

Canopy of Prayer

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contributor
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Dear praying friends in Europe

Already today, 90% of unborn children in Europe are aborted with a trisomy 21 diagnosis (Down syndrome). Are most of these abortions performed for fear of psychological and financial overload? Before we condemn mothers and fathers, who agree to have their disabled unborn aborted, we should all ask ourselves: do we help parents with disabled children to find support? Jesus says that the kingdom of God belongs to the small and the weak (Mark 10:13-16): "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, because for people like them God's new world is open".

Prenatal diagnostics and Down Syndrome

Prenatal diagnostics covers diagnostic techniques up to the time of delivery. It covers tests that search for diseases of the mother or developmental disorders and malformations of the unborn child. Down syndrome occurs in about 1 out of 700 births. There is a blood test (Praena test), which can be used from the 10th week of pregnancy, to determine whether the unborn child has Down syndrome (trisomy 21) or not. Compared to the previous trisomy 21 examinations (chorionic villus sampling, amniocentesis), in which there is always a risk of death for the child (approx. 1%), this blood test represents a step forward.

The problems of the new test arise because it is simple and has a high diagnostic accuracy (about 99%). If the result is positive, the pregnant woman is often unprepared for a decision about life or death. The expectant parents often only become aware of the full implications of the blood test, when a Down syndrome is indicated.

A further problem is the possible area-wide application. There is a risk that the test will comprehensively prevent the birth of children with Down syndrome. Down syndrome, which is less severe than other disabilities, could completely disappear from society through systematic detection and abortion.

Should it be a goal of medicine to systematically prevent disabled life? Even though it may make sense in individual cases to carry out the test in the interest of the pregnant woman, the examination bears the risk of openly pronouncing general negative attitudes towards people with disabilities. Will disability be regarded as "avoidable" and sorted out, or will European societies find the courage to value all life?

People depend on others not only as small children, but on their relationships with others throughout their lives. Not only if someone is limited by illness, physically or mentally handicapped, but also if a healthy person seems to act independently from others. The need for care is certainly more evident in people with disabilities. But an accident can suddenly turn a healthy person into a disabled person! Being dependent on others by no means degrades a person. Not the greatest possible independence, but love and care should be and remain the fundamental dimension of human coexistence. This includes people with disabilities, who should retain a place in society in the future.

let's pray:

1. Father, have mercy so that we do not turn against you and life!
2. For a "yes to life" and legal protection for a life with disability!
3. Protection of pregnant women, who are under increasing social pressure to abort a disabled child.



Update



Ukraine

Thank God for the retreat on both sides of the Ukrainian conflict which never could have happened without the approval of Putin.

Additional prayer points:-

1. Pray for the replacement of the Dublin treaty, which put an unfair burden upon the Mediterranean states and for a European convention on migration for the EU.
2. Pray for the new president of the European Central Bank, Christine Lagarde, for wisdom in her monetary policy on the background of weakening economies.

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