

Pope Francis has pleaded for a revitalized Europe, urging the continent to step up to its responsibilities with renewed hope. He was speaking at a special ceremony at the Vatican on May 6, 2016, when receiving the Charlemagne Prize. The award is traditionally conferred on the feast of the Ascension in the German city of Aachen. It is presented every year by the citizens of the city to commemorate Charlemagne -- the first Holy Roman Emperor -- and to honor an individual or institution for their service in favor of European unification. In his address when receiving the award, the Holy Father said he was "convinced that resignation and weariness do not belong to the soul of Europe, and that even our problems can become powerful forces for unity." Vatican Radio has issued a news report on the award ceremony and the Pope's address.

[News report by Vatican Radio](#)

[Text of the address by Pope Francis](#)