



### **Spiritual exercises for lay people**

**MARIENHEIDE, Germany** - *“Experiencing baptism in today’s context, for a fulfilled life.”* This was the theme of the first weekend of Spiritual Exercises for lay people organized in Marienheide - Germany on May 4 and 5, 2024. The initiative coordinated by the German Montfortian community of Marienheide, in collaboration with the General Curia, had as preacher, Fr. Mihovil FILIPOVIĆ, SMM, a Croatian confrere of the Italian Province, who has been leading this experience for years in various European countries.

For this first session, 18 people participated (13 women and 5 men). The preaching in Polish with simultaneous translation into German for 6 participants began on Saturday morning with the rereading of the meeting according to the Acts of the Apostles between Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:27-40) and ended on Sunday with the encouragement to bear witness, thanks to the gifts received in the sacraments of Christian initiation (1 Pt 3:15-18). Some participants gave their personal testimony of life in the Spirit. Each day's Mass was presided over by Fr. Marco PASINATO,

SMM in German, with the sermon in Polish delivered by Fr. Mihovil in the recently renovated ancient sanctuary dedicated to Our Lady of the Visitation.

Times of prayer and conviviality, the sacrament of confession and the Montfortian consecration enriched and completed the spiritual proposal of these two days which are intended - God willing - to be one of the many Montfortian responses to the thirst for spirituality present in northern European society today.

In order to retain participants in this evangelization experience and to open it to other participants, the organizers are ready to repeat these weekends in the future. The next spiritual weekend has been set for October 5-6, 2024.

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