

Social Week 2007: Towards a Common Spirituality in the Social Apostolate

Draft Programme

Friday, 24 August

Arrivals before dinner

17:30 *Optional eucharist for early arrivals*

18:30 **Dinner**

20:00-20:30 **Welcome and opening of the Social Week**

Welcome by Mark Rotsaert, Ján Ďáčok, Ján Revák, and the organising team
Presentation of the participants
Introduction into the programme

from 20:30 **“What is spirituality?”**

Spontaneous reactions and recording of sound bites.

Briefing of facilitators for small groups and of participant observers

Social evening

Saturday, 25 August

8:00 *Optional eucharist*

8:00-9:00 **Breakfast**

Thematic Day 1 “FOUNDATIONAL EXPERIENCES”

The first day addresses the questions:

- Why are we in the social apostolate?
- What is my/our foundational experience?
- What are the anthropological and theological concepts linked to this experience?

The dynamics start with our spontaneous reflections on spirituality (sound bites) and a presentation on the concept of spirituality. This will be followed by elements of sharing (three testimonies in the plenary, small groups) that aim to help us access our personal foundational experiences in the contexts in which we live the social apostolate. Finally, there will be elements of reflection (creating a map, synthesis by panellists) to elaborate on key concepts that have emerged. In this way we will also address the question of language that we use for speaking about spirituality. The proposed approach is an empirical approach.

9:00 **Screening of sound bites**

A reflection on our spontaneous reactions from the previous evening

9:15	Presentation: “Opening up the concept of spirituality” By Daniel Izuzquiza The presentation sets the frame for our discussions and links spirituality to fundamental human experiences.
9:45	Introduction into the programme of the day By Pep Buades
10:00-10:30	Coffee break
10:30	Three testimonies on foundational experiences Three participants give a testimony on their foundational experience. The testimonies reflect personal experience and also the life of an institution. They come from participants with different ages and using different language. They refer to an ethical and a political context.
11:15	Sharing in small groups: “My personal foundational experience” Small groups are facilitated and receive lead questions for the sharing. Key words are collected from the sharing to describe foundational experiences.
13:00	Lunch
15:00	Creating a spirituality map of the social apostolate in Europe Key words and important locations for our foundational experiences are shared in the plenary. This is a way of visualising in a condensed manner the foundations of the social apostolate in Europe. Time for spontaneous reflections and comments.
16:00-16:30	Coffee break
16:30	Synthesis of the work of the day By Daniel Izuzquiza and N.N. Two panellists provide an anthropological and theological interpretation of the testimonies that we have heard at different stages during the day.
17:15	Reflection and discussion in the plenary Final discussion on points mentioned in the synthesis and on personal observations synthesising the experience of the day.
18:30	Dinner
19:30-20:00	Ignatian examen on foundational experiences A quiet time of prayer that invites to go back to the most life giving experiences during this day.
from 20:00	free evening

Sunday, 26 August

8:00-9:00	Breakfast
Thematic Day 2	“MOMENTS OF CRISIS AND PROCESSES OF TRANSFORMATION”
	The second day addresses the questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What happens on a human (anthropological) and transcendent (theological) level as a result of the foundational experiences? - How do we access, live, and describe such moments of crises and processes of transformation personally; in the institu-

tions in which we work; and in the societies in which we live?

The elements of this day aim to develop the potency and strength of the foundational experiences by looking at the dynamics of hope and despair, of life and death, of consolation and desolation, of death and revelation that are inherent. Living the foundational experience more often than not results in a struggle that we need to describe and understand. Three testimonies and an input on two different ways of living transformation will make visible personal and institutional experiences of change. The second part of this thematic day embarks on a reflective process: The implications of hope as a theological concept will be presented and discussed. This will lead us to express our own hope in a prayer that we will prepare together. Thus the empirical approach and the question of language will be continued.

9:00 Introduction into the programme of the day
By Giacomo Costa

9:20 Three testimonies on crisis and transformation
Three participants address in different ways crises that they have lived and that were at the origin of transformation. They touch upon the personal level, the institutional level, and the larger context of society to which we are linked.

10:20-10:40 **Coffee break**

10:40 Introduction: “Two ways of living and responding to transformation”
By Lucien Descoffres
The introduction outlines the role of violence in transformation and pinpoints transformation through crisis versus transformation through slow and constant change.

10:50 Sharing in small groups: “Living crises and responding to transformation”
Small groups are facilitated and receive lead questions for the sharing.
Same groups as on Saturday.

12:45 Eucharist: Living transformation
Our prayer and celebration can express the life giving experiences that we shared during the morning.

13:30 **Lunch**

Optional programmes in Trnava and Piešťany

14:30 A. Visit to Trnava University and the Trnava Jesuit community
The faculty of medicine at Trnava University, at 11 km from Piešťany, is engaged in social and development work. The Jesuit run faculty of theology in Bratislava is part of Trnava University as well. A visit can give an impression of social change in Slovakia: how a society takes up new responsibilities of mutual assistance. We will meet Prof. Krcmery, one of the founders of the new Trnava University (1994), and have a discussion with the Jesuit community in Trnava. A guided tour of the historic centre of Trnava will be included in the visit.

Time tbc **B. Guided walking tour through the hills surrounding Piešťany**
Piešťany is surrounded by a beautiful hilly area. For those who would like to get some exercise, a guided walking tour of 2-3 hours will be offered.

Time tbc **C. Visit to the spa of Piešťany**
Piešťany has large facilities including swimming pools, baths, and a small park. Those who want to relax can be accompanied for a discovery of the spa.

18:30 Departure by bus to Moravany nad Váhom

from 19:00 **Barbecue dinner in Tematín restaurant**
With Slovak Jesuits and guests

Monday, 27 August

8:00 *Optional eucharist*

8:00-9:00 **Breakfast**

9:00 **Presentation: “Hope as a theological concept”**

By Gerry O’Hanlon

The presentation introduces hope as a theological concept and addresses the question in which way hope is present in the struggle of transformation.

9:45 **Discussion in the plenary**

The discussion focuses on how the theological input relates to our experience as expressed earlier on.

10:45-11:15 **Coffee break**

11:15 **Preparation of prayer on “hope”**

The participants are invited to prepare in several small groups expressions of hope in the struggle of transformation.

12:15 **Prayer: Hope**

This time for prayer is an opportunity to express together our hope for life that overcomes death. It is an occasion to celebrate the many forms in which we experience and live such hope.

13:00 **Lunch**

Thematic Day 3

“OUR MISSION IN THE SOCIAL APOSTOLATE”

The third day addresses the questions:

- With our experience of transformation, where do we see ourselves in the societies in which we live?
- How do we envisage our mission, i.e. the places in society that we wish to occupy?
- If there is no such thing as a single identity in the social apostolate, can we discover shared spaces of experience, meaning, and imagination?

The elements of this day aim to explore our mission in the social apostolate by asking where to are we being moved by our foundational experience and by transformation. Thus the programme proposes a descriptive and a normative part. It starts with a presentation offering three different models of interpreting main features of current European societies. This will be followed by an exercise through which each one can determine his/her own place that he/she occupies in society by looking at the ways in which he/she is related with other members of society. A third step will explore the meanings that I personally and we as a group attach to the places in society that we hold or wish to hold. And the final step will allow us to ask whether there is something like a shared identity in the social apostolate.

15:00 **Presentation: “Three main ways of analysing European societies”**

By Michael Hainz

This presentation offers three different ways of describing and analysing current European societies, based on models from social sciences. The descriptive and the normative parts of each model are made clear.

15:45-16:00 **Coffee break**

16:00 **Exercise: “My own place in society and my interpretation of society”**

An exercise to determine my real place in society and the meaning I attach to it.

Introduced by Andreas Gösele

Each participant has a particular place in the society in which he/she lives, and he/she attaches meaning to this place. This exercise tries to help determine both the place and the meaning. It is an exercise in realism, trying to establish which place we actually occupy, apart from any preconceptions or ideologies we might have.

Individual work, small groups, and plenary.

18:30 Dinner

19:15 Exercise from afternoon to be continued

from 20:00 free evening

Tuesday, 28 August

8:00-9:00 Breakfast

9:00 **Individual prayer: “Exploring a shared mission”**

Introduced by Andreas Gösele

The time for individual prayer provides space to explore what I feel moved to do and where I can engage in a shared mission with the other participants. Points for guiding the prayer are provided.

9:45 **Pentecost: “Expressing our common mission today”**

Each participant is invited to think about a word or short phrase expressing our common mission today in a way that challenges, that helps us to move forward, that articulates the vitality of our mission, that points toward the kind of future of the social apostolate we hope for.

10:45-11:00 Coffee break

11:00 **Presentation: “Where can we go from here? Some comments and a vision”**

By Fernando Franco and Brendan MacPartlin, with the help of participant observers

The Social Justice Secretary and the Social Apostolate Coordinator for Europe are asked to share their observations and to comment on the way in which the social apostolate in Europe embraces a common vision and mission. They have also the opportunity to take the results of the Social Week a step forward and introduce their own vision for a future European social apostolate: Which are the avenues that have opened up, and how can we best explore them? Followed by plenary discussion.

12:00 **Written evaluation of the Social Week and comments in the plenary**

All participants are asked to give a written feedback. Each participant can share in the plenary one positive and one negative point from his/her evaluation.

12:45 **Concluding eucharist: Mission**

The final eucharist of the Social Week reflects on the core of our mission in the social apostolate and celebrates life giving openings that we have come to recognise.

13:30 Lunch

Departures after lunch