

*ENHCC Coordinator's Greeting
at the Opening Ceremony of the
European Conference of Pastoral Care and Counseling
"Prophetic Pastoral Care and Counseling"
August 20, 2009 – Leuven, Brussels*

"On behalf of the participants of the *European Network of Health Care Chaplaincy*, with great joy, I greet you upon the opening of this very important and praise-worthy conference.

"The European Network of Health Care Chaplaincy consists of 46 national organizations from 29 European countries. At our next consultation that will take place in London in September of 2010, we will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the foundation of our organization. It is the only organizational body which joins together almost all of the official recognized health care chaplaincies of Europe.

"Our gathering here in Leuven provides us with a great challenge: how we can provide a new vision of care, a light of hope, to a Europe that, in many ways, is in dismay. We live in a world that lacks leaders that are visionaries, that have a clear sense of identity and who hold true values which respect persons as whole beings, uniting them in a community of hope.

"I am sure that our conference will give us the opportunities needed to become visionaries, to re-designate our identity as pastoral care givers and to clarify our values, so as to be vessels of personal growth, unity and, before all else, God's Grace."

Fr. Stavros Kofinas