

Prayer Path to Europe Day on May 9th, Week 5 25.04.- 01.05.2020

“We say Yes to a Europe with a special responsibility for Africa”

Europe has a special relation to Africa and therefore a special responsibility for Africa as well. For example, encounters and projects encourage for more involvement. We also strongly affirm that we are open to migration.”

(Together for Europe 2016)

Word of the Bible: Acts 8, 27-34

“And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over and join this chariot.’ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ And he said, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: ‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.’ And the eunuch said to Philip, ‘About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.”

On January 7th 2020, a corpse of a child was discovered in a landing gear of a plain that had landed in Paris. The boy was just 10 years old. He was exemplary for the longing and the drama of millions of young people in Africa. The African continent has as many children and minors as Europe has got inhabitants altogether. Who answers the questions concerning education, work and future these 230 million youngsters raise? Attempts to help issued by the African States to the world are repeated on a yearly basis. Yet, they do not have the desired effect. And consequently, refugees strand in overfilled camps or cannot cross the Mediterranean Sea. In their home lands many of them are persecuted because of their religion, they suffer from war and crises, or they starve. What can we do about this? First thing is to accept our responsibility for this continent. Still today Africa suffers from the consequences of colonization, inhuman ideologies and exploitation. This raises a question: Do we preach the gospel authentically? Do we support politicians who aim at the development of the states in justice and peace, who fight against the reasons of migration? Let us rethink, let us live more consciously, let us learn to share in Europe and with the African countries, and let us buy fair products. That would be a start.

Prayer:

Jesus, you have touched the leper.

Make us free from our antipathy!

You have shared your meal with those who did not wash their hands before:

Make us free from being hypersensitive.

You have called Peter and called him again:

Make us free from being annoyed and offended.

You have loved the busy Martha and the contemplative Maria:

Make us free from paying attention to the prestige of people.

Jesus, make us free today!

For You give today and do not put off on tomorrow.

(Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894)

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:

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Finland

Lithuania

Netherlands

Romania

Slovakia

Hungary