Hello Everyone!
Doamne Ajuta!

I wanted to share with all of you some events that took place. Before you read below, I ask for your continued prayers. Happy Thanksgiving to all of you! I give thanks to God for our teamwork and your support!

St. Dimitrie the New of Basarabov 12-13th century
October 27, 2009

The weather was overcast and rainy. However that did not stop the staff at the St. Dimitrie Center to honor their patron saint. It was the name's day of the St. Dimitrie Center. I went to the open house. They received a troitsa, which is a two bar cross that they planted in their modest courtyard. One of the hierarchs from the diocese of Cluj did come to bless it. The patients and the guests were together praying during the service to bless the troitsa. After the service the hierarch gave a speech. Then following after the speech we all enjoyed the agape meal. I did not have a big part in this event but I volunteered to pick up the food for the agape meal and helped to clean up the place after the guest left.

Sandwiches and Mothers

Our last meeting of the mother's group was about filling empty stomachs. At one of the Wednesday meetings a mother expressed how she would really be happy if she could have a sandwich to eat. The Protection of the Theotokos Family Center (PTFC) wanted to give some happiness to the mother and so they began to look for a sponsor to bring in food for the next meeting. I volunteered to bring in food for sandwiches. I also experimented in baking banana bread for dessert.

When it came to the Wednesday mother's meeting, it was also a birthday of one of the boys. So we did not have a regular meeting but more of a birthday party for the little boy who turned one. I had help at the PTFC from the staff to prepare the sandwiches. Then we went down stairs to the children's area. We said Our Father and began passing around the food. I saw the mothers enjoying the sandwiches. Their little ones were making noises because they were hungry too. One of the mothers thought the banana bread was from the store.

I was grateful to serve the PTFC through giving a meal to the mothers and their children. They were all grateful for the food. There was a sense of unity and support for each other at this meeting.

Hill of Fire

On November 1st the Roman Catholics here in Cluj-Napoca, Romania have All Souls Day. Many of the Orthodox faithful like the holiday as well. What happens on this holiday is that people buy candles and flowers especially mums. They go together as a family to the cemetery to clean the graves and plant the flowers and light candles on the graves. They take this time to remember their loved ones who have passed away. There could also be a memorial service done as well. In Cluj the cemeteries are huge and on a side of a hill.

I decided to go and see what the cemetery would look like at night with all the candles lit. Some Romanians told me that the cemetery at night looks like the hill is on fire. I saw from a distance hundreds of red vigil lamps burning. I understand now why the Romanians say the hill of fire. Once I got in to the cemetery I saw some graves that looked beautiful. I saw the care and the time people took to decorate their graves. It was a sight to see! I have attached some pictures of the cemetery at night to this email.

With gratitude,
In Christ's love,
Christina Semon

--
OCMC Missionary to Romania
Glory to God for all things!
Visit the Christina's website at: csemon.ocmc.org