

Attila Thorday:

**The effects of local parochial initiations
on the life of a suburban community**

I try to point out - through my everyday experience as a priest - how different freetime and other activities offered by the local parish influences the life of the suburban community of Szeged-Szentmihály. Traditional families having been here for decades, and newcomers moving to the suburb from the city, both groups look for their spiritual and physical opportunities to live a meaningful life.

The proposals of the local parish make it possible for different groups of community of Szentmihály to live out their unity, despite of their differences and social divisions. Through different spiritual as well as leisure activities the local Church offers them a new chance to self-define and express their gradually altering social identities.

In the last few years there were primarily sociological needs, like the close down of the local school, to be answered that helped me to develop spiritual life in my parish. The results having been born up to now, including a sport ground and a beehive oven in the yard of the community house, as well as new groups based on spiritual activities, mutually support spiritual revival of suburban community life.

My hope that in case of Szeged-Szentmihály with the help of the local parochial initiations truck gardener families and newcomers become ready to find and form their new common identity together, rooting their new spiritual as well as physical health in Christ.

Sources:

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