

Greetings from Zygmunt Zimowski

Dear Dr. Anne Vandenhoeck,

As the President of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers, I wish to convey my cordial greetings to the Co-ordinator and to all the members of the European Network of Health Care Chaplaincy, gathered today in Mennorode, Netherlands, for the 12<sup>th</sup> Consultation. I assure you of my prayers and best wishes for a fruitful deliberation in the work that begins today.

The theme upon which your reflection will be focused in these 4 days is of great importance, not only for those involved in this essential and delicate ministry to the sick, but also and above all for the sick people themselves, who are ever more called to be principal actors in pastoral care in health, because for Christians, the condition of suffering and illness in communion with the suffering of Christ is a *kairos* capable of transforming every human suffering into "salvation."

At a time when Europe is experiencing one of the most critical moments in its history, due to the great economic and financial crisis, causing serious consequences on the social, political and economic life of its citizens, we cannot forget also the anthropological and spiritual crisis, which causes disorder and confusion in the lives and hearts of numerous men and women of our time, who therefore need accompaniment and spiritual support, especially when they are tried by suffering and illness.

May those who offer pastoral, religious and spiritual service everyday to the sick - and you are part of these good Samaritans - become both convinced and convincing witnesses of the kingdom of God and its values in the midst of our brothers and sisters who are sick and suffering.

I pray for all of you and for all the sick people who benefit from your pastoral service. Once again, my best wishes for the success of your 4 day Consultation.

+ Zygmunt Zimowski