

The Diary of the V European Franciscan Youth Congress

The 1st day

The V European Franciscan Youth Congress is announced to be open.

To begin, everybody has started this congress in different time. Organizers started it about a year ago and Saturday was the first day for volunteers. The participants came just today.

First guests came in the morning. It was Slovenians who came at 3 a.m. and had to wait by the closed doors of the Trinapolis recollection house until 9 a.m. when the first volunteers met them. At 10 a.m. they celebrated the Holy Mass together with the organizational group. After the breakfast Slovenians just went for deep and profound sleep.

Volunteers scattered in the Trinapolis trying to finish hundreds of unfinished jobs like packing, sticking, cutting, putting, arranging t-shirts and worrying. They were constantly hurrying and not making everything in time.

The second country to come was Ukraine. Salutes, smiles and embraces were seen again. Now guests are eating and volunteers are preparing with even more energy. The clock is ticking the last hours until the official start of the Congress.

Three, two, one and zero. There is no place to recede. The opening ceremony was done by spiritual assistant brother Algis and Virginija who is the president of the national council of Youfra. The welcome is sounding. The last checks are done to find out who has arrived. Finally, everyone has come. It's Italians, Portuguese, Spanish, Poles, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Hercogovinians, Slovenians, Croatians and Lithuanians.

The time for worship and "Our father" prayer came.

After all, there was tasty and plentiful supper.

The evening program is dedicated to present the country of Lithuania. Permanent hosts of this evening are Virginija and brother Algis. The movie "Flight above Lithuania" is shown and traditional black bread is served by Lithuanians in national costumes. The moment of breaking and sharing the bread also was the time to share our smiles, works and thoughts.

After a few Lithuanian folk songs the film about the history, the plans and the mission of Lithuanian Youfra was watched. Party with national sweets was the next part. Nobody wanted to go to their rooms for a sleep. The friendship just begins. And just a few hours separates us from another day with its miracles.

Inga Nemiega