

**Prayer for Peace**  
**Journeying with young people toward May 9**  
**FOURTH WEEK – 17.04. – 23.04. 2022 - CROATIA**

**Introductory hymn**

“Loving devotion and faithfulness have joined together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed.  
Faithfulness sprouts from the earth,  
and righteousness looks down from heaven” (Ps 85: 10-11).

The Psalmist refers to love and interprets love as life, life as friendship and - to complete the circle - he interprets friendship as love.

An excerpt from the book “*Light and shadow*” by Ivan Golub:

*“If loving entails giving one’s life so as to promote the life of another, then, friendship entails giving one’s life so as to promote the life of that friend. Jesus called ‘friends’ his own, and regarding his mission he said that he came so that they may have life. Thus, he showed the link between life and friendship. Love, life, and friendship: three words, three secrets. One explains the other and also the three secrets offered by Jesus: love entails giving one’s life; life entails being friends with the others and the others with us; friendship entails loving the others. Love, life and friendship are one inseparable reality in which one explains the other, and all three live in unison”.*

Thoughts of Cardinal Franjo Kuharić:

*“If we are ready to give and share love and friendship – today and tomorrow, rain or shine, morning and noon, that is, always - then we will be spreading peace. And peace is what many desire, because every day we hear of conflicts and wars. Some close to us, others far away from our doors”.*

***Lord God, do not allow the pain and the wrongs we suffered nurture hatred in our hearts; indeed, following in the footsteps of your Son, give us the strength to pray for those who have wronged us, so that “if my enemy has burned down my home, I will not burn his. If he destroyed my church, I will not touch his: on the contrary, I will protect it. If he has abandoned his house, I will take nothing from it, not even a pin! If he killed my father, my brother or my sister, I will not seek vengeance with the same measure, but will respect the life of his father, brother, son and sister!”***

An excerpt from the book “*Stories of Vukovar*” by Siniša Glavašević:

“Lord God, grant us the wisdom and the strength to be true bearers of peace and goodness in our families, our neighbourhoods, our schools and our workplaces, because in sharing even the last atom of love present in our heart, we can contribute toward the kindling of the light of peace in the world. If there is some love in us, let’s not waste it. Let’s share a little of our love with the first person we meet, and there will be fewer enemies... For a start, this is sufficient”.

**Concluding hymn**

Group of *Together for Europe* in Croatia