

November 5, 2009 - Germany – Meeting of the Atlantic-German Area for Project Europe



(ANS – Benediktbeuern) – At the Salesian community of Benediktbeuern, Germany, there was a meeting between October 23 and 26 of the Atlantic-German Area for Project Europe. This was one of a series of periodical meetings of representatives of the European provinces aimed at an exchange of ideas and experiences.

Chairing the meeting was Fr. Stefan Turansky, regional councilor for North Europe, who was visiting Benediktbeuern. Taking part in the meeting were the provincials Fr. Rudolf Osanger (Austria), Fr. Jozef Claes (Belgium), Fr. John Horan (Ireland), and Fr. Josef Grüner (Germany); and the provincial delegates Fr. Paul Formosa (Malta) and Fr. Herman Spronck (Holland); as well as Fr. Janusz Zapala (Fr. Turansky's secretary).

The subject for this meeting was "The Salesian formation of lay people," and assisting with expert reflections were Fr. Reinhard Gesing, Fr. Carlo Loots, Mrs. Colette Schaumont, and Dr. Martin Lechner. An important contribution was made by Fr. Vaclav Klement, general councilor for the missions, who spoke about the Salesian missions in the world with special reference to Project Europe.

The meeting provided everyone with plenty to think about and the valuable opportunity to share experiences. Among the practical proposals was the commitment of the various superiors to prepare formation material for use at both local and province level. The joint responsibility for the educational and pastoral mission by Salesians and lay people was again emphasized so that procedures for faith development according to the Salesian style might be promoted.

On Sunday afternoon there was the chance to get to know the locality. The group visited the Museum of Franz Marc at Kochel, met the pastor of Walchensee, Fr. Walter Schmidt, and visited the youth reception center at Zwegern.