

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY AND HUMAN SOLIDARITY ACTION¹

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

The topic for the 2010 Week of Prayer: „*Ye are witnesses of these things*” (Luke 24, 46-48) is missionary and anniversary as well, in connection with the 100th anniversary of the World Conference of Missions, that took place in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1910. This topic calls unto the Churches to preach God’s love for the people and to call them to salvation as the beginning of a new, blessed life, in communion with God and with our fellow-men. As in 1910, the Churches have the mission to call the people *to repent and reconcile, in communion and cooperation, to witness together the love of Christ for all people*. Witnessing the Cross and Resurrection of Christ, the Son of God, Who became Man so that men could participate to the divine life and bliss, is and will stay the main mission of the Church, as taught by Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist: „*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life*”. (John 3, 16).

It is the suggestion of the European Conference of Churches that the year 2010 be also *a year of common action facing the phenomenon of labour force migration*, caused by an evident material poverty. Nowadays, because of the new social and economical environment and especially because of a deeper difference

¹ *The message of His Beatitude Daniel, Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church, on the occasion of the 2010 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*

between rich and poor, *we witness a chosen exile of those with no work*, a dramatic phenomenon for the families of many of our fellow-men, especially for the children. The Churches must help as many of the families affected by migration as possible, granting them spiritual, pastoral and social-charitable assistance, to those in Romania, as well as to those in the diaspora.

At the same time we have to be attentive and respectful, kind and friendly with the foreigners hoping to find in Romania hospitality and a better living environment than in their countries of origin. In this regard, we can learn a lot from our multiseccular Romanian tradition, as well as from the more recent experience of other Churches and nations.

Thus, we are called *to cultivate human solidarity towards those affected by the phenomenon of migration nowadays as well, besides the prayer for Christian unity*, in order to show that the Gospel of Christ's love is the light of our life in Church and in society. May God help us !

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