

European Workshop

on dealing with the past of Auschwitz burdened by violence

Invitation to broadening of perspectives

*2010 August 10 – 15, Centre for Prayer and Dialogue
Oswiecim, Poland*



Within the framework of the workshop 30 representatives of different European societies are invited to enter a joint process of learning on dealing with the experience of violence and its consequences in the exemplary analysis of the present significance of Auschwitz.

Analyzing Auschwitz and its consequences – beyond the concrete case – gets an exemplary meaning for dealing with violence experience and its after effects in general. Auschwitz stands for experiences having a lasting effect on the identity of our civilization. Europe has been marked and hurt by the experience of violence in the 20th century. Auschwitz and the connections of experience symbolized by Auschwitz are playing an important role in this context. This is also shown in the different forms, contents, functions and ways Auschwitz is remembered by different European societies. These differences which are based on varying historical experience and experience contexts, make Auschwitz leave a lasting impression. Those who deal with the remembrance of Auschwitz should aim at reconciliation and they have to confront these differences and have to contribute to a deeper understanding of the experiences made.

The workshop wants to invite the participants to jointly visualize the experiences made in connection with Auschwitz and to reflect on the different perspectives and contexts of experience and interpretation contributed by the participants. It is essential to make these differences visible and to make them comprehensible to one another and to oneself so that the negative consequences of the history of violence might be overcome.

The project is meant to encourage the participants themselves to analyze history in a constructive way. In addition to the joint learning efforts of the participants, the project aims at giving a concrete testimony of the church's efforts to achieve a treatment of the history of violence aiming at reconciliation, at solidarity with the survivors, at respect for the sufferings of the victims and which is marked by an understanding and the responsibility for the tense after effects of this history.

The workshop will not only have a political dimension but also a spiritual one. This shall be expressed by the daily Eucharistic mass and by the accompanying prayers for a successful

workshop and the participants themselves, said by a spiritual community representing the participating countries.

Finally, the workshop is meant to give an impulse for the work of the participants in their individual contexts. The joint reflection on the role of the church when dealing with a past burdened by violence is an indispensable component of our path.

Program

Tuesday, 10 August THE GROUP

Arrival until 03:00 p.m.

15.30 Introduction into the aims and the programme of the Workshop
- *Jörg Lüer*

Detailed introduction of the participants

18.00 Dinner

19.00 “Remembering Auschwitz as a European task and a European
problem” - *Dr. Piotr Cywinski*

Wednesday, 11 August THE CAMP

07.30 Eucharistic Mass

08.00 Breakfast

09.00 Guided tour through the basic camp

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Guided tour through Birkenau

18.00 Supper

19.00 Exchange in small groups and plenary session

Thursday, 12 August THE SURVIVORS

07.30 Eucharistic Mass

08.00 Breakfast

09.00 Small groups meeting survivors

13.30	Lunch
15.00	Presentation of the stories in plenary session
15.30	Visit of Kolodziej exhibition <i>Rev. Dr. Manfred Deselaers</i>
17.00	The concentration camp syndrome and post traumatic stress syndrome <i>Prof. Dr. Jacek Bomba</i>
19.00	Supper
20.00	OPEN SPACE

Friday, 13 August DEALING WITH HISTORY AS A CHALLENGE

07.30	Eucharistic Mass
08.00	Breakfast
09.00	<i>„Everyday dealing with history“</i> Guided tour of the town (Oswiecim), <i>Max Sundermann</i>
11.00	Guided tour through the department of conservation, <i>Tomasz Sawoszczuk</i>
13.00	Lunch
14.00	<i>„Remembrance between personal experience and politics“</i> Guided tour through national exhibitions in the Auschwitz Memorial, <i>Miroslaw Obstarczyk</i>
16.00	Lectures by participants on World War II and Auschwitz as it is remembered in their countries Discussion
19.00	Supper
20.00	<i>„Remembrance, truth and temptation“</i> Theories on the role of the Church in dealing with the past burdened by violence, <i>Archbishop Dr. Ludwig Schick</i> Discussion

Saturday, 14 August THE CHURCH

08.00	Breakfast
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- 10:00 Celebration of Eucharistic Mass on the occasion of the anniversary of P. Kolbe's death
- 13.00 Lunch
- 15.00 *“Church work on reconciliation. Views and experiences made in different European countries“*
Reports and discussion OPEN SPACE
- 20.00 Dinner – Celebration - Music

Sunday, 15 August

- 08.00 Breakfast
- 09.00 Evaluation and reflection on the workshop
- 10.00 Holy Eucharist
- 13.00 Lunch
- End and departures of the participants