

Projektstelle „Assistent für Pastoralplanung im
Bistum Reykjavik, Island“
– Ivan Sovic

Bericht von November 2019:

Update

My activities in the Diocese of Reykjavik are developing according to the plan. But, recently I got involved in couple of more projects, parallel with the pastoral work. From September 2019 I am also responsible for all the projects in the Diocese of Reykjavik. Also, I completed a short training in the Diocese of Copenhagen and from December I will be involved in PMS (Pontifical Mission Societies) in the Nordic Bishops' Conference.

Icelandic language courses

I have completed 4 levels of Icelandic courses: level 1, level 2, level 3 and level ¾ spoken. We spent 162.300 ISK, which is 1.175 EUR, out of 2.000 EUR planned for the courses. Due to the lack of courses over the summer and my absence in September 2019, this was the most I was able to take so far. I am planning to take two more courses in November 2019 and January 2020.

Youth ministry

Regarding the youth ministry we organize diverse events trying to involve more youth into the Church's activities. We have a very active group of 20+ volunteers and together with them we are trying to involve more young people.

Some of our activities in the last year were:

- Promotion of World Youth Day in Panama in our 8 parishes
- Participation at the World Youth Day in Panama with a group of 14
- After the World Youth Day I organized visits with the youth group to all 8 parishes where we had workshops and sharing our experience from the trip, with aim to involve more youth into coming activities
- Local World Youth Day are held once a year in the Parish of Christ the King where we prepare a weekend program mainly for the confirmation kids, but also for all other age groups. Number of participants is increasing in the last two years due to active involvement in preparations. 6 months in advance we prepare programs in parishes to prepare the youth for participation

- In September this year I organized also promotion of the book “Tweeting with God” with the author of it – Fr. Michal Remery
- Occasionally we organize irregular events for the youth: retreats, meetings or pilgrimages
- Also we try to do a lot through social media, creating content for the youth

Our main goals are to involve more youth and keep those ones who may not be active anymore after receiving the sacraments. Suggested strategies I made for our priests and sisters and others involved into youth ministry are: to invite more youth to participate in parish life, to welcome them and make room for them in all aspects of church life, to encourage talented and gifted youth to be leaders and more involved in work with other youth, to make a sense of belonging and acceptance, to establish close relationship through preparation for sacraments and catechism classes, solicit for adult volunteers to serve for youth programs.



Abb. 1 World Youth Day - Panama City - January 2019



Abb. 2 World Youth Day - Landakot 2019, Parish of Christ the King

Pastoral work in Stykkisholmur

We are increasing our activities in the Pastoral Centre in Stykkisholmur as much as it is possible according to our activities, schedule and pastoral work. I am going to point out some of the activities we had there recently:

Retreat of the Order of Malta

From 15th until 17th of March 2019 5 knights of the Order of Malta had a retreat in the Centre with Fr. Jakob Rolland. This journey was marked by strengthening of faith through prayers, meetings and spiritual content organized by the group.



Catechism of confirmation youth from the Parish of St. Joseph

Confirmation Day of the youth of St. Joseph's parish took place on the 24th and 25th April 2019. In these two days the youth spent time with Fr. Horacio Cabana and Sisters in Stykkisholmur, and through celebration of Holy Mass, prayer, classes and games they prepared for Confirmation that will be in their parish on the 26th of May 2019. Also, they went to a trip around peninsula and visited the place of Statue of Mary in „Maríulind“ where they prayed Holy Rosary.





Every year Catechists of Nordic countries meet for a Catechetical Conference and compare their books, publishing issues or innovations in catechetical work. This year the conference was held in Iceland, in Stykkishólmur. Sister Porta Coeli and Unnur Guðný María Gunnarsdóttir were the representatives of the Diocese of Reykjavik and organizers of the meeting. According to them, there was a lot of interesting things that came to light at the conference and they enjoyed seeing the spirit and progress in work among the other Nordic nations. Publications in electronic form and on social media were topical this time around. Participants also had the opportunity to visit Maríulind and more interesting places on their way back to Reykjavík. The next conference will be held next in Finland in 2020.



Retreat of the Diocesan employees

We had a retreat with the Bishop David Tencer before Christmas 2018. The idea is to have this retreat on regular basis and also to include another one before Easter.

