

Long Life at the 20th Celebration

It seems that 10th of May 2000 was a lucky day for the pluri-confessional and pluri-lingual community of the town of Resita. It was the day of the official opening of "Frédéric Ozanam" Social Center of the SSVP in Resita.

Looking back together, we might remark a period of twenty years of work in serving the neighbor, an altruistic and priceless devotion, a blessed opportunity given by God to our town and society. These festive moments we are celebrating that day we wish we give our thanks to all those who for 20 years dedicated themselves to such an activity, contributing to a positive progress and always changing toward the good direction. We thank to all those who contributed so that we might be today here we have got together.

"Frédéric Ozanam" Social Center has been during the years in the center of the social work in Resita and we thank God for this, and thank all the people who support us and stay near us.

Further on I invite you to read the article that Mrs. Engineer Elfriede Gheorghiiă, the coordinator of the center, has written. You will find many things in, belonging to an exemplar life and unconditioned love and much of the inner light of all those who worked in the course of those 20 years in our Social Center we are celebrating today together.

May the Lord bless our work so we work away in His Vineyard!

Erwin Josef Tigla
President of the SSVP Resita

"Frédéric Ozanam" Social Center of the SSVP Resita, "Saint Mary of the Snows" Conference

Engineer Elfriede Gheorghiiă

Knowing first of all some data on the SSVP Resita, "Saint Mary of the Snows" Conference is what the people must know if looking for references about "Frédéric Ozanam" Social Center.

The SSVP was founded on the 2nd of August 1992, at the urging of a similar association in Graz, the capital of the land of Styria, Austria, and of its President, Mr. Alois Fauland, as the first such an association in Romania, registered as a legal person. Now there are 18 members, with 38 families into evidence and 108 supported people. These families as well as the Association's members belong to different confessions (Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran, Reformed, etc.) and ethnic groups.

In the course of years, the assisted persons were given clothes - during the first years of our social work - and basic foodstuffs (edible oil, flour, sugar, rice) correlating the quantities with the families' members; we do it nowadays too. Old persons, alone persons and children are given special present-packets on the occasion of Christmas and Easter.

Once they proposed to also contribute to the education of those families' children. It was the nexus the Social Center "Frédéric Ozanam" developed from. It was inaugurated on the day of the 10th of May 2000. Not the children's proper education was our pretention, but trying to direct them toward good and nice things and help them with acknowledges they need during their life. It was the best way I may say rejecting humility: the children who worked here at the beginning of this center are the real proof. Some of them have graduated a

faculty and others are parents now; so, they are aware people of what life means - never a simple play.

Where the Social Center is located? The Town Council of Resita provided an adequate building belonging to the town possessions, so that the works of the Social Center develop properly; it is the building we are working today too.

According to the present laws we could not work with children inside the building. But we haven't abandoned them: the families are given basic foodstuffs (flour, sugar, edible oil, and rice), sweets on the occasion of religious feasts, and schools supplies every new beginning of school program.

20 years are not really the top of a mount, but certainly they are the top of a hill where from we could realize the way we were. Let's look after this way...

Works in the Social center

Who were the beneficiaries of the Center? Children and teen-agers from 6 up to 18 years is the answer. They came from social disadvantaged families into the Association's evidence (families with many children, single-parent families, and unemployed workers).

Who was in charge with those children? Entirely, our work stood on voluntary contribution. The team was a "multi-colored" one: artists, teachers, and pedagogues, technicians, engineers and book-keepers or doctors, medical assistants and so on. The most of them were pensioners, but all of them were inspired to do something for the children's sake. Both the Catholic and Orthodox parishes in Resita came with their spiritual help.

Which was the schedule of the Social Center? The main activities took place on Saturday especially, but also in the course of the week or holidays.

We observed that the best way to work with those children was to have two distinct groups, without a strict criterion to delimitate them, but also without any possibility "to travelling" from a group to the other one. And it worked especially for the moments of alternative activities.

Which kind of activities are we speaking about? Drawing, painting, and mandala; origami, string knitting and even wattling, as well as collages, cuttings, dry floral arrangements and clay moldings; some timid steps to teach and learn both Romanian and German folk-songs and dances were also done; or to prepare greeting cards and "mărțișoare"(March amulets). So, to say in short, we have tried to show children that there are many other things than computer violent plays, "manele" (recent popular songs) or telenovelas. We had to try even if only the future is expected to set the measure we succeeded to.

To prevent being taken ill every month a general medical control was done and if necessary, they were directed to a specialized healthy control. The same we did before leave for "Semenic" holidays camp.

"Tanti" (Auntie), the cook, was one of the most belloved persons in the Center. The children took a short breakfast and a lunch at the end of the activity (three dishes usually).

On the 10th of May and 9th of September we used to organize the Day of Open Doors, with an artistic short program and exhibition of the children's drawings. Traditionally we also have festive meetings during the Advent days and before Christmas. Usually, the teen-ages of the Center took part in as they also activated around the parishes.

The sketch referring to the Three Wise Men visiting Bethlehem ("We Followed a Star") was another traditional performance on the 6th of January (Epiphany) at „Saint Mary of the Snows Church” in Resita Montana.

Due to our foreign partners we had the opportunity to make our children spend a week of holidays on Semenici "our mount in the Banat". A week to do lots of interesting things and also to "recharge the batteries" with the mountain clean air, without realizing it, through wandering, wallowing and playing, or singing, painting and many other distractive things.

A little booklet was annually published, "Glasul Vincentienilor" ("Voice of Vincentians"), containing stories of the children and adults referring to what happened in the Center and during the holidays. Erwin Josef Tigla was the editor in chief for all the 24 issues published between 1994 and 2014.

During the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the spring of 2020, we helped more old persons in Resita, with the support of the Diocesan Caritas Timisoara, by giving them foods and special Easter gifts.

Many other things might be noticed, but we had to always remember the persons who God called nearby Him during those two decades: Fernanda Guragata, Agnes Bradaci, Eva Weisz, Agnes Reisinger, Elisabeta Dolorean, Erica Bornhoffer and Katharina Kravits. May they rest in peace! We also have to remember Berta Dolot, our medical assistant who is not able now to be together with us for health reasons.

Finally, we thank our permanent partner Vincentian Conference Graz (Styria, Austria), and a memorial moment to dr. Alois Fauland, our founder from Graz who left us at a venerable age (91-year-old), on the 23rd of August 2017. The Eternal Light be with him forever!

What is happened now in the Social Center?

According to the present law, we redirected our activities as following:

- Basic foodstuffs (flour, sugar, edible oil and rice) delivering on the occasion of Christian feasts, sweets for children, and schools supplies at the beginning of a new year;
- Meetings and debates of the Association's members to set a more efficient involving in serving the neighbor;
- Meetings of some groups from Saint Mary of the Snows Church Reșița;
- Cultural meetings organized by "Saint Mary of the Snows" Parish Resita and the German Association for Adults' Culture and Education Resita.

Particularly we might give thanks to SSVP Graz for supporting us in buying a new thermal power station, this spring of 2020, the old one being irreparable.

What would happen further on?

Shall we stop here and now? I do not believe! I am sure that a way to go on with the work of the Social Center would be found. We have only to believe in the Good Shepherd!





20 de ani Centrul Social „Frédéric Ozanam”
al Asociației Caritative „Sf. Vincențiu de Paul” Reșița, 10 mai 2000 - 10 mai 2020

20 ANI CENTRUL SOCIAL „FRÉDÉRIC OZANAM” AL
ASOCIAȚIEI CARITATIVE „SFÂNTUL VINCENTIU DE PAUL” REȘIȚA

• S F Â N T U L V I N C E N Ț I U D E P A U L • F E R . F R É D É R I C O Z A N A M •



20 JAHRE „FRÉDÉRIC OZANAM”-SOZIALZENTRUM DER
VINZENZGEMEINSCHAFT RESCHITZA

10.05.2000 - 10.05.2020