

Monastic exchanges

Monks with the bishop Porfirje of Jegar, igumen of the monastery of Kovilj (Novi Sad)

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Early in September br Luigi accompanied three young brothers, br Gianmatteo, br Nimal, br Marcello, on a visit to become acquainted with the monasteries of Mount Athos, cementing ties of friendship with various communities and everywhere being received in a brotherly spirit. A real experience of fraternity was also lived by sr Alice, who together with m. Maria Magdalena and some other sisters of the Romanian Orthodox monastery of Copou (Iași) was able to visit seventeen **Serbian monasteries**, from the region of Fruška Gora in the vicinity of Novi Sad up to the border with Kosovo. The ties of our community with some of these monasteries, like those of Manasija, Ravenița, Zăbala, go back to the visits of Enzo in the '60s and '70s.

Fraternal visits for the sake of comparison or a simple period of retreat were those of sr Antonella, sr Beatrice, and sr Elisa to the monasteries of **Blauvac** and of **Solane** (France), of sr Elisabetta to the Reformed community of **Grandchamp** (Switzerland), of br Giandomenico to the monastery of **St Peter in Assisi**, and of br Vincenzo to the monastery of **Camaldoli**. Sister Lisa preached the spiritual exercises to the Benedictine nuns of the monastery of **Viboldone** and offered a course on the Lectio divina to the Little Sisters at **Tre Fontane** (Rome). Participation in the periodic meeting of the Dombes Group took br Matthias again to the Benedictine abbey of Pradines (France), while br Guido took part with a paper on "New forms of monastic life" in the 32nd Week of Monastic Studies held at Salamanca (Spain) and to the monastic conference held at the ancient abbey of Payerne (Switzerland) with a paper on "Ecumenical dimensions of monasticism". Sr Raffaella is living the Advent at the Anglican monastic community of **Burnham Abbey** (England).