

Joyful Pilgrimage

Autumn 1996



THE HOLY MARTYRS OF KASSA



Our deepest gratitude to Geoff Gregor and American Airlines. Geoff, a close friend to our community, orchestrated airplane takeoff, connecting flights, and luggage. He personally escorted Sister Ida to the airplane with roses.



Sister Mary, head of the line, coordinated our pilgrimage and kept each of us informed and lighthearted. Thank you, dear Sister Mary!

Our dear families and friends:

It was with your help of love and prayers that this blessed and sacred pilgrimage could take place this past summer. I am writing to you to express our sincerest thanks, for it was through your encouragement and excitement that we pursued our plans. With my unexpected surgery 3 weeks before departure, it was a real act of faith to get on that plane and head for Hungary. I must confess that we went only with the assurance that our Lord and our Blessed Mother went ahead of us to prevent any obstacles.



Sandy Gregor of American Airlines had a dream she shared with us: to make this pilgrimage to Hungary. Sandy lovingly served our Sisters all the way home.

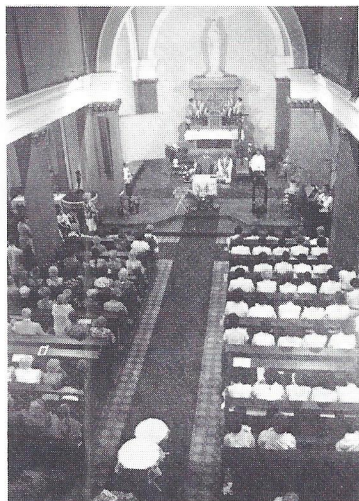
I joyfully share with you that just prior to leaving, I asked Sister Jane, that after the pilgrimage for a year we would, as a Community, have a Holy Hour each week in thanksgiving for the pilgrimage. So dear friends, every Friday during the Holy Hour we pray for you in deep gratitude asking our Lord to bless you and your families and to grant you your heart's desires.

In the Sacred Heart of Jesus,

your Sister Ida



Our parish pastor, Msgr. Imre Varju and Father George Udvardy, National Director of RE concelebrate our welcome liturgy in Pestszentlorinc, attended by family, friends and co-workers throughout Hungary.



Pilgrimage of gratitude.

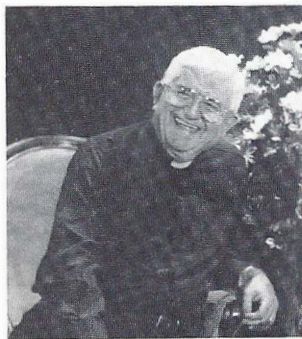


Sister Ida speaks to those gathered for the reception bringing joy and consolation to their hearts.



During our community visit with Cardinal Paskai of Budapest Archdiocese, he opens a gift presented to him by Sister Ida in the company of Sister Judith and Sister Shannon.

... *Meeting a people
of courage~*



Bishop Keszthelyi during
our visit



Sister Eva presents medals for a blessing to our friend Father Carl Pastor who welcomed us to Our Lady of Mariapocs Shrine.



During our visit to Veszprem, Archbishop Kada, Papal Nuncio to Madrid, and Sister Ida take time out to speak heart to heart.



Sisters gather around Father Blaise Orban at his parish church in the village of Gerse. Sister Ida hid in this village during the Russian occupation.



Bishop Keszthelyi enjoys the company of the Sisters in the new studio he built in the Diocese of Vac.

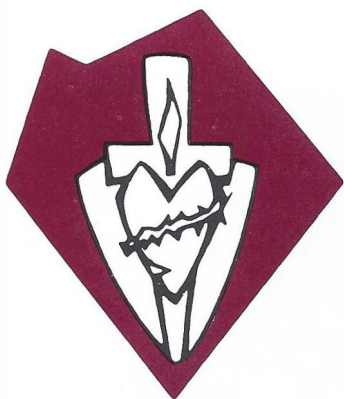
& great faith



Official welcome to Kassa by the assistant mayor and the rector of the seminary.



A familiar scene throughout our pilgrimage: Sister Ida, surrounded by our Sisters and microphones, answers questions and recalls events and stories.



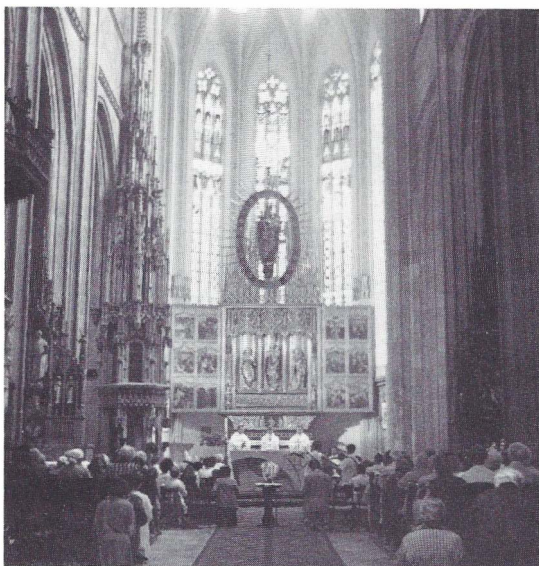
Returning to Kassa

Autumn 1996



Sister Ida's father's office was on the second floor of this building and Sister Hermine's father's book store was on the first floor.

Excitement filled our hearts as our community returned with Sister Ida to Kassa, her birthplace and the city of our community's origin and first beginnings. All of our expectations of this pilgrimage were immediately exceeded by the beauty of the city established in the 13th century, the warm welcome of city officials, family, religious and friends. We all knew deep within our hearts that we had come to a holy city, a sacred place of our history. We all felt, at that moment, that we had come home.



Liturgy with the renewal of baptismal vows at the Cathedral in Kassa.

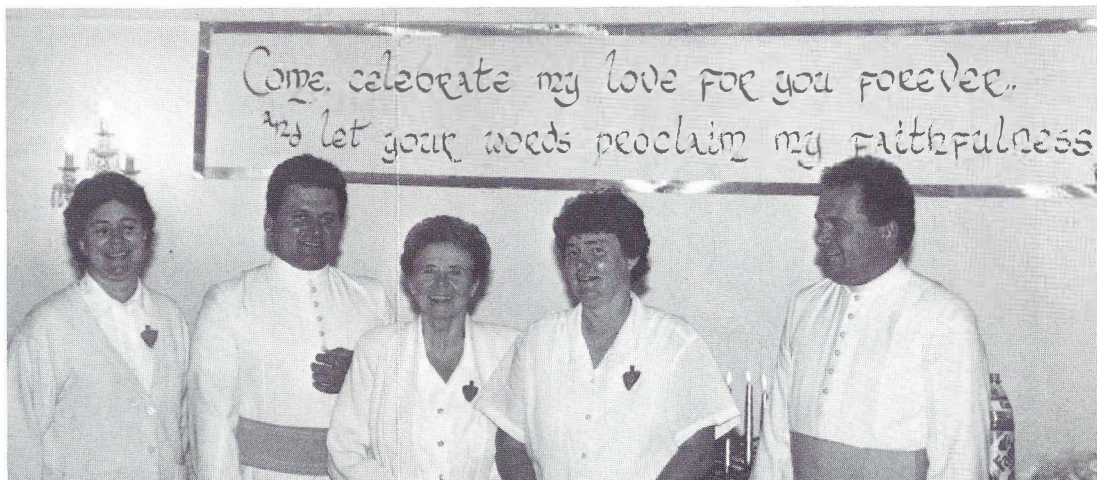
For five days, from early dawn to evening twilight, Sister Ida led us through the city of Kassa and the surrounding areas. From the baptismal font in the exquisite gothic Cathedral to the Ursuline Church of her first communion, from ice cream parlors and pastry shops to promenades, from the schools and offices of significant educators to the homes of friends poor and rich, elite and minority, we wove our way into a clearer understanding of how God knit together this community in a setting of beauty, culture, love, family, war, terror, faith and joy.



Our Sisters gather at the Baptismal font where Sister Ida was baptized.



14th century wood carved statue of the main altar



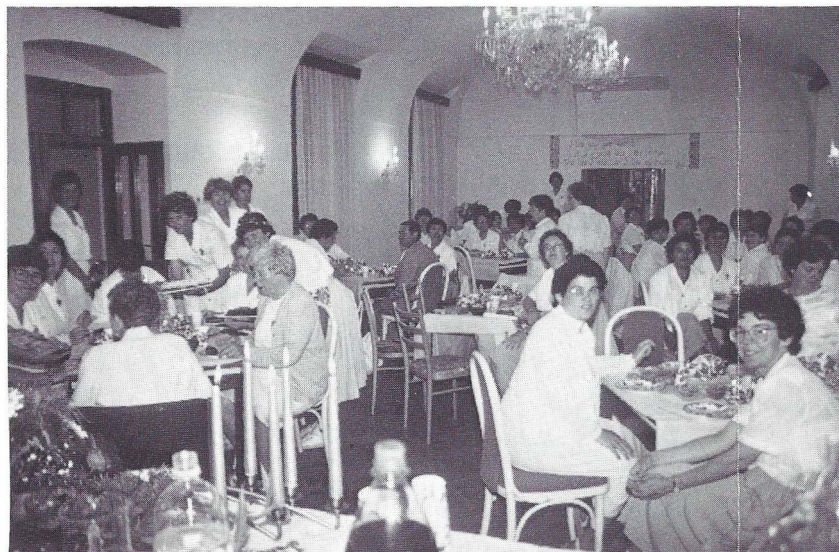
Sister Catherine Marie, Father Zoltan Pasztor, Sister Ida, Sister Jane, and Father Lorenzo Pasztor at the reception following the renewal of vows.

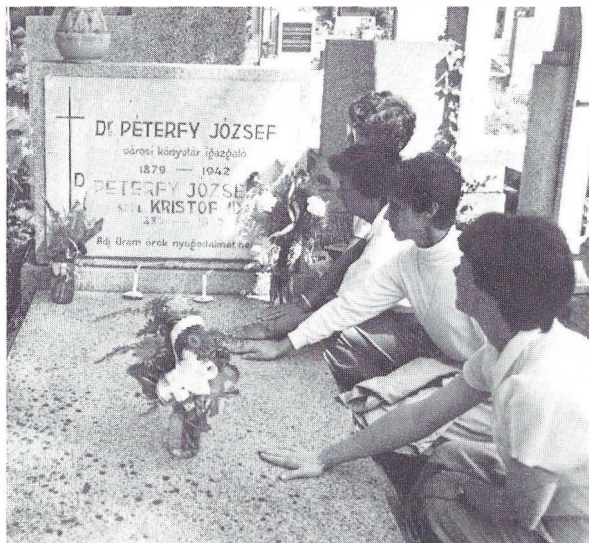
Signs of neglect by the communist regime were evident everywhere but we saw the perennial beauty of the city where Sister Ida and Sister Hermine grew up. Above all, we have experienced God's extraordinary presence in their lives and in the life of the Society Devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

On August 31st, we entered the Franciscan Church in Kassa to restate our love for our Lord. The Church in its stage of renewal and restoration reminded us of its persecuted history and grace-filled future. As we all gathered at the steps of the sanctuary, Sister Ida knelt down and pronounced her vows. This was the first time for many of us to hear Sister Ida pray her vows. Then Sister Jane and Sister Catherine Marie, who were celebrating their 25th Jubilee, pronounced their vows. After that, Sister Hermine and Sister Aurelia and each member of our community

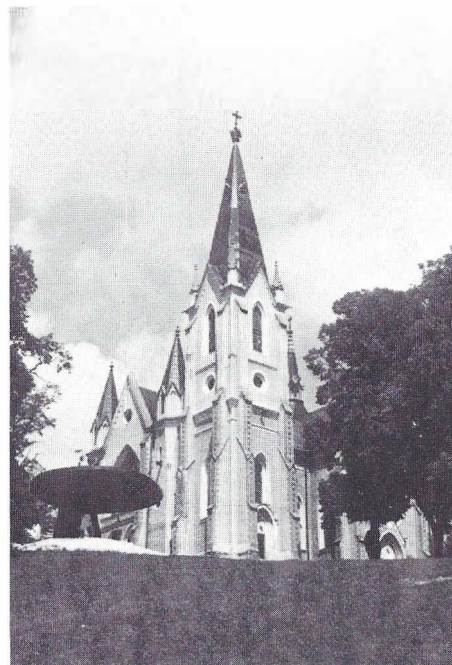
renewed their vows. The sacred occasion quieted our hearts as we heard the vows of our Sisters resound over and over again, echoing our call to love Jesus Christ and serve His Body, the Church.

A joyous celebration followed, hosted by our Sisters, who brought the treats and the beautiful signs from the U.S.A. Words of love and gratitude were exchanged and songs of thanksgiving filled the room. Our deepest thanks, to each of one of you our dear families and friends, for your financial help. Your generosity made this tremendous joy and grace possible.





Sisters pause and pray at the grave site of Sister Ida's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Peterfy.



The Shrine of of Our Lady in Lőcse.

One of the most moving experiences for us as Sisters was the opportunity we had to visit the graveside of Sister Ida's mother and father. Sister Ida has been present with many of us as our family members, parents or friends have suffered or died. We were grateful to God that now we could be at the side of Sister Ida before her parents. As we stood at the graveside we spontaneously began to sing: "This is holy ground." A single thank you rang out as one of our Sisters began to pray. She thanked Dr. Peterfy for taking his daughter hiking and with gratitude exclaimed that we still hike. Another prayer soon rang out thanking Mrs. Peterfy for the faith she had instilled into her daughter's heart and the gift this faith has brought to us and to the Church. Our prayer and singing filled the atmosphere with peace. It was a grace-filled thank you we had waited years to express.



Sisters enjoy the countryside at the Marian Shrine of Lőcse.

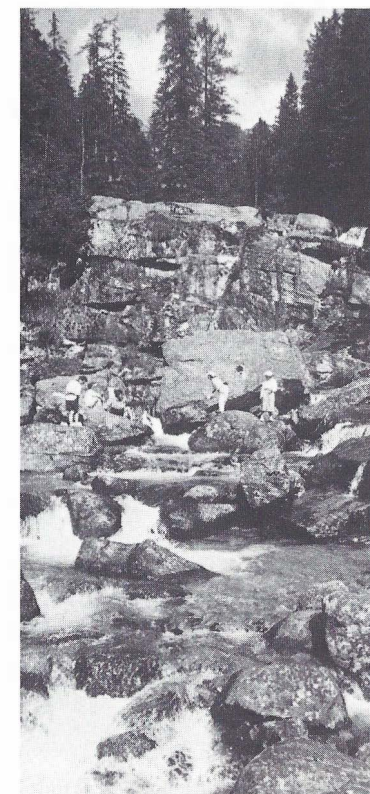
It seemed that Our Lord orchestrated our pilgrimage since we followed in the Holy Father's footsteps. He was in Kassa just a year ago to celebrate the canonization of the three martyrs of Kassa who died for the Catholic faith.

At the Marian Shrine of Lőcse the Holy Father celebrated a Mass for thousands of people gathered on the field where our Sisters walked.

O Lord, We thank you



Sister Debra and Father Lorenzo help to prepare our lunch on the way to the Tatra Mountains.



For your faithfulness & love
Psalm 138