**68th ANNUAL MEETING of SIESC in Vipava, Slovenia**

**July 24th– 29th/30th, 2024**

God willing, **from 24 to 29/30 July 2024** we will have the opportunity to meet in Slovenia, in the town called Vipava, which is situated about 75 km  south of Ljubljana, Slovenia, 26 km east of Trst-Trieste, Italia, 156 km south of Celovec-Klagenfurt, Austria, and 209 km west of Zagreb, Croatia.

The topic of this year's meeting is what members of DKPS have identified as one of the biggest issues concerning not only teachers but also parents, grandparents and other citizens alike.

The title of the meeting is going to be:

**NEW CHALLENGES FOR TEACHERS: Gender – sexuality - education**

The meeting will offer various presentations on the topic of gender ideology, which is currently one of the most aggressive and dangerous issues, concerning especially young people. We hope that the presentations and the discussions will help us look into the matter from different perspectives, as well as make us more determined to pass our Christian faith and traditions to younger generations.

The congress is going to be hosted by *Društvo katoliških pedagogov Slovenije (DKPS)*, Association of Slovene Catholic teachers.

**Our speakers:**

***→dr. Urh Grošelj:*** *Gender transition, consequences and ethical dilemmas*. He is a doctor, a pediatrician, working at the Pediatric clinic in Slovenia. He is also an asst. Professor of Pediatrics and a lecturer of medical ethics at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana and a member of the National Medical Ethics Committee of the Republic of Slovenia. He is going to present the procedures and the problems, together with the course of various cases of treatment of the young having disorders in the field of their own gender definition. He will talk about the social, psychological and medical aspects of the urge leading to gender transition. Finally, he is going to highlight a range of unpredictable consequences of those procedures.

***→Benjamin Tomažič:*** *Sexuality education of the young****.***  He is a professor of Informatics at Želimlje Grammar School and a founder of Integrum Institute, Slovenia (<https://institut-integrum.com/en/about/>). He is going to speak about the issue of sexuality education and the outcomes of the researches carried out among young people in Slovenia and the world alike. He will talk about the documents, imposed by the WHO and the documents protecting families, parents and schools from the aggressive gender ideology. Moreover, he is going to focus on the supporting points that are helpful and favorable in the effort to empower the young, their parents, families and schools.

***→F. dr. Silvo Šinkovec (SJ):*** *Sources of strength for a teacher facing new challenges.* He is an educator, a psychologist and a priest, a Jesuit. He is the spiritual assistant of DKPS and the director of the Franc Pediček Institute (<https://pedagogika.si/predstavitev-instituta/>). F. Šinkovec is going to talk about the support given to teachers by the Church, the Gospel and prayer. He is going to present the influence of the society on the teacher's attitude to the issue, with an emphasis on what a teacher himself can do for his/ her own attitude and perspective, together with his/ her integrity.

The first day of the meeting we will be honored to host the President of The Commission for Education at the Slovenian Bishops Conference, **Mons. dr. Anton Jamnik**. He is going to give the opening address and celebrate the holy mass.

**In the afternoons,** we will have the opportunity to visit some places of interest, such as the town of Vipava, the old library and the tomb of the last members of the French royal family of the Bourbons in Kostanjevica, a place near Nova Gorica, as well as enjoy various amazing handiwork exhibitions.

On our **final excursion,** we are going to visit the Soča Valley, the museum of the 1th World war in Kobarid and take a short boat trip on the lake at Most na Soči.

We look forward to meeting our brothers and sisters from different parts of Europe in our beautiful country Slovenia. You are cordially invited on behalf of SIESC and its organizing team.

For SIESC:                                                                            For the organizing team:
Alin Tat, President of SIESC                                                 Helena Kregar and Marija Pisk