

The Diary of the V European Franciscan Youth Congress

The 6th day

After an ordinary short night a new celebration day has come. It's Sunday. After the breakfast in Trinapolis we went to Bernardinai. We would come back to Trinapolis just in the late evening.

Bishop Juozas Tunaitis celebrated the Holy Mass. He was greeting youth from the whole Europe and thought that he could say something interesting and useful for youth because he has been young too. After the homily delegates from all the countries read the prayers. The prayer of "Our father" sounded in all national languages of the delegates.

Today at last our guests have some free time. After the dinner and excursions in Vilnius which is the European capital of culture they can wander the city, buy some souvenirs for those who left at home or just rest and communicate with youth in the cellar of Bernardinai. Some separate groups had meetings with the representatives of Franciscan seculars of Europe and the delegate of the International Youfra council Ana Fruk. They talked about creating new fraternities, formation, communication with Franciscan seculars, etc. Everybody can clear everything, if he or she did not suppose to do this in the conference in the monastery of the Hill of Crosses.

And finally the time has come for the concert. The band of four girls from Kretinga named "Icon" is the first. After them we are listening for worship bands "Apaštalai" and "Ichthus" from Vilnius. Between the bands the testimonies of the delegates are given. They are about life without God and with Him. They also talk about Youfra fraternities coping with problems when forming themselves and others.

Finally, the famous guest from USA, Stan Fortuna, appeared. The audience is involved in his performance with a processor which can record and loop the recorded sounds. He is constantly talking about the story of his mission, the popes John Paul II and Benedictus XVI, the way of a life when the rich and the poor have to suffer, the little Theresa and the taste of the Lithuanian black bread. Listeners accepted his rules with chanting "A-HA" and "A-A" as the answers to the questions of Fortuna. We send off our guest chanting "Ačiū" which is also recorded and put in his song.

After the concert we are going back to Trinapolis very quickly. The surprise is waiting for participants. Trinapolis meets delegates with darkness and silence. Suddenly the melody of Congress hymn and welcoming voice of Lithuanian Youfra president Virginija is heard. Each country gets paper sky lamps and launch them together into the sky. It was a symbol of us being a light for the world. At first Lithuanian lamp doesn't want to arise, but then flies to the other side than others. But suddenly the direction changed and it started to go after other countries. We are throng to Trinapolis. We cut the cake which was decorated with the logo of the Congress and watched the photos from the whole week. Evening is for food, dances, games, talks and sleep. It is the last night of the congress so nobody is hurrying.

The 7th day

The last morning is starting with Holy Mass together in the Trinapolis church. After the breakfast we gather to discuss the congress and to talk about good and bad things. Guests said a big thank you for the excellent welcome and gave some thoughts that would be helpful for the organizers of the next Congress. The delegates also vote for the place of the next congress. France got the most points.

The brother Ivan invited us to the yard where we took each other's hands and sang. Borthers blessed us we said "Good bye" for everyone. Good bye to Italy, Portugal, France, Poland, Croatia, Belarus, Ukraine, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Spain.

So the congress is finished.

Inga Nemięga