, now suddenly had moved into the intermediate zone, into the insecurity of the periphery (...) including various issues: new freedom, but also unpredictability and risks. Old conflicts, which had been covered during the period of the cold war, took wings again. (...)

In this situation, when more than ever before the Europeans were on their own, everything seems possible: intense ranges of separation, but also new negotiations of a modus vivendi to set up completely new relations; panic and hysteria, but also less drama and getting used to dealing with crises as an everyday's issue of society and states, when the Golden Age is over.”

(Karl Schlögel: Das mittlere und das östliche Europa - 30 Jahre nach dem Fall des Eisernen Vorhangs, in Ost-West. Europäische Perspektiven 20 (2019), 1672-166; here: 164-166)

Prayer:

Father of mankind, Lord of history!

Look at this continent, which You have sent the philosophers, the law givers, and the wise, forerunners of the belief in Your Son, who died and rose again.

Look at these people, who were preached the gospel by Peter and Paul, by the prophets, through the monks and the holy ones.

Look at this region, covered with the blood of martyrs, touched by the voice of the reformers.

Look at these people, connected with each other through many bonds and - at the same time - separated by hate and war. (...)

Lord, help us to confidentially accept our task, to support and promote this very alliance between the people by which all the continents are given justice and the bread, freedom and peace. AMEN!

(Carlo M. Cardinal Martini, 1927-2012)

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:

Belgium

Estonia

Liechtenstein

Montenegro

Portugal

Serbia

Ukraine