

General Directress Visit to Germany

At the invitation of the German Members, I travelled to Germany on 14th June 2014 to meet with them in Koln and to visit the Duren Members with them. Karola was at the end of a month-long visit home from her mission in Matara, Argentina, and very kindly came to meet me at Dusseldorf Airport. We stayed at the Motherhouse of the Celittinen Sisters which is adjacent to their Heilige Geist Hospital. Our Duren Members live in accommodation managed by the Celittinen Sisters.

At Koln I met with Karola Breuker, Christel Peine and Myriam Kienzel.

Although her serious back condition makes walking very difficult for her, and she relies on a "Rollator" and specially constructed shoes, Christel remains active and independent. She participates in the community life in the apartment complex in which she lives. She is prayerful and faithful to the Eucharist, and remains cheerful in spite of being in a very high level of pain.

Myriam, a retired teacher, is a journalist with her local Triberg Newspaper. She writes almost daily articles, giving a Catholic commentary on day to day events in her locality.

Karola now works as a Pastoral Worker in Matara, in Argentina. Very poor conditions prevail there, and she gives of herself untiringly to help the people with material and spiritual matters. She visits her family in Germany every year, and also avails of the opportunity to meet with the other Servitium Christi Members. She is the Local Directress and she keeps in touch with the Members by e-mail and by lengthy (I understand, very lengthy!) telephone calls weekly.

In Duren I met with Margot Beumer, Gertrud Sauter and Maria Jungbauer. Margot lives near Dortmund, and travelled to Duren for the day. She is retired, but is still very active and can speak English, though she is very shy about this!

Gertrud and Maria live in separate apartments constructed in the grounds of the SSS Fathers in Duren, and overseen by the Celittinen Sisters. Though there is a dining room which the residents can attend, Gertrud usually cooks for them both in her apartment. Though advanced in years, both Maria and Gertrud are in good health and remain active.

In Duren, we attended Mass celebrated by Fr. Fritz Schaub SSS during which we prayed for the repose of the souls of Gertrud Spreter and Lea de Britto,

and celebrated the anniversaries of Profession of Karola and Maria. We then had a celebration meal in a nearby restaurant.

This is a very sound group, firmly anchored in the Eucharist, and available to Eucharistic Apostolate. We were able to communicate very well, despite my faltering German, and it is clear that a bond of Community has been forged between these Members who meet once every year. More frequent meetings are not possible due to transport and health problems. The leadership team are to be congratulated on their continuing service to the Servitium Christi community entrusted to them.