

Ecumenical Prayer Service for World Refugee Day

On the occasion of World Refugee Day, the Dominican Community and Jesuit Refugee Service Malta announce an Ecumenical Prayer Service to pray for those who are in need of protection in Europe and to pray for those who have died trying to reach the EU. The service is being held as part of a string of events marking World Refugee Day (20 June) being held jointly by UNHCR, Organisation for Friendship and Diversity, Get Up Stand Up, JRS Malta, Emigrants Commission, Migrants Solidarity Movement, Graffiti. Estimated duration: 25 minutes.

Saturday, 12 June 2010

Tigne Seafront, Sliema (see map below)

Time: 6.15pm

For those who wish, Sunday Mass in Maltese, with the participation of immigrants, will be celebrated in the Dominican Church of Jesus of Nazareth, across the street, at 7.00pm. A small number of priests from different religious orders will concelebrate.

Churches and civil rights groups in several European countries will, for the first time, on 20th June 2010, highlight the lethal consequences of the sealing off of the outer borders of the EU. The sealing off is done through a highly developed technical border security, through the removal of and transfer of border security into the neighbouring and transit states of the EU and through re-admission agreements on refugee return with neighbouring and transit states even if this violates human rights.

Churches and human rights groups in the United States of America, where countless migrants die at the border with Mexico, want to join in this initiative.

The churches want to commemorate in prayers the nameless dead who died at sea or in the desert without leaving a trace. Their lament, not heard by the people, should be brought before God. What takes place at the borders – far away from public knowledge or control - should be brought to the attention of the public.

This prayer service is being held in support of the initiative **Migration 2010 – European Churches responding to Migration** promoted by the CCME – Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (German Ecumenical Committee on Church Asylum).

This is not an action or a campaign. This is an act of worship. The place, where we are searching, struggling for the Word. If we take this seriously, our words will have the power to heal.

Fanny Dethloff, German Ecumenical Committee on Church Asylum

