

Minutes from the Meeting with the Abbot of Klisura Monastery

Father Antim

Date: 13.01.2006, 13:00 pm

Report done by Dobri Borislavov

Father Antim wants the Monastery to be an example for stability and believe. He appeals for the wise usage of the material goods. He is on a position to invest not as much in innovations but in renovation of the appearance of the buildings at the monastery.

The management of the monastery has discussed the launch of tourist services for the guests and the visitors. The vision of the Abbot is for something including accommodation, relaxation and recreation. The monastery needs hot water and central heating for sure. The development in this direction is pretty necessary for the institution.

The Abbot was talking with very wise sayings concerning the topics and proposals we were discussing. He pointed out very interesting issues and he was trying to explain the current situation using very attractive comparisons. He mentioned his positive attitude for the development of sports areas for the closest to the monastery buildings land properties (at present lawns for the cattle).

In consideration were the issues for international communication and collaboration. He said he is open for such activities. He was warmly accepting our proposal after the concise description we made to him. He showed his impression for the situation and being presented with the outcomes of VITA NOVA project conducted the previous year in Zwettl was an very modest with his saying 'we don't have so much to show'. Describing this situation he just said that 'God makes this difference because he wants to challenge us, to test us while we become stronger'. Concerning the possibilities for communication and international cooperation he was really precise "Those who are trying to escape the communication are trying to escape of the legacy of love, the chance to love each other. God is LOVE."

Father Antim showed his believes to invest in the young generation. He said that our mission is to turn our new vision to the growing new generation presented by the children and youth. He was again wisely descriptive "The children and the youth are the flowers of a mission. If we don't care for them they don't grow and don't blossom". He made a conclusion for the children in Bulgaria as saying they are growing in time of 'fire and water'. But genetically inherited for the Bulgarians is the humbleness consisted of patience and stoicism. It is also the genetic frame of mind and spirit. For the children he made the following comparison "As much you try to smash the flower as stronger is its fragrance". He said that all the institutions in Bulgaria are criticized a lot at the moment. The reason is that they invest in something that is not going to come back. That is why he said the best way to avoid this is to invest in children and youth.

"Even if you get the shine of all stars is not the same like to get the shine of Sun".

"The christening is one big moment in the life of people".

"As the wreath consists of leaves and flowers nevertheless being the leaves we will be part of it together with the flowers" – this was mentioned concerning the joining of Klisura Monastery to the VITA NOVA II Project. Thus he compared Zwettl with the flowers concerning the wealth and big history of the monastery. This was supported with the saying: "God has created the nightingales and the crowns to listen to both their songs".

Conclusion:

"Nevertheless the differences of status and possibilities we are both of Earth because the bless of God and we have to fulfill our mission."