

Aid Church in Need

Attn. Mr. Retting

Gaming 25.07.03

Dear Mr. Retting

I would like to share with you my feelings concerning the Phoenix Europe Summer Seminar in Gaming and report on my impressions about lectures.

I would also like to tell you that I am very proud that I could take part in this great Program and deepen my knowledge in significant especially for my motherland issues. I can state with full responsibility that I have discovered the question for the stated at the beginning of the Program question "What is to be human?" and I believe that it will help in my future life and I will take advantage of this profound knowledge that I gathered in Gaming to develop myself and help other people.

Summer Seminar gave me a great opportunity to attend the lectures of well-known professors, like Frans Alting von Geusau, Ferdinand Kinsky, Paul Gabriner and William Simons. The person who made the best impression on me was dr. Paul Gabriner. He delighted me with his wisdom, knowledge and attitude toward students. He pointed out problems in the World's literature and philosophy that I have never reflected on. For instance I have never interpreted the Bible's parable in terms of "courage" and limits of human dignity. At the other hand some works gave me very personal thoughts. When we were talking about "The Peloponnesian War" I could not stop myself from comparing this book with the history of Polish soldiers, who were fighting during II World War at Monte Cassino in Italy in the year 1944. Only because of gallantry and bravery of Polish soldiers, who fought for freedom of many nations (just like Spartans who fought for freedom of Greece) the allies broke through front in Italy and defeated Germans. Now, near the Monte Cassino monastery there is a cemetery of Polish soldiers who fought there. Just like at Thermopylae, there is a similar inscription: "Go stronger, and tell Poland, that we died here faithfully for its values and laws." This issue was also very important to me, as my grandfather was one of those soldiers who took part in this battle at the Monte Cassino. Fortunately my grandfather survived the struggle and for his courage was awarded with Cross of Bravery.

The lecture of dr. Paul Gabriner was enriching experience. Each participant could share with its personal thoughts, the same as I could talk about the history of Monte Cassino battle.

The next class with prof. dr. Ferdinand Kinsky was very significant to me and also other Polish student, as it was focusing on the European Union and problems of this organisation's enlargement. We all know that Poland is going to join EU in the year 2004 and has done a lot to improve its political and economic situation during the last 10 years. Our country has become more attractive in the World scale. But the objective participants showed us what we need to do more to achieve the same level of development of those high-industrialised West countries. We also found out that entering the European Union we do not have to scare that we can lose our identity. Thanks to EU's institutions, independence of each nation will be kept and many of their problems will be solved, but it of course demands a lot of work and time.

The problems moved by the mentioned lecture were overlapping with the "Private property and social responsibility: societies in transition" of prof. dr. William B. Simons, which was referring to the transition of the Central and Eastern Europe countries in the year 1989 on the basis of the encyclic Centessimus Annus. And thanks to this lecture I could see problems discussed with prof. dr. Ferdinand Kinsky from another point of view.

Summer Seminar gave me also an opportunity of meeting people from all over the World. It was a chance to make the acquaintance of their tradition, culture and habits. Mainly because of that The Phoenix Summer Seminar is so unique, because it shows various methods for solving significant, for mankind, problems. Everyone can express its view concerning certain problem.

It was a wonderful challenge to me and I am very happy that I was a part of this great Program.

Yours sincerely

Andrzej Zawadzki