

New Times, New Calls

The path towards Resurrection is a path of renewal: “Behold, I bring about a new heaven and a new earth” (Is. 65:17). And renewal means simultaneously creation and conversion, because “the new heaven” and “the new earth” do not demand for the death of the sinner, but for his return. His return “to Life”. This double calling to life, through creation and conversion, is sent directly to all Ignatians in Romania, to the Jesuits and to their partners: If the Lord wants to do new things, He also thinks about us! Here is why we consecrate this Easter edition to our “neophytes” meaning the “young plants”, rooted and raised in the spirit of the Pilgrim from Loyola.

Naturally, “the spring in spirit” revealed its heralds in Spain, where Iosif Sandoru, together with other eight young men from 5 countries ad in front of over a thousand believers, saw part of his dream fulfilled: he was ordained a deacon, meaning a servant in the Church, in the Society of Jesus and in the world. We pray that nothing and nobody would hinder his following in the path of this dream, inspired by a calling and strengthened by a direction: that of Jesus carrying his Cross.

However, that which allows for a mere appearance of a plant to become a sign for the spring to come is the dormant presence of the other seeds. And The Good Sower did not forget our furrow, but quite the contrary, He cultivated it with



overflowing measure. After the four novices in Genoa, more and more candidates are looking after the Jesuits, not only for historical curiosities, but mostly for real questions concerning their own calling.

It is difficult to say what was in the beginning: the interest of the candidates or the open doors of our communities; anyway, we can at least now say with wonder and amazement that we have both. The first note was sung in Bucharest, there where for a few years the Law of O(h)m (Romanian pun - “Om” means Man) was rediscovered in a vocational version: the more the resistance of the opening of the Claudianum house for students decreases, the more their requests increase; not only the requests to know us, but to walk part of the path of their lives together with us: and for part of them, this piece of the road became a new beginning in life!

The Vocational Experiment from Bucharest, initiated by Florin Silaghi, proved to be in short time quite contagious, because the youngsters caught roots in Cluj, in Satu-Mare, even over the borders of our country. And when I refer to youngsters, I am not recalling only the “candidates” stricto sensu for the Jesuit Order, but also the tens of students that take part in the Magis event, who are not satisfied only with a place to live and a place to work, but they simply need Life! Life continues to attract only when Life continues to be shared: this is the lesson of the Resurrection, where the young ones are most receptive!



Christ is Risen!

Brotherly in the Lord,

Fr. Marius Talos, SJ, Regional Superior

The Fifth Week

"... There are eternal truths. But they are also presented with such psychological means, with such precision, that you either leave the Order or you convert. I do not know if I was converted or not, but these exercises have had an influence in my life. " This is what Mihai Godo says in his autobiography.

We also do not know if we have been converted or not, but we know that, to our surprise and that of many others, we remained in the Society. Off the record, the path of conversion is long and bumpy.

It is understandable to feel overwhelmed at the thought of spending an entire month in prayer, it is a very long time indeed and not everyone is used to such an experience. But if you live it in the light of Jesus' words: "Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself." it then becomes a time for you to learn to be taught, keeping in all the attitude of the disciple, who sometimes resists, sometimes feels an inner confidence apparently crazy. You let yourself be carried through the experience of sin, forgiveness, life, death and resurrection, so that in the end everything is transformed into love. To experience all of these dynamics it is necessary, however, to enter into yourself. However it is difficult to read inside yourself when your eyes are outside.

While our eyes tended to seek the Risen one in empty graves He revealed himself in an unexpected place: within ourselves.

We saw how He was always there, working hard, trying to make sense of the choices we made without thinking and to confirm those we made while our heads were not in the clouds.

Wireless technology also works in the spiritual life. Throughout this period our spiritual antennas received strong signals of prayers emitted by transmitters located in different parts of the globe to whom we are grateful for the spiritual connection that linked us during this time.

With the Fifth week the "fun" part begins: i.e. to put into practice the ignatian motto "seek and find God in all things."

In our daily life in the Noviciate you can now find many moments in which the zeal of the seeker reaches its maximum level. You can find Teofil contemplating "con muchas lagrimas" the suffering of a freshly cut onion, Alex giving instructions for the daily meditation - with great pathos - to the "feathered novices" (our community hens), Ignatïu, recently promoted sacristan, burning with the desire

of "ayudar a las almas" doubles the amount of wine and hosts needed for the mass.



Striving to please you in everything we must conclude, although "There are also many other things that we did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written."

Alex, Teofil and Ignatïu (first year novices)

Sent to the outskirts of civilization

It is said that from the attribute of the Church of being Catholic, follows logically that it is missionary, meaning: sent to all people. But in order for the mission to happen, there is need of person who are open to the needs of those who are poor in spirit. As Pope Francis emphasises frequently that the Church must encourage the religious and the lay to walk together with the marginalized that were transformed by public opinion (and even by the opinion of many Churchgoers) into the waste of society, we were sent to know the reality of these persons excluded from modern society, to assist them, to understand them and to give our best in helping them.



One of these realities is in the village of Madaras (Satu-Mare County), where a Rroma community lives,

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with which the Romanian Freres Association manages activities of education, formation and integration in the society.

During Lent, we went daily to the Day-Center where the Roma children come for after-school program: education, entertainment and general knowledge. In the first two weeks the emphasis was on the celebration of the 8th of March,

Woman's and Mother's day, the children preparing a show which included the recitation of poetry and sweet songs for their dear mothers. To this event all the mothers were invited. We were delighted to have among us many volunteers from the ones who attend the Day-Center, and their attendance brought joy to the children as well. The after celebration party was a great occasion for the children to show off their dancing skills.

Our presence among them made the children to be more active during the program and we hope this will increase their interest for study as well. It brings us great joy to sit with them, listening to them, advising them, and rejoicing in their joy.

Next to the weekly activities with these children, we also work in the Calvaria Parish, where we fulfil our duties as lectors and altar servants at the daily Holy Mass, and on Saturdays we give lessons of catechesis to children and youngsters. Besides, we organized the meeting of the Youngsters and Children of the Satu-Mare diocesis with the Pastoral Letter in the Romanian language at Calvaria Church, where, after a short presentation of the Church, its history and also a guided meditation, the contemplation of the Stations of the Cross ensued in the yard of the Church.

Other parishes attended this activity as well. After spiritual activities concluded, moments of mingling and sharing followed, both of the Word and of traditional Romanian dish called "sarmale".

The gathering was attended by more than 200 people, and it couldn't have gone this smooth without the implication of the parishioners.

Every week-end we are delighted to teach the children and youngsters from the parishes that subsist in Calvaria, Homorodul de Jos and Sai, in preparation for them receiving Holy Communion. It was a real adventure to gather the children but also the young adults willing to receive their first Holy Communion. We try to give them what we have received by the



mere fact that we are spending some time with them. Communication, we must admit, started with some difficulty, because it was not easy for them to share their inner thoughts and life with strangers, not only strangers but bearded-strangers. Step-by-step, they started to know the prayers, the Commandments, the basic elements of faith but also the little stories from the Bible for Youngsters, both from the New and the Old Testament. It is not easy for them to work alone because some of them don't know how to read.

We hope that by Easter Time, their preparation will conclude, two of the children (two girls, 9 and 10 years of age) will be also receiving the Sacrament of Initiation: The Holy Baptism. The preparation of the 8 candidates (age between 8 and 36) for the reception of The Holy Communion takes place in a community that has very few old families of Catholic Suabs and more than half of this community, the younger part, are constituted by poor and illiterate Roma families. Without these, the community will go extinct. As of now, this is a mission territory.

These activities keep us in vigour and enthusiastic, and with the help, the support and the good advice from father Iulian Budau we persevere in all our activities.

Ambrozie (first year novice) & Eduard (candidate).

Continuity in diversity

It's been already two months since I arrived in the community. How time flies ! As the spirit of Satu Mare was once set in motion by our brothers, so today, our task is to keep the spirit alive. We have history here, and the future is already set in motion. "The moment seizes us", says the last line of "Boyhood" (movie). The community and our mission give us critical opportunities to be active and present. I'm glad we could find weekly a half day to gather, and even to get out.

My part of our commun mission in Satu Mare it's coming out gradually and it looks promising. The boarding school students and staff appreciate my presence among them and the spiritual guidance I offer them with joy. During the school this semester I get to work with Jani and we alternate in the Mass celebration and the sacrament of reconciliation. The High School where I work together with Jani gives us a limitless range of activities for both, students and

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teachers, as well as, for parents and former students. In spite of school's institutional set-up I'm glad to have the opportunity to work and cooperate with my colleagues.

The teenagers rapid change and development challenges me to be aware of my gifts and my limits. We do our best to use this time together as well as to give continuity apostolate in the world of education .

During weekends I give a hand in Calvary Church's two communities (Romanian and German), mainly in helping to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation, sometimes for hours in three languages (Romanian, Hungarian or German) according to the needs. What's special in confessional is the unifying force that goes over languages or ethnicity. We are all forgiven for the same sins and in front of the same eternal love of God we are all the same.

Pr. Géza Pakot SJ

Correspondence from outskirts of Sibiu

Andrei and Cornel, two candidates for the Noviciate, volunteer with poor Roma people from Hosman and Tichindeal in the outskirts of Sibiu within the project Elijah-Social Initiative started by Georg Sporschill SJ and Ruth Zenkehr. Some first hand impressions, trying to soften the brutal impact of the poverty.

Andrei lives in Tichindeal, where the „atmosphere is like in the Wedding of Cana, because from the little shared at table everybody can have enough...” The community, made by Pater Sporschill, Frau Angela (from the House Eva, where the girls live), one volunteer, three young lads and four teenagers from the village, adopted him immediately. Overcoming the challenges, normal for every beginning, he serves the best way he can: basic hygiene teaching, homework for the children, social games and some music with few who want to play..., everything happens in



Habacuc House, the Social Centre for the children, daily open from 10am till 6 pm. It seems that this lapse of time makes Andrei discover the importance of every people, as well as the beauty which lies behind any poor appearance. The deep encounter with men and women motivates him both in initiative and involvement, leaving him in change just a short

while to take care of himself. Spiritually speaking, he nourishes himself as much as he can, by meditating every morning in the community the Gospel of the day and celebrating later the same Word made Flesh at the Eucharist in the evening.



Cornel relishes the same wind of serving in this disadvantaged environment. Seems to be edified by the offering spirit of Fr. Sporschill, as well as of the other people engaged in the project, but also amazed by the musical skills shown by some of the beneficiaries. On the other hand, he is challenged both by the misery he met, and by the brutal life and language discovered among the local natives. His diacony consists in taking care of the 11 children of a poor family, with whom he gives classes, plays, dances, sings, cleans the house and the village. Beyond that, he's in charge with the cleaning of the old Roman-Catholic Church from the place, too. He's very enthusiastic for the permission he got share his meditation on the Gospel during the Liturgy. In spite of the hardship of the context where he works and lives, he notes full of wit: after all this time lived in Hosman I feel full of life and wonderfully; I thank God every day for everything he's doing through me.

Both felt that, with all the Liturgical Lent during the absence of Fr. Georg and Ruth who went in audience by the Pope, the joy of the encounter with Christ in Eucharist was even fostered by desire.

As a whole, from their writings and phone calls we understand how important is this formative time for them, being challenged to discover new things about themselves, about the world and about life. The contact with the real life of these marginalized people shakes always our mentality in need for safety and appearance, the wit of the poor challenges the boredom generated by the consumerism. And what's even more important, the young people tired of such a work are always beautiful!

Fr. Iulian Budău SJ

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