

Abschlussbericht November 2020:

PASTORAL AND PROJECT MANAGER IN THE DIOCESE OF REYKJAVIK

I am sending you the final report for my contract as pastoral and project manager in the Diocese of Reykjavik from November 2018 until October 2020. The goals set in the project application were mostly continuation of my previous contract, which started in 2017, with several more specific responsibilities. The main change was additional responsibility for all the projects in the Diocese of Reykjavik. Below you can find short description of the tasks.

Quantitative data:

The project was covering 103.000 km². and it included one person: pastoral and project manager in the Diocese of Reykjavik. Additional people used the offers of the project and were involved in it: all the priests, religious orders, other employees of the Catholic church in Iceland, volunteers and parishioners of all 8 parishes in diverse numbers, therefore the project reached all groups of Catholics in Iceland.

Qualitative data:

The youth work: in the past two years we increased number of youth in our activities through organization of diverse events. Our visit to World Youth Day in Panama City was one of the main points after which we started to organize workshops with pilgrims and volunteers who went to Panama. We have traveled in all of our parishes with presentation of our trip, Pope's message and further involvements in youth activities in Iceland. Our local youth day in 2019 had the biggest number of participants so far (120) and we managed to have a decent number of the youth at the youth day in September 2020 (80), despite the difficult situation with the pandemics.

Praktikum im Norden: mentoring volunteer from Bonifatiuswerk is still going according to the program with organizing their stay, activities and tasks in Reykjavik.

Icelandic language: I have completed 4 levels of Icelandic language courses in Mimir language school. The volume of my usage of the language in my work is constantly increasing. This is very helpful, especially in communication with priests and other persons who are not speaking English. I am also trying to help others in learning Icelandic with assistance and for example preparation of instructional videos for Mass which helped two priests so far learn it.

Project management: This was challenging part of my involvement and the one I most enjoyed. In the past 5 years there were many changes in the financial department and lots of documentation was missing and projects were not completed. My goal was to organize it, finish the old reports, complete projects and keep monitoring current ones. Now we managed to complete and close projects from 2015 until today, organize archives and follow the open projects. I also build a web platform which will help priests and religious orders in the future with monitoring and organizing documents for each parish.

There are also many irregular activities I am involved in. I will just briefly mention some of them: book promotions, organization of concerts and involvement of the church in civil society events to promote our presence in Iceland, organization of pilgrimages, diverse conferences and other events, retreats, administrative tasks and making of diverse materials videos and photos for our pastoral activities.

In all of our activities we try to point out the help of Bonifatiuswerk, especially in projects that are directly and financially supported. The support for this project was mentioned in our church papers and social media.

The Catholic Church in Iceland, the Bishop, priests and religious order were a great example for me of how to live the Catholic faith. The effort, hard work, zeal and being humble at all times were a huge motivation for me, but also for other Catholics living in Iceland and visiting from abroad.

Sincerely yours,

Ivan Sovic
Bishop's Pastoral Assistant
The Diocese of Reykjavik