

Fraternal visits and monastic exchanges

Session of the Italian Monastic Conference

Bose, December 2010

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The visits to Bose of monks and nuns from other communities have forged or renewed ties of friendship and brotherhood in the common from the following the Lord, thus permitting a fruitful exchange of experiences. At the beginning of April the assembly of the Italian monastic conference for the first time brought to Bose around thirty abbots and priors of the various Benedictine congregations present in Italy and seven abbesses, together with the abbot general **Notker Wolf**. Numerous monks and nuns came for the liturgical conference and that on Orthodox spirituality. In addition, we recall with joy having welcomed among us in these last few months m. **Anne-Emmanuelle**, abbess of the Trappist monastery of Blauvac, together with sr **Raphaël**; fr **Ivo** of the Trappist monastery of Westmalle (Belgium); sr **Emanuela Maria** of Viboldone; sr **Luciana**, sr **Emanuela**, and sr **Anastasia**, Benedictine nuns of Lecce; sr **Zita**, Cistercian nun of Kismaros (Hungary); br **Wissam**, monk from Iraq of the Syro-Catholic Church; br **Drasko** and br **Christopher**, Australian monks of the Emmaus ecumenical monastic community being founded in Tasmania.

Besides numerous occasions of brief fraternal visits to other monastic communities, some of us have stayed in other monasteries for a few days of retreat and comparison: sr Roberta and sr Alice at the Trappist monastery of **Blauvac**; sr Natalia at the Cistercian abbey of **Maigrange** (Fribourg); sr Elisa at the Benedictine abbey of **Viboldone**; sr Antonella at the Trappist monastery of **Vitorchiano**; sr Raffaella in France to preach a retreat to the Benedictine community of **Prailles**, and in Greece, first at the Orthodox monastery of **Ormylia** together with sr Lara, then at the monastery of **Zalongo** (Preveza); br Vincenzo at the Benedictine abbey of **En Calcat** in France.

Sr Alice participated in the meeting of the **ecumenical monastic group "Kaire"**, which this year was held at the deaconesses of Reuilly in **Versailles**. Sr Lisa gave a course on the Gospel of Luke to novices of French monasteries, organized at the monastery of **Aiguebelle**. Br Edoardo and br Stefano took part in the ecumenical conference in **Chevetogne** *The word of God calls to unity: spiritual ecumenism and the responsibility of the Churches*. Sr Raffaella returned to **Xaviá Chaniá** on the island of Crete to participate in a conference on *Monastic life and tradition*.

Br Adalberto and br Edoardo, while they were in **Kiev** for a conference, were able to visit several Orthodox monasteries of the region.