

Fraternal visits and exchanges

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In addition to the numerous monks and nuns who came for the liturgical conference or that on Orthodox spirituality, we remember with joy the visits of the last few months: fr **Michel van Parys**, Benedictine monk of Chevetogne, br **Gabriele Zighetti**, Benedictine monk of Evian, br **Matteo** of Camaldoli, br **Peter** of the German Protestant community of Imshausen, br **Michael David** and br **Serafino** of the community of the Visitation in Rhêmes-Notre-Dame, br **Bank**, Benedictine monk of the Hungarian monastery in Pannonhalma, br. **Pino**, Benedictine of Dumenza, fr **Luigi Gioia**, Olivetan monk resident at Sant'Anselmo, Rome, sr **Maria Teresa**, Capuchin Poor Clare, former abbess of the Oristano convent, four brothers of the Cistercian abbey of Hauterive. We have also had the joy of welcoming in June br **Wissam**, br **Yasir**, and br **Raed**, monks of the Syrian Catholic Church, who shared our monastic life with us. Finally, at the beginning of June we were visited by fr **Pachomius**, monk of the El-Suryani monastery in Egypt and for many years now pastor of the Coptic community of Florence, together with fr **Simon**, the new pastor of the Coptic community of Turin.

Besides numerous occasions of brief fraternal visits to other monastic communities, some of us have stayed in other monasteries for a few days of retreat or exchange. We recall above all that br Vincenzo accompanied the young novices and postulants to the Trappist monastery of **Tamié** to acquaint them with that community, sr Elisa spent a period in the Trappist monastery of **Blauvac**, while br Giandomenico spent three weeks in the Benedictine monastic community of **En Calcat** in France. Sr Sylvie went to Versailles to participate in the liturgy of blessing of sr Mireille, the new sister responsible for the deaconesses of **Reuilly**. As in other years, a small group of brothers went on an eight-day pilgrimage to the Holy Mountain **Athos** in mid-September; Br. Emanuele, br Stefano, and br Edoardo, led by br Luigi, stayed in a few of the principal monasteries there, welcomed in a fraternal spirit and strengthening ties of long standing. This year a group of sister as well (sr Lara, sr Annachiara, and sr Michela), led by sr Raffaella, visited **Greece**. Their interesting artistic and monastic itinerary took them to Athens (with the nearby centers of Dafni and Kesariani), Thessalonica, Veria, Metzovo, Ioannina, Meteora, Karditsa (where they visited the sisters and the ierontissa mother Diodora of the St George Monastery), Thebes (where they met with the sisters and igumena mother Ieronimi of the Monastery of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross).