

**Prayer for Peace**  
**Journeying with young people toward May 9**  
**SIXTH WEEK 01.05. – 08.05. 2022 – SLOVENIA**

**Introductory hymn:**

**Let us start this prayer journey toward 9th May with the Pact of mutual love, in unity with over 240 ecclesial Movements and Communities in Europe that want to witness an ever deeper communion, fruit of the Holy Spirit:**

Let us do the Pact of mutual love together: **“A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”** (Jn 13:34-35)

Jesus, we respond with a ‘yes’ to your commandment and today we renew our pact of mutual love. We want to love one another as you have loved us. We pray that the Holy Spirit may strengthen our love and that you may be in our midst, as you promised. Act in us and through us when we come together to enhance your Kingdom.

**Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for our common home, Europe: the place you gave us to live in and glorify you.

Reawaken in us the respect for the Fathers of Europe! We thank you for all the persons who in the past have constructed our earthly homeland. We also thank you for all those who today guide us toward you.

Holy Spirit, inspire the men and women who guide us. Help them become ever wiser leaders, educators and statesmen who practice justice and promote the growth of each citizen and the global development of our common homeland.

Lord, help us to carry out responsibly the mission you entrusted to us. Help us to enhance our talents, and to use them to remain faithful to our families and children, our earth, sea and air, our farms, villages and cities, our services, our nations and all humanity, our Christian faith and our Churches.

Reawaken in us the sense of solidarity to help all those in need.

**A Reading from the First Letter of Peter (1Pt 3:8-9):** “Finally, all of you, be like-minded and sympathetic, love as brothers, be tenderhearted and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing”. Despite our differences, let us rejoice for one another, overcoming the contradictions and joining the endeavour for a life of unity and mutual respect.

Some 180 years ago, when we Slovenians were still under the Austro-Hungarian State, our greatest poet expressed the soul of our Nation, which always strove for unity. He did this through a song – “Toast” – and in 1990 this was adopted as the national anthem of Slovenia:

“Hurray to all the peoples yearning the day in which conflicts are extirpated from the world: thus, every fellow citizen shall be free and our neighbour will cease being the devil, but is seen as a friend!”

Heavenly Father, you love us! Teach us how to speak! Teach us how to live! Teach us how to work! Teach us how to celebrate and rejoice!

We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

**A Reading from John (17: 20-23)** “I am not asking on behalf of them alone, but also on behalf of those who will believe in Me through their message, that all of them may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I am in You. May they also be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. I have given them the glory You gave Me, so that they may be one as We are one— I in them and You in Me—that they may be perfectly united, so that the world may know that You sent Me and have loved them just as You have loved Me.”

**Hymn:**

**The grace of fraternal love**

Lord Jesus,

Your great dream was: that we be one, as you and the Father are one, so that our unity may merge into yours.

Your great commandment, your Last Testament and the characteristic banner of your disciples is: to love one another as you have loved us; indeed, you have loved as the Father has loved you.

This was the source, the measure, the example.

With the Twelve you were an itinerant family.

You were honest and sincere with them,

Demanding and understanding

And, above all, patient.

You were like a family.

You warned them about the dangers

You encouraged them when faced with problems,

You rejoiced for their successes,

You washed their feet and served them at table,

First you set an example, and then you gave your commandment:

Love one another as I have loved you.

In the new family, the fraternity of the European Nations, which we want to form in your name, we recognize you as the gift of the Father and we welcome you, Lord Jesus, as a brother. Thus you will be our uniting power and our joy.

If you don't live in our midst, this community will collapse as a house of cards.

You are present and live in every member; therefore we commit ourselves to respect one another as we respect you, and, when unity and peace in our community are threatened, we will be protected by your presence. To this end we ask you to remain in every heart.

Demolish the high wall that is within us: a wall that was erected by our egoism, arrogance and vanity. Eliminate jealousy from our doors because it hinders and destroys unity. Free us from all kinds of unruliness. Subdue offensive attitudes. We ask all this so that we become similar to you and love as you have loved. Lord Jesus, you shall be our example and our leader.

Grant us, Lord Jesus, the grace of mutual love: a delicate, warm and deep breeze to revive our relationships; that we may understand and forgive one another; that we may encourage and cheer up others as children of the same mother; that all obstacles, silences and blocks are eliminated from our path; and, above all, that we may be open and faithful, sincere and loving, and that trust may grow among us like the foliage of a tree that covers all the siblings of the same household under its shade.

In this way we shall have a warm and happy hearth that would be like a city placed on the mountain, a prophetic sign that your great dream is being fulfilled and that you alone are alive in our midst. Amen.

**Final hymn**

*The ecclesial Movements and Communities of Slovenia*