

In this issue: *What is happening in Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the European countries? Here some news from our correspondent Blazenka Vidovic in Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

REPORT ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF CCR IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been active for 13 years. There are about 20 charismatic communities/prayer groups in all of three dioceses. The communities have between 15 to 20 members, and the largest one is a prayer group in Mostar which has around 500 members. The community members are active in the pastoral work of their parishes: cleaning, reading the readings at Holy Mass, singing in the choir, worship, and other needed activities. They also work on the New Evangelization and are involved in charity work...

With their collections within communities a help is distributed to those in need by buying food or medicine. During Christmas and Easter holidays the aid is collected intensively than other days, and with that money boxes of help are made for the poor. Praying meetings, in all communities, take place once a week. There are many people who ask the members of communities to pray for them so they intercede for many petitions, afterwards, by their testimonies the Lord shows us His work.

The members of communities go to church on Sundays regularly, many attend Holy Mass on daily bases.

The Baptism in the Holly Spirit

Reference to the retreats and prayers for the Baptism in the Holly Spirit there are a few priests who work on that field: three of them are active in the south (Herzegovina), two in the central part and the capital city and one priest is active up north of the country.

- ✦ In Herzegovina, particularly in Mostar, there is a prayer group that has existed for 14 years now. They have a prayer meeting once in a week in with around 320 members present, once a month is an open prayer meeting which many people attend to. The weekly meetings consist of

worship, prayer, commitment and teaching, as well as intercessory prayer for those who asked us to pray for them. At the moment the prayer group is in the process of forming a Community with a help of the "European Network Communities" (ENC).

- ✦ In Herzegovina, not far from Mostar, there are also two more prayer groups which work and are active within their parishes. One of them has 150 members. The web site for one of them is: <http://www.zajednica-emanuel.com/>. Nearby, there is one more priest who has opened prayer meetings.
- ✦ Up north of the country, there are three prayer groups. Every Sunday they have seminars of Baptism in the Holly Spirit, where, monthly, thousands of people participate. Web site is: <http://www.zupa-surkovac.com/>.
- ✦ In Sarajevo, a capital city of Bosnia and Herzegovina, two priests are active. There are assigned for pastoral work with students and youth. They work with them in the area of Sarajevo and Central Bosnia and are organizing public discussions and seminars for youth. The youth is involved in pastoral activities. They have renewal seminars by the invitations of pastors in parishes.
- ✦ In the area of Central Bosnia there is one prayer group and one Association. The prayer group has about 50 members. The group is active in ecumenism, and every Monday participates in inter-religious prayer. They work in different fields: radio programs, sometimes TV shows on the local station, apart of that, all members are involved on publishing different books and booklets for the Renewal in the Spirit, literature is being distributed in hospitals, homes and prisons, and apart of Catholics the

literature is read also by Orthodox and Muslims. The web site is: www.bozjaljubav.jimdo.com. While Association has a home for accepting people in need, for consultation and for help to the families and people that have addiction problems, especially with heavy drugs.

- ♣ In the west part of Bosnia and Herzegovina there are two charismatic communities, consisting mainly of married couples. All members are involved in pastoral work of parish as well in charity work altogether with parish pastors. Web site is: <http://rug.webnode.com/rastimo-u-gospodinu/>
- ♣ There are more priests who work in the Renewal, but not so publicly, and the

most numbered communities that grow are the ones that have a priest who is open to such work.

The Lord has been doing a lot in our country so far, and at the moment there are some signs that communities would like to connect. I hope that sometimes in the near future there will be organized leadership meeting of Charismatic communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and they will start working on better collaboration and connection between communities in our country..

God bless,

in Christ

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