

THE CONGREGATION OF SISTERS OF OUR LADY IN BACHKA, SUBOTICA, SERBIA

1. Our headcount:

Our community has 22 sisters with eternal vows. We have four monastic houses: „Marianum” in Subotica, which is also our headquarter, Kaniza, Topola and Backo Petrovo Selo. The majority of our sisters live in convents. In 6 places our sisters live on parishes.

2. Our current services:

5 sisters teach catechism on parishes, two in schools. 4 of our sisters teach singing and lead quires. One sister works in the gypsy pastorisation.

Our sisters who live in the convent, and also the ones that live in parishes perform the duties of chaplains, cantors, parish office executives and household keepers.

Members of our secular order in Temerin and Ada continue to work beautifully. Every year they make an offer which represents their dedication to the Church and our community. They try to live a spiritual life, take part in holy masses, take communion, and practice regular confessions.

3. The structure of our community:

We continue to live as the priests' assistants and colleagues: teaching catechism in schools and parishes, participating different catechism competitions with the children, cantor work, parish office services and parish housekeeping. As much as their strenght allows it, our older sisters continue to do well in the parish community as well as in the monk community.

4. Our joys:

We find it very important to have our annual retreat.

We also try to gather together 4 times in a year for our spiritual days. These kind of spiritual days usually happen in October, during advent, lent and he Easter period. On these events our sisters are very happy for each other and gladly discuss several aspects of their life and duties.

5. What difficulties do we face?

We have been experiencing painful moments in the last few years. Our monk communities have been present in our towns and villages for over 100 years. In recent years, they have ceased to exist in many places due to the strongly declining number of our population, and it results some parishes to stop their services. After the passing of our elderly sisters we could not fulfill their places as the result of having very few young sisters.

6. Our worries:

The age of our sisters is very high, taking care of them is an issue. The state provides extremely low pension for them. Our financial background is characterized by poverty, following the example of our Lord.