Merry Christmas

Opening of the Novitiate

On September 3 we arrived to the eternal city of Rome. The sky welcomed us in our new home with a mild thunderstorm . It was quite late (after 21.00), but the sisters were waiting for our arrival and welcomed us with warm hugs. We started getting to know a new place, new people and a new way of life. Our novitiate community consists of six sisters: Sr. Svitlana from Ukraine, Sr. Anna from Germany, Sr. Elsie from India and us, Anna from Poland, Mariia and Liudmyla from Ukraine.

On September 22, Sr. Hemma, provincial superior of the Austrian Province, came to us. We started with our preparations for the opening of the novitiate. It was a wonderful time of fellowship, sharing and mutual help. But the central point of this preparation was prayer, three days in silence and listening to the Word.

On September 29, on the feast of the Three Archangels, the opening of the novitiate took place. This day was a special sign for us. There are three Archangels and three candidates for admission to the novitiate, so we are sure that on this day each of us received a special protector. The Mass was led by the chaplain of our community fr.Joseph. Also, a Franciscan brother from Ukraine, Vladyslav, joined the celebration and sang a psalm at the Liturgy. The moment when the whole community of sisters together blessed us for the beginning of this journey was especially touching. We were entrusted into the hands of the Triune God. Sister Hema handed us Bibles and the Constitutions of the Congregation, which showed the direction of our novitiate - listening to the Word of God, learning Trinitarian spirituality and the response of our hearts.

After the Mass we had a festive lunch together with the community, sharing the joy of the beginning of the novitiate. At the end of the day, Sister Hemma left for her community in Austria. And we, with hearts full of gratitude, began a new stage in our lives.

Merry Christmas

Assisi

On October 10, together with the Tertiate group we made a pilgrimage to the city of Assisi, known as the city of St. Francis and St. Clara. We visited the main church of the Franciscan Order - Basilica of St. Francis, located on a high hill, from where you can see all the beauty of Assisi. We also prayed in the Church of San Damiano, where Francis heard the invitation of God to rebuild his Church. Then we visited the Basilica of St. Clara. It was a great blessing for us to visit Blessed Carlo Acutis, whose incorrupt body is kept in a small church. It was a wonderful time to be together with the sisters from different parts of the world, a time of sharing, joy and prayer. Assisi is a place that inspires and makes God's presence visible in our lives. We are grateful to God for the opportunity to be here. It was a very touching moment for us and a good reminder that holiness is possible and each of us is called to it.

Sessions

While choosing
our Congregation, I was not much interested about it's founder, who was at the beginning of the SSpS mission community. My attention was drawn only to our sisters, who led by the Holy Spirit were active in the God's mission. It was surprising that all of them having different characters, age and nationality, have something that makes them one. The answer came during the session with fr.Andrzej Miotk SVD and Sr. Krystyna Szweda SSpS, who work in the congregations' archives. They plunged us into the past and showed us the beginnings. We have the opportunity not only to get to know the biography of our founders, but also to see the depth of their spiritual life, which bears great fruit nowadays. We also had other sessions on Bible with fr.Naveen SVD, together with the novitiates of the Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union and the Sisters of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ.

Mission Sunday

Merry Christmas

‘You shall be my witnesses” This was the motto of this year’s World Mission Sunday. On this occasion at the General House of the SVD we could participate in an intercultural session dedicated to the missionary activity of the SVD fathers in the world. The Holy Mass with the participation of SVD fathers and friends from different parts of the world created a truly missionary atmosphere. After the Holy Mass, there was no shortage of international food, dancing and having fun together. In the evening, in our SSpS General House, together with the families from Congo and Libya who live in our house, there was a thanksgiving service, familiarization with the activities of the SspS in the world and a joint dinner. We are grateful to God that we were able to experience this celebration, for the first time, in our international and multicultural SspS and SVD communities, hear the testimonies of witnesses serving in different parts of the world, their joys and difficulties. May our lives never run out of enthusiasm for serving God in our neighbors, so that we may be true witnesses of God in the world.

Cultural Day

The most important thing is what unites us, not divides... November 26, 2022 was a special day for our community. We could introduce the sisters from the Generalate community the culture of our countries - Poland and Ukraine. We started our celebration with lunch. As it turned out during the preparation, Poland and Ukraine have a lot in common, also the dishes, so there was no shortage of: varenyky/pierogi - an obligatory dish of every Ukrainian family, borshch/barszcz ukraiński, holubtsi/gołąbki, Polish sausage and bigos. For dessert one could taste an apple pie. In the afternoon, the recreational part began. After a short presentation about the culture and tradition in our homelands, we invited the sisters to play together. The quiz which we prepared helped the sisters to learn more about our cultures in a cheerful way. The funniest moment was the tongue twister. You can imagine how difficult it was to repeat the words: źdźbło, drożdżówka, chrząszcz, Каблучка, Вподобайка for sisters from Indonesia or India. We ended our celebration with an obligatory dance party at every Ukrainian wedding, and a common prayer. During this day, we wanted to focus on what unites our countries, not divides them so that everyone could experience a real unity and solidarity.