



World Youth Day 2023, which took place from 1 to 6 August in Lisbon, Portugal, showed a multifaceted and inclusive Church with many realities to attend to, but which is alive to respond to all those who need the message of liberation and healing of the Kingdom of God.

The attendance forecast for WYD in Lisbon was around 800,000, but the youth vigil and closing mass was attended by more than 1,500,000 people.

A few days before, from 27 to 30 July, the Hospitaller Pre-Days were held, organised by the Fatebenefratelli and the Hospitaller Sisters of Portugal. These were days of preparation for WYD, where we were able to get to know and experience the Hospitality that is practised in various works in Portugal and, at the same time, share our charism with 220 members of the Hospitaller Family from all over the world.

Thank you, right from the start, for the magnificent organisation of the event and the Hospitaller pre-days and for the presence of the thousands of volunteers who helped us to experience these days with unparalleled hospitality.



We are also starting a new Novitiate course this September, with the incorporation of 4 postulants: Tiago (Portugal), Bálint (Hungary), Clemens (Germany) and Luis (Spain), who will be admitted to the Novitiate on 29 September, the Feast of the Holy Archangels.

Finally, we inform you that on 21 October 2023, the temporary profession of Filip Kratochvil, novice of the Austrian Province, will take place at the Fatebenefratelli European Novitiate in Brescia. We thank God for the gift of the Hospitaller vocation so that, each day, He may bless the Order and the Holy Church with the presence of His Spirit.





## PRE-HOSPITALITY DAYS IN LISBON

During these days in Portugal, before the start of WYD, we were divided into groups in different languages. A varied programme awaited us. We visited the nearby towns where the centres of our Portuguese brethren are located. We got to know the following places: Idanha, Sintra (where our group stayed), Telhal, Sintra (where the Hospital of the Fatebenefratelli is located), Montemor-o-Novo (the place associated with the birth of Saint John of God), Leiria, Fátima, and of course the capital Lisbon, where the World Youth Day programme was taking place in various places. Thus, we visited hospitals and various workplaces where the Portuguese brothers work together with numerous lay collaborators.



The programme included prayer in communion with the young people, various presentations and group games, a programme and shows prepared by the patients at the health centres, as well as musical activities - listening to music, dancing and an entertainment programme. As for me, my best experience was a visit to the Museum of St John of God in Telhal, the city of Cascais, and a visit to the world-famous Marian pilgrimage site, Fatima.

FILIP KRATOCHVIL  
NOVICE PROVINCE OF AUSTRIA



## GMG 2023 LISBON, A PLURAL CHURCH EXPERIENCE

During the busy days of WYD, we were able to participate in many activities, which had been organised throughout the city of Lisbon, in particular the many catecheses, in different languages, which offered all participants moments of reflection and meditation. In addition to these 'secondary' events, there were the main events such as the opening mass, the Pope's reception, the Way of the Cross, the vigil and the closing mass.

The Holy Father, in the many speeches he gave during these days, conveyed great strength and energy to the many young people present. One phrase that struck me in particular was during the welcome, in which he said 'Young people, God loves you. There is space in the Church for everyone'. This 'welcome' of which Pope Francis speaks, has no borders, it is truly towards everyone, as we too, through the vow of hospitality, do every day at our facilities.

These demanding days, full of experiences and fun, have enriched our spiritual baggage, through the union and knowledge of the many realities, scattered in various parts of the world, with which we experience a faith given to humble and charitable service towards our neighbour. The opportunity to get to know young people who are eager to discover love for God, has reinforced within us the beauty of Hospitaller service. We are truly called to be close to our neighbour and, throughout the world, many young people, enlightened by the various charisms of the Holy Spirit, do this with love and passion.



MARTIN TUCI  
NOVICE ROMAN PROVINCE

# WYD 2023 VOCATIONAL STAND EXPERIENCE

We present the Hospitaller Order to the world. I like to imagine how John Ciudad sold books before his conversion: noisy in a crowd, shrewd, able to relate to people. We novices at World Youth Day did not sell books as he did, but we worked on the vocation stand in the 'Ciudad de la Alegría', together with the brothers and sisters, to attract passers-by. We wanted to present our charism and institutions through conversations, multimedia content and creative souvenirs. Most had already heard of the Fatebenefratelli and, indeed! There was an Italian born in Isola Tiberina, Polish users of Bonifratres remedies, Americans informed about the care of the homeless in Chicago, a school friend of a friar from Madagascar... Even a trainee nurse at our hospital in Sydney! Inviting volunteers and hospitality in front of thousands of young people from all over the world was the most wonderful opportunity for me at this youth meeting.



MICHAEL GRGUREVIC  
NOVICE FRENCH PROVINCE



## VISIT TO ORDER CENTRES AND COMMUNITIES IN MADRID, SPAIN.

On our way to and from World Youth Day, we stopped in Madrid for two days each, so we had the opportunity to visit our communities and institutions in that city. Communities and institutions in that city. We stayed at the "Fundación de San José" in Carabanchel. We were warmly welcomed in each community and, thanks to the brothers, we were able to learn about the history of the foundation and how our order serves the sick and poor in that institution. In the Spanish capital, the needy can receive assistance in many ways in our institutions, as one can find all types of assistance, from general hospital care through rehabilitation to help to the homeless and promoting the integration of migrants.

On back from Portugal, we had the opportunity to visit our health facility in Ciempozuelos and meet the health facility and to get to know the mother house and the Hospitaller Sisters' institution. Last but not least, we paid homage to the remains of Saint Benedict Menni, asking for his intercession for the renewal of our Order. We were all touched by the professionalism and the high level of service in our institutions, which gave us enthusiasm for our service after the training.



LASZLO KALABER,  
NOVICE OF THE AUSTRIAN PROVINCE



## SPIRITUAL EXERCISES IN VARAZZE



From 11 to 19 June, we took part in the spiritual exercises organised by the Lombardy-Venetia Province, which took place in Varazze, led by Fr Claudio Doglio, biblical scholar and parish priest of this same town. Taking the book of Exodus as our meditation text, through its two daily lessons, we were called to reflect on the challenges that this text of the Word of God poses to our Christian faith today. The various moments of silence, personal reflection, introspection and individual and communal prayer that we experienced during these days offered us authentic opportunities to experience and encounter God face to face in a relationship of friendship and intimacy like a friend speaking to his friend. It was also an opportunity to purify the moments in our lives when we struggle in the manner of Pharaoh, with arrogance, self-sufficiency, power and control over others. In this way we were able to embark on a journey of renewal and transformation that would bring a better disposition to our daily lives and relationships, better understanding God's will and his desires for each of us.



RUI MIGUEL SANTOS  
NOVICE OF THE PORTUGUESE PROVINCE

## HOLY MASS IN SUFFRAGE OF FRA GILBERTO IN TRIVOLZIO

On Sunday, 16 July, the Community participated in the commemoration of Fra Gilberto Ugolini who passed away last June.

The Parish Priest of Trivolzio with the Choir Master, Francesco, wanted the Novices to participate and animate this celebration.

participate and animate this Eucharistic celebration in which the Brother was remembered the Brother. Joining our Formation Community was Brother Serafino Acernozzi who, after the Celebration, was given the floor by the parish priest, who spoke and outlined about the figure of the Brother, Brother Gilberto, who celebrated his Religious Profession in this town of Trivolzio, the birthplace of St Richard Pampuri. Brother Gilberto was one of the first Brothers of the Trivolzio Community. He was a doctor who worked in our rest home, St Riccardo Pampuri, and was also very helpful to anyone who who asked for his help. After the Celebration, the Novices with their Master, Brother Formators and Brother Serafino went to St Riccardo's chapel to gather in prayer.

The morning then ended with lunch, which the parish offered to our Community.



We would like to extend our fervent thanks to the Parish Priest of Trivolzio, to Francesco, of the parish choir, to the entire Trivolzio Community and to all the oratory volunteers who wanted to have us as their guests by offering us lunch.

May St Richard together with Brother Gilberto accompany each one of you and may new vocations be born new vocations to our religious Family of the San John of God.



BR. ANGELO SALA,  
FORMATOR



# INTERVIEW WITH OUR VOLUNTEER PATRIZIA

Patrizia Roma is one of the volunteers of the Locanda di San Giovanni di Dio with whom we share the mission of welcoming homeless people in Brescia. She is a mother, has a son and is currently retired. She has been working with us for three and a half years and lives her voluntary work with great loyalty and joy. Today we are giving her a short interview.

**What made you start volunteering at the Locanda di San Giovanni di Dio?**

I started as a volunteer at the Locanda to help my brother Roberto, who was a volunteer at the inn at the time. I didn't know any brothers or guests but I felt that I had to do something for the invisible in society. And when I met the guests of the inn I realised how lucky I am. Helping others makes me feel good and humble again.

**What is your mission at the Locanda?**

My mission at the inn is to serve dinner to the guests and then tidy up and clean the dining room. Then I do the changing of sheets and towels. If there is time left, we chat with our dear guests, eat dessert and play cards. I forgot, after finishing dinner and cleaning the dining room, we take a trip to the chicken coop where the leftover food from dinner is donated to the inn's chickens and geese.

**What would you emphasise about the volunteers' relationship with the brothers and novices?** At the Locanda I related with the brothers and novices, people who were unique to me and taught me so much. I am grateful for this experience.



**What have you learnt for your life of the Charism of Hospitality?**

In my own life Hospitality has taught me never to judge, but to open my heart by bringing a smile and always lending a hand to the least or those in need. It is a powerful experience that has opened my heart and strengthened my faith.



BR. JAKOBUS JANCI  
FORMATOR





