

Editorial

There is no overstatement in saying that the retrieval of Pope Benedict and the election of Pope Francis were worldwide the main headlines of the last weeks. Neither is exaggerated to affirm that both



events gave us a hint of the Paschal Mystery: if we lived the absence of Christ's Vicar as a time when the "the Groom was taken away from us", we felt instead the joy caused by the new elected Pontiff as a sign that the Risen Lord keeps faithful towards his Bride, the Church. Finally, the same binomial of the experiences mentioned above offered to all the Jesuits, including the ones from the Romanian Region, a twofold opportunity of examination and new hopes.

First of all, I draw your attention on "The Fishing Net", a documentary film by Fr. Florin Silaghi, because it tries to draw what's social periphery into the center of our concern. His initiative, supported by whole team, most of them young volunteers, belongs to the good signs of our times: quoting Pope Bergoglio, the attention drawn upon the migrants helps us "to get out from ourselves and thus to become less self-referential". In fact, by doing this we are called „to come out of herself and to go to the peripheries, not only in the geographical sense but also to go to the existential peripheries: those of the mystery of sin, of pain, of injustice, of ignorance and of religious indifference, of thought, of all misery".

Then, crossing the map of our activities within the country we reach Satu-Mare, where we meet Father Claudiu Miklos (Jani), chaplain and teacher in the "Ham Janos" College right in the middle of the town. Due to his passion, he managed to transform the "Religion" from a scholar matter into a "spiritual exercise". The same proposal is made also by the animators from University Chaplaincy in Targu Mures: this team, steered by Father Geza Pakot, started not only to blow the dust from the old buildings but also to suggest the young pupils that faith itself can renew them, too!

Last, but not least, our breaking news from Cluj: "The Good News beyond the Walls" is a weekly spiritual and formative program started in January 2013. Animated by many different collaborators, especially from the former lay pupils of the "Prayer School", this proposal relays in the joy of witnessing the faith among students.

All these reasons make us reply to the question from the Gospel: "Will the Lord come to the feast this year?" with a definite "Yes!"

Christ is risen!

Gratefully yours,

Marius Talos SJ, Regional Superior



Good News beyond the walls!

I want to share to all our friends a new initiative proposed by the Manresa House in Cluj to the young people with the occasion of the Year of the Faith 2013; it is called „Good News in life Histories" and is dedicated to youth, especially University students, to whom we offer weekly three main possibilities: a prayer in the Ignatian style, the Holly Mass and a friendly *agapè*.

This proposal inspires itself from the long and rich



tradition of the Jesuit Spirituality; that's why we want to spread the Good News through the Biography of Saint Ignatius, the main starting point for the common prayer shared by the group.

It is also important to note that this novelty continues the last year's initiative called „The Prayer School”, when several young people got familiarized not only with the Jesuit way of prayer, but first of all with the rich tradition of the whole Church. This experience helped and motivated us to deepen our way of expressing the faith through meditation, celebrating Eucharist and sharing with many others! Speaking of the students involved in this new initiative, we have to stress they are no more simple „consumers” of our proposals, but they rather commit themselves in preparing and animating the whole evening! Thus they take profit of their faithful creativity, approaching directly other young people and enriching one another their experiences of life

Building bridges towards the needy

Greetings to everyone. It is with great consolation and joy that we share our vision and enthusiasm for Christ's mission. As Pope Benedict invited us in his last twitter message, we want to put Christ in the center of our life. Following him, we want, as Fr. General Arrupe described it, to be men and women for others. This is the ideal that we put into practice



during the second semester with the students from the residence and the chaplaincy. We send out almost 80 volunteers to serve regularly the needy. They visit orphans, people with mental or physical disabilities, some in institutions while others in their homes. They serve in after school program for Roma children and visit Roma settlements as well as getting involved in cultural or social initiatives. Our students care for elderly spending time with them, cleaning and painting their homes. Some are visiting the sick and helping them in the rehabilitation program, while others have taken up all night services of supervision. The multiple benefits of our social project are showing up: many people in need are now experiencing care and attention from our groups of volunteers. This experience, at the same time, broadens the vision of our students about wounded human realities, and empowers them through the experience of helping others and working alongside dedicated personnel to become people for others. A



and faith. After the first weeks of this encouraging spiritual adventure, we are glad to share with you some glimpses of joy on the website iezuiti.ro, entrusting further to your prayer its future development.

Pr. Henryk Urban SJ



third great benefit is that through us the existence of such realities and possibilities of direct or indirect help reach to our friends and families who have a

... the service of faith and promotion of justice...

chance to get involved themselves in the service of Christ's mission. If you would like to help maintain our education and charity project you can send your donation with mentioning "Bridges" to Biserica Minoritilor:
Cod-Iban:
RO51RNCB0193015979830001



Fr. Géza Pakot SJ, Chaplain

The mission is always in the making

Many times as we change many places we ask ourselves, how could I serve better the Lord in the new reality. Where is or is hiding God? During my formation (13 years outside the country), I tried to find God and today I find myself again at the beginning: working as a College Chaplain in a Diocesan College called *Hám János*. A bishop called the Jesuits in Satu-Mare to work in the College and other apostolic missions specific to the Society of Jesus. Even today I'm asking myself. Where is God? To this question I see the answer in the questions of many parents: "Father, please teach my son how to pray. He is a good child, but lastly prefers to play than to pray." I see in the teachers' desires to have a little time of rest to think to the deep of their heart, but they feel always busy with other useless "paper" work. Somehow I see God's presence in the College *Hám János* as the students smile and want to talk, as they search for moments of sharing thoughts and feelings and definitely talking about how God is present. Sometimes I think about how great it would be to have another companion with whom to share the experience of building a bigger and deeper faith. Nevertheless, there is consolation thinking to the traditional Jesuit colleagues from Spain, England, United States and this feeling gives me strength.



Our Ignatian Pedagogy teaches us in a very practical way to give voice to God, giving Him at the same time a quality time. In a few words, that's we do in the College.

1. Spiritual Exercises in every day life. It is an activity which we begun with the teachers. They are the ones bringing to the Children what's really important, therefore, we enjoy to pray together and

to share our scheduled time, with a deeper relationship with God. One of our teachers Szász Anikó, who teaches Hungarian language said: It is very hard to take up other programs, because of too many activities,

but without the Spiritual Exercises in our daily life, I couldn't imagine how to go forward with a good spirit".

2. The „Embers” team. We accepted between 4 to 12 students from every classe who want to participate in giving a personal and creative way to the spiritual life. What can we do so that our companions feel better God in their lives? How could be more human, so that everyone could understand it. We try to do our level best. For me, it was a great inside the experience of Burgos, in the Centro Educativo Nuestra Señora de la Merced y San Francisco Javier. The memories of that time still give me joy and hope. The experience of „Embers” comes from the Hungarian College „Fenyi Gyula Jezsuita Gimnázium” where I was for two years in regency. This relationship grows this days too, so that every month we have a common project. One week ago the „embers” from Fenyi Gyula High School gave us a retreat for the whole school. Many students were amazed how come a student can give retreat and not just a priest, a nun or a lay teacher.

3. Mp3 Prayer. At the beginning we did *pray as you go* together with the help of the Hungarian Jesuits Media team and after that, now we begin to take time to pray together every Tuesday. After that we started recording and listening together.

4. Spiritual Exercises with every class. This is a time the students are looking forward for. Firstly



... the service of faith and promotion of justice...

because they do not go to school and they go to a very nice house all made in wood and there we spend time with the desire of prayer. They have some physical exercises, so that they can sleep better.

5. Ignatian Week. Our School has an Ignatian tradition, but after the downfall of the communism, no Jesuit was in the school. We hope that this school slowly could have teachers formed in Ignatian pedagogy. That's why we organize the Ignatian Week, so that students and teachers become more and more familiar with the Ignatian spirituality. This year we had the nice opportunity to prepare together with Arpi, Bello and Gábor, three Hungarian Jesuits, the whole Ignatian Week for the entire school. The topic was Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

There are many other activities that are worthy to be mentioned, but now it is right to give you thanks and praise for your patience in reading this article. So I want to end with the words of our father general Adolfo Nicolas: *our mission is always in the making*. The education to the inner life is always in the making. When I think to a strong structure, also feel that is right to think to a way of personal and creative expression of how God lives in our life.

Miklós Claudiu SJ

Marginalized in focus

Premiere of *The fishing net*

In Romania, nowadays, are living hundreds of thousands of persons, or even millions, enduring a constant phenomenon of our multi-polar globalized society: marginalization. Numeric minorities are becoming faces of poverty: gypsies, disabled people, victims of human trafficking, illiterate and foreigners. All are minorities living at the margins of the society, being slowly or even since the very beginning excluded.

The film series project *Marginalized in focus* has been born aiming to give voice at least to a few of those people sharing with us, often against the will of many, the consumerist society. It is an awareness raising work, because feelings are the ones that generate just and proportionate actions. It is an educational work, because the material may be used for this purpose.

Made by Florin Silaghi, Jesuit and working in JRS Romania, the movie is dedicated to forced migrants and to refugees. People with their lives radically changed at the very moment of their encounter with violence and their decision to flee. The 40 minutes of the documentary drive us on pathways of the Globe, pathways walked first by the four people wanting to share with us their lives. Ways of fleeing, of fear, of being deracinated. Ways of trauma, regrets, of concerns and of the impact of the inculturation or acculturation, however we may want to call it...



The stories follow the same temporal matrix: fleeing, the way towards another life, the hopes linked to them and the bitter links with the past, the difficulties to get integrated into another society. The film is a walk accompanied by the faces of the four human beings that unveil for us the experiences of other millions. At this, are added suggestive and carefully chosen images, as well as the music meant



to make feelings stronger.

The movie had its premiere in a public event in Bucharest in the beginning of February. It has been shown afterwards to number of students in Medicine Social Studies at the University of Bucharest as well as to important actors on the field of assisting migrants and refugees, during a seminar organized around promoting dignity of life through the right to work. And its way is yet to come...

Pr. Iulian Budău SJ