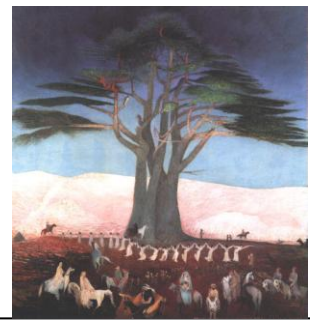


Newsletter (Pilgrim of Benced)

2009. No. 6.



*Beautiful is the Nyiko Valley
and its neighborhood,
Its people believe in God,
More beautiful is pussy willow,
Like on other places the lily of the valley,
La la la..." (szekler folk-song)*

Created and translated from Hungarian by: **Pall Krisztina**
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“The wrinkles just show where is the place of smile” - Elders Sunday in Benced



We could tell indeed, that lots of participants made our Elder's Sunday's celebrations one of the most successful.

We gave a present for those 70 years old and older. It was they who “gave their lives to furrows, grew on them life and wheat ear. The heart would beat yet, would roam the fields, would help his children and grandchildren – but there is a time for everything” - cited the Book of Ecclesiastes Ildikó Makkai-Ilkei priestess.

We were praying for those who left alone or broke in the mourning. We hope that their time can be lived with peace and love. Let us have happy old men on whose face the wrinkles show the place of smile. Let them receive safety, joy, and a good word.

The Sunday Church service was interspersed by our local youngsters' poem-musical performance, the folksongs of Imre Tóti, a singer from Székelyudvarhely, and a surprise poem by Márai. There was not a dry eye after 90 year old Uncle Samu spoke his words. In the Harghita County Council's representation, the director Erika Zonda and Árpád Vass were present.

“On the Elders' Sunday a small traffic jam developed in front of the House of God in Benced” - wrote Melinda Molnár, co-worker of Udvarhelyi Híradó.



The festive project was closed by a love feast, and a common group photograph.

This was the fourth occasion this year that the project was supported by the Harghita County Council, Unitarian Church of Bencéd, and the Ittre Bencéd Foundation. Thanks for the supporters! (**Krisztina Páll – The president of Ittre Bencéd Foundation**)

Words of Makkail Ilkei Ildikó minister of Bencéd:



Citation from Santha Ferenc from his work *We were many*:

We were hungry for three months, and for two weeks we had eaten only one time a day. My mother measured the mush with her hand. One handful was for one day and then there was nothing until tomorrow. We were four children under the blankets. We were warm there, and at the

same time we didn't disturb our parents. My dad didn't go working for the life. He tried too much. There were too many poor people and just a few rich. The hunger was a huge problem.

Who didn't feel and couldn't imagine. When we got the handle with mush, we ate in a hurry, but it being too warm, we got up from the bed, running to the chopping board where my mom cut the mush, and we tried to eat what remained on it with our fingers and penknife etc. But there were more splinters than mush. In this hunger, every mouth was important. More mouths, more trouble. And we were too many. One evening our grandfather who was more than 70-75 years old didn't eat his portion and brought it to our bed. With his big wrinkled hand, he divided it between us, and we ate like chickens. We couldn't imagine why he gave it to us. We just ate it and looked at him with our big eyes.

At the end of the story we read that the old grandfather looked for his death in a cave, just so that the hungry children could have more food.

We were frightened that grandfathers were capable of making this huge sacrifice. And when I saw their wrinkled face in the church I would like to cry. I knew their life; I knew their tearful, hard life where they did not give up. I know that with the same sacrifice one stood near family, grandchild, and child. Today we are proud. These are our SENIORS, being in the world war, taking care of children, and being ready to work to give up their life for their children, just to leave us to live because:

*He taught me from childhood
And I was raised by two persons.
One of them unfortunately is not living now
Just one Remained
She worked a lot for me
So I owe her for everything.
I haven't thanked her that I was alive
I haven't thanked you who worked for me
I haven't thank you, who took care of me
I haven't given thanks that I have Faith
For these I give a lot of thanks to my MOTHER!*

Basing on Ecclesiastes, for everything has a special time: *it is time for a birth*. It is good remembering the good moments of childhood, and to see a happy time, and beautiful childhood come back.

Let me see in my father's, parent's hug, when the wind of fall strokes me, like my father's hand strokes me, the wasting sun like my mother's face full of tears.

It's time for laugh, when you stayed near beds of children, when the day smiles on you, it is time to laugh of children, when you went to dance, to be together with friends.

It is time for seating, what was your life's cradle. The seating, sowing-time, fights of bread, richness and poorness, making bread for your children.

You went so much under the clod, becoming on you flowers, life. And what gives life for many persons.

*One day I saw an old man,
Hoeing the land in the garden,
Like the mother sews the dress
For the child who isn't born yet.*

*It was a parent love,
With it worked on land,
The roots were in ground,
And in his hand the hoe was singing.*

*His steps cradle the mounts,
And his arms' soft moving
Like saying:
Don't worry, the hoe doesn't hurt you.*

It is time for building, where was the love of home, and you built all houses, to have home for your children, to be good home for a long time.

And it is time for crying, you cried so much for your kids, when they had problems during the life, when they were in a bad way, you cried, when you have to leave them, because they were so

far, but you went after them buy your love, bags, letters, everything sending the message: Come home, my son!

But whenever a letter comes from my mom,
She is writing that she believes just in God,
We have just this my son, just this,
If we lost, too, we will not have nothing,
And if will come letter on winter,
The lines are mixed, maybe she got cold,
Staying alone hurts on Christmas,
My mom cried in silence on a winter's night.

It is time to mourning, when we had to stay near coffins, to leave parents', friends' hand, but believing in God the pains of hard days left us.

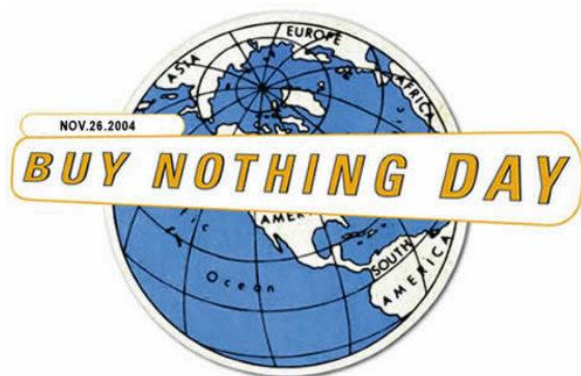
It is time for love, and for this Now it is the time, and be the time every day, today we are here to love, to pay our scores, we know that our seniors would like to be loved, for one word, they need some small kindness, some small love, today we want to give all this.

I would like to give this message: come home son, because the time is running. The time is running even we are living far or near our parents, grandparents, when they are between us lets give them love. Because the fight for life, they have run, they took care of their church, their birthplace even in hard days, too.

Don't underestimate the power of a smile, a hug, a stroke, a look, and attention, because everything is capable of showing a new way of life. We don't know how many possible ways there are each day to show our love.

International Buy Nothing Day

Buy Nothing Day is an international day of protest against consumerism observed by social activists. Typically celebrated the Friday after American Thanksgiving in North America and the following day internationally, in 2009 the dates are **November 27 and 28** respectively. It was founded by Vancouver artist Ted Dave and subsequently promoted by *Adbusters* magazine, based in Canada. The first Buy Nothing Day was organized in **Vancouver** in September 1992 "as a day for society to examine the issue of over-consumption." In 1997, it was moved to the Friday after American Thanksgiving, also called "Black Friday", which is one of the 10 busiest shopping days in the United States. Outside North America and Israel, Buy Nothing Day is the following Saturday. *Adbusters* faced censorship from major television networks and CNN was the only one to air their ads. Soon, campaigns started appearing in United States, the United Kingdom, Israel, Austria, Germany, New Zealand, Japan, the Netherlands, France, and Norway. Participation now includes more than 65 nations. While critics of the day charge that Buy Nothing Day simply causes participants to buy the next day, *Adbusters* states that it "isn't just about changing your habits for one day, but about starting a lasting lifestyle commitment to



consuming less and producing less waste.” An example of an event celebrating Buy Nothing Day is a Buy Nothing Day hike.

Buy Nothing Day has been criticized by some groups as a consumer-oriented empowerment activity that is insulting to those who simply cannot afford to buy anything at all, and that all successful boycotts in the past have been held until there was a gain, not planned for a single day.

A group in Montreal promoted "Steal Something Day" as an alternative. In their words, "The geniuses at Adbusters have managed to create the perfect feel-good, liberal, middle-class activist non-happening. A day when the more money you make, the more influence you have (like every other day). A day which, by definition, is insulting to the millions of people worldwide who are too poor or marginalized to be considered 'consumers'." (Wikipedia)

Be an environmentally aware customer!

Ten Commandments of an environmentally aware purchaser

1. Write down what you need!
Buy only what you actually need, not what they want to sell you. The big shopping centers and professional advertisements try to lure you into unnecessary spending.
2. Go to the market or to the local shop!
Hence you support the local entrepreneurs, the local economy, on what your prosperity depends. The multinational chain stores' profit goes out of the local economic circulation.
3. Bring a shopping bag with you!
Do not accept a bag everywhere. On the one hand you give money for it unnecessarily, and on the other hand garbage will be from it, which burdens the environment, and moreover you pay the garbage fee.
4. Go on foot or with public transport!
The exercise is healthy and it is free. You pollute your environment fifteen times less, if you travel with public transport than if you drive a car, and it is also much cheaper.
5. Buy local products!
Look for the things being made near your residence and you will contribute to the maintenance and development of your local economy and reduce the environmental pollution caused by transportation. The farther things come, the more they pollute. The greenhouse items, chemical treated, transported more than a thousand kilometers, artificially ripened, and merchandise packed and preserved cause considerable environmental load and are only beautiful for the eye.
6. Choose simple, environmentally friendly packaging!
Do not fall for the good looking packaging. You pay for the expensive packaging, although you only need the product. You thus pay for two, and only receive only one! Look for recycled, plain packaging.
7. Avoid the chemicals!
Avoid the not from natural stocks, chemical, semi-finished foods manufactured industrially. The chemicals are dangerous for your health.

8. Buy seasonal vegetables and fruits!
The greenhouse ones, chemically treated, transported thousands of kilometers, artificially ripened, packed and preserved merchandises cause considerable environmental load and only beautiful for the eye.
9. Avoid single use and unnecessary things!
The production of single use products and then discarding them wastes energy and creates an unnecessary environmental load. Electric toothbrush, tin opener and bread slicing! Come on....
10. Read the tags!
Take a look: who manufactures the product and from where does it come. How is it wrapped and what does this imply. Elect the possible best one if there is not perfect product. You are what you eat!

If you keep these rules you will be healthier and you will have more money and more spare time. You will contribute to the strengthening of the local economy and the reduction of environmental pollution. It is worth a test anyway. (Pall Krisztina- source: Green Transylvania Association)

There are rural places with succesfull initiatives

This program contains the success story of Benced, presented by Krisztina Pall, the president of Ittre Benced Foundation, Local development Agent.

The Civitas Foundation is working on rural development in Transylvania. One of their Phare project, *Seeable civil initiatives, like the possibilities of development of center and western region*, shows 22 films, movies and success stories.

They are making this to make known the rural civil organizations and their work. These movies show the variegation of rural civil life. Youth camp, cultural programs, community building programs, sustainable village, rural tourism, roma projects etc. from many counties of Romania, like Brasov, Hargita, Sibiu, Salaj etc.

The movies show hard working people, loving their communities, working with their communities, resolving the problems of communities, helping the communities, etc. There are a lot of stories of work, struggle, and success.

Let's make a better future!

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Pictures from Seniors Day



Pap Maria reading her poem



Tóti Imre, singer



Vass Árpád, representing
Harghita County Council



Presentation of Youth from Benced