



SPREADING THE GOSPEL IN

HUNGARY & SLOVENIA



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Deacon Zoli and his wife, Panni, live in Budapest, Hungary. They have five children and many grandchildren.

HUNGARY

We hosted two big Catholic Charismatic Renewal Youth Camps, the Lelkes Napok for young people ages fifteen to twenty-five, and the Tini Lelkes Napok for youth ages eleven to fifteen. Interest in both grew from previous years. The Lelkes Napok had almost 230 participants and more than eighty helpers. The Tini Lelkes Napok hosted 110 children and thirty volunteers.

SON OF DAVID

This year's camp theme was Son of David. David is the warrior, the king who defeated Goliath, the man after God's own heart, the unstoppable one. So many adjectives come to mind when we think of David! But who was he? How did the little shepherd boy become Israel's greatest king? And if God chose him, why did it take so many years of suffering, flight, and rejection before he was truly king? Why does God say that David is a man after his own heart, when so much sin and blood were on his hands?

David was chosen by God, but not just to be king. The Lord promised David that from his house would come the Messiah. A thousand years later, a blind beggar in Jericho cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"—and at a word from Jesus, he was instantly healed and his life was changed. Such transformations took place in the lives of thousands of people who began to follow Jesus. And those who meet Jesus today will have their lives changed as well, because He is the Son of God, the King of kings!

In our teachings at the camp, we linked the scenes of David's life with the Gospel message. We talked about the love of the Father, sin, and redemption. We called them to repentance and then prayed that the Holy Spirit would fill them. We shared presentations on masculinity, femininity, and purity. In the afternoons, we invited them to participate in optional workshops on various charismatic, faith formation, biblical, or social topics.

ENCOUNTERING GOD

This year, we held two groups for the morning teachings, so that everyone could listen to the presentation that most interested them. We would like to continue this and improve upon it in coming years. Another innovation was that participants could join the prayer mode of their choice during the morning prayer time. They could also participate in contemplative prayer, the rosary, personal silence, and Adoration. Our aim in introducing different ways of praying was to show them how colorful the Church is and how many different ways they can connect with God, as well as to encourage them to continue this practice when they return home.

We also encountered God in daily Masses and evening prayer. László Csizsér and his team led the worship services. On several evenings, we practiced intercessory prayer, where we experienced that Jesus is here among us: speaking, healing, encouraging, and restoring us.

In addition to the spiritual programs, there were also many opportunities for physical recharging. In the afternoon, there were many sports activities, such as swimming at the pool, playing football or volleyball, or drinking a coffee in the castle. We also learned a dance together.

WITNESSING CHANGE

The depth of the *Lelkes Napok* was shown by the fact that many participants made a confession or talked to pastoral workers about their questions. As a result of the camp, many people started to attend our community's gatherings, which is great to see, as enthusiasm can be sustained by regularly experiencing the power of community in everyday life.

In Hungary, we also hosted a New Jerusalem Family Camp, which was well-received by all ages!



SLOVENIA

By Deacon Zoltán Kunszabó

This was my first trip to Slovenia as Renewal Ministries' country coordinator, and my main goal was to learn about the country and the church and to pray with local leaders to understand the Lord's strategy today.

When we arrived at a meeting with Ljubjana's prayer group leaders, nearly forty leaders were there in lively worship. I spoke about the fruits of preaching the kerygma—the foundation of everything. They were very interested in learning more.

During Mass, my homily focused on the importance of thirsting for God's presence. Then, another deacon and I prayed for and blessed all eighty people in attendance.

FUTURE PLANS

After a time of prayer, the local leaders asked us to help them start charismatic youth camps and kerygma courses. I also offered to teach on the process of evangelization, from community building and strategic prayers to establishing a follow-up group and programs for new believers.



MEETING THE ARCHBISHOP

My guide, professor Janez Cerkovnik, and I also met with the Archbishop of Ljubjana, His Excellency Stane Zore. He was very welcoming. I shared with him how we teach the kerygma. I also showed him my short book on the New Evangelization and the kerygma, which he would like to have translated to Slovenian.

We spent an excellent hour together, and he gave me permission to work in his diocese. At the end of the visit, I received his apostolic blessing on my knees. Hopfully, our meeting starts a fruitful period here.

