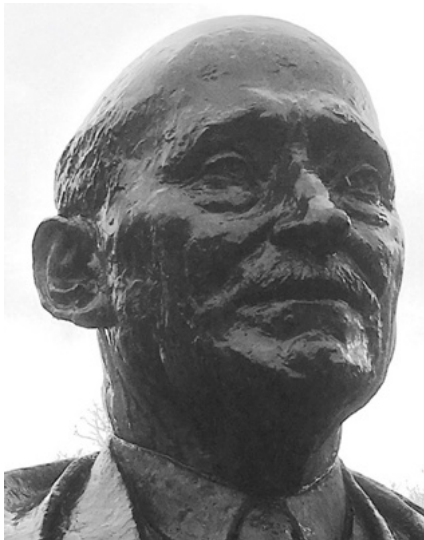




Dear Praying Friends in Europe,

Roots and Fruits of the European Union

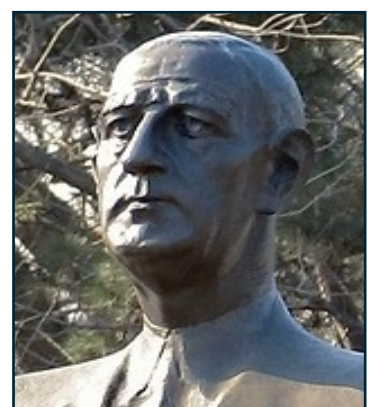
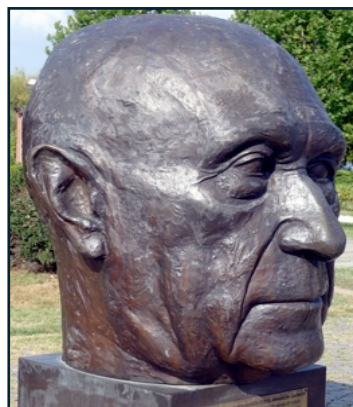
People like to refer to ‘European values’ in solemn speeches. But what exactly are ‘European values’ and how did they come about? Historically, the emergence of the ‘New Europe’ was significantly influenced by the Second World War. Without the horrific destruction of Europe caused by nationalism and the fear of renewed aggression emanating from Germany, it would have been difficult to imagine a unification of the peoples of Europe. What were the triggers for the creation of the European Union? In the post-war period, the French entrepreneur Jean Monnet submitted a plan to the then French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman to place all Franco-German coal and steel production under a new ‘High Authority’, that would be open to the participation of other countries.



The “High Authority” was to take control of the German Ruhr region and other important economic centres. Robert Schuman publicly announced the plan on 9 May 1950. The German government was the first to adopt it. Italy and the Benelux countries soon followed. The six foreign ministers, who signed the treaty on the joint ‘European Coal and Steel Community’ in April 1951, all belonged to Christian Democratic parties. Robert Schuman, like the German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, was active in Catholic organisations as a young man. For both politicians, European co-operation was not only important in economic terms. In a letter dated August 1951, Adenauer wrote to Schuman that he was ‘filled with the desire to build the new edifice of Europe on Christian foundations.’ Peace in Europe was the common goal and the way to achieve it was mutual trust and reconciliation based on Christian convictions. Economic relations only served as a ‘lubricating oil’.

When those who attended a peace mass in Reims Cathedral in July 1962, a new chapter in the peaceful relationship between the two neighbouring countries began. They wanted to reconcile and ultimately become friends. The basis of the policy of reconciliation was a close personal relationship of trust between the Catholics Adenauer and de Gaulle.

The ‘faith of two Catholic statesmen developed into a policy of reconciliation and trust’ (Ortwin Schweitzer). These are the roots and fruits of the New Europe. Anyone who knows anything about horticulture knows, how important good conditions are for plants to develop roots. Anyone who has recognised this as a Christian will try to continue to cultivate the roots of the New Europe today in the same spirit.





In the decades since its foundation, the European Union has undergone many political, economic and ethical developments, that have led many people, including many Christians, to turn away in disappointment. However, there is also a growing number of Christians from a wide variety of nations in diverse European networks, who are united in friendship and bring the current situation and future development of Europe before God in prayer.

Prayer requests:

1. Please pray that the formative power of the Christian roots of the New Europe will come more into the consciousness of Europeans.
2. Please pray for the good development of the various Christian European networks and initiatives (e.g. Europeans United in Prayer, Schuman Centre for European Studies, Europe shall be saved, Together for Europe).
3. Pray that God will give young Christians in particular a heart for Europe and that they will become politically, culturally or charitably involved.

Update on Canopy of Prayer

As we begin a new year of praying and interceding for our continent, we always need to be on the lookout for what God is doing. He told Isaiah "See, I am doing a new thing". God does not change in his character, but he does change his methods, and we also must be ready to adapt to the "new things" as they appear.

One change which is happening is that Canopy will now appear once every four weeks instead of two. This decision was taken in order to ensure that the articles we present are as informative and helpful as possible in aiding prayer, and we will continue to seek out knowledgeable and wise authors to share their expertise and insights into each subject. Canopy will now extend to two pages to allow adequate space for the writers of our articles as well as ensuring that the print size is not too small for our readers! Our aim is to equip and motivate prayer.

But as prayer needs will arise in the times between Canopy issues, we now have a page on Facebook which will be useful for highlighting prayer needs as they occur and mobilising the intercessors as quickly as possible. You can access it here: <https://www.facebook.com/canopyofprayer europe/>

One other new thing that we are seeking to address is the increased interest in prayer among younger Christians. They may not pray in the same ways as the older generations, but we want to make Canopy accessible to all generations and not just rely on our current format. So, as well as Facebook, we will be exploring further ways of using social media to communicate with as wide an audience as possible.

We pray that these changes will be beneficial to us all and that we can embark on the next stage of our intercession for Europe as fully equipped as we can be.

The editorial team

Further Prayer:-

1. Let us pray for our national and European leaders as they discuss and discern how to deal with the unsolicited interventions of Elon Musk and other individuals from outside the EU who seek to use their influence or financial status to manipulate our democratic processes, politics and institutions.
2. Let us pray for the government ministers in Poland as they begin their six month Presidency of the EU at this key time. Also, during this six month term, Poland will face its own national Presidential elections in May/June.



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