



An excerpt from the homily of St. Pope John Paul II during the Holy Mass. in Włocławek on June 7, 1991

What is redemption if not restoration of value? It is not restoring value to man to relegate him to all that is sensual, to all kinds of desire, to all these facilities in the field of the senses, in the field of sex life, in the field of use. It is not carrying a human being, it is not a measure of culture, it is not a measure of Europeanness which is so often referred to by some spokesmen of our "entry into Europe".

First of all, **we do not have to enter it at all, because we are in it.** The first prime minister of the Third Republic said this in the European Council in Strasbourg: in some way we have always been and are always in Europe. We do not have to enter it, because we created it, and **we created it with more difficulty than those to whom the patent for Europeanness, exclusivity, is attributed to themselves.**

And what is to be the criterion, what is the criterion of freedom? What freedom? **For example, the freedom to take the life of an unborn child?**

My dear brothers and sisters, as Bishop of Rome, **I wish to protest against this classification of Europe, Western Europe.** This offends this great world of culture, of Christian culture, from which we drew and which we co-created, also at the cost of our suffering. Here, in this Kuyavian land, here, in this city of martyrs, it must be said aloud. European culture was created by the martyrs of the first three centuries, and it was also created by martyrs to the east of us in recent decades - and in our country in recent decades. Yes, it was created by Father Jerzy.

He is the patron of our presence in Europe at the cost of the sacrifice of life, just like Christ. Just as Christ, like Christ, has the right to citizenship in the world, he has the right to citizenship in Europe because he gave his life for all of us. He has the right of citizenship among us and among all the peoples of this continent and of the whole world, through his cross.

The mystery of the Hearts they pierced, the mystery of the Hearts they stared at. These are the great pioneers of Europe - in the past and for the future we adopt this measure of Europeanness, this is the measure we want to take and continue, and we will not allow ourselves to lower this measure.

Yes, of course, Europe is also a history of great crises, a history of a European crisis that has many roots, continues and develops, and in our times also has its continuation, in this century, unfortunately, a tragic continuation. After all, it was in this century that a worldview was created in the name of which a person can take another person's life because he is of a different race, because he belongs to such an ethnic group, because he is a Jew, because he is a Gypsy, because he is a Pole. The race of masters and the race of slaves. And then the class myth again. All this is also a European heritage, but we are to liberate ourselves from it! **Europe needs redemption!**