

Italy

The weekend of April 25 to 27, 2008 had been set aside as the time to rededicate the newly renovated church building in San Demetrio, Italy. Brothers and sisters from the states along with those in Italy met in San Demetrio. Many of us were seeing the renovated building for the first time and were so happy to see how beautiful it was.

Saturday, April 26 we met at the church for a sacrament and feet washing service. Because of the renovations they had not had a feet washing service for some time. Apostle Paul Benyola was asked to read scripture and speak on the ordinance of sacrament. He and Evangelist Rosario passed the sacrament to the saints. Evangelist Jim Sgro was asked to read scripture and speak on the ordinance of feet washing. When he walked on the rostrum, he testified God had told him he was going to be asked to speak on feet washing.

We then washed each other's feet and had a wonderful time. However, we had some sorrow because the only one that did not partake was Lucia, she was not baptized. We had each been praying for her conversion and we continued to do so.

Lucia had been praying also. Lucia had testified that the September conference in Fregene-Rome was a turning point for her. She started to see her life taking a different path. When her sister Chiara was baptized in December 2007 Lucia began to fast and pray. She started to read the scriptures and God began to bless her even more.

After a beautiful service, we recessed for lunch and visited for a long time. We were going to our rooms for repose and Brother Rosario came to tell us Lucia had talked to her mother and grandmother by phone and told them she wanted to be baptized. They encouraged her not to wait but to go ahead. Needless to say, we were all ecstatic and so grateful to God. We were going to the Adriatic Sea!

It was a beautiful afternoon. We met at the beach and Evangelist John DiBattista took Lucia into the water and waited for a large wave to come and cover them both.

Returning to the church building for the confirmation and our evening meeting, Sister Lucia was called forward; the brothers formed a circle around her and prayed that God would be with them in the confirmation. Brother Paul Benyola confirmed the Holy Spirit on Sister Lucia.

The brothers passed sacrament to all again. They wanted Sister Lucia to have the experience of partaking with us all.

Sister Lucia offered a beautiful testimony of how God had blessed her. Her sister Chiara interpreted for her. Both Lucia and Chiara are beautiful women but the spirit of God has made them even more beautiful. We could visibly see the spirit of peace on their faces. It was wonderful to see how happy the brothers and sisters in San Demetrio were. There

are no young people in San Demetrio and they welcomed Lucia with love. Sister Carmelina, baptized less than two years, brought her a bouquet of flowers.

Chiara and Lucia live approximately two hours driving time from the nearest elder. In an email Lucia sent days after her baptism she said "I came back to Marostica yesterday. Now I am in the office but with a different spirit. Now I know I have been making the right decision. I feel really happy. I just miss God's wonderful family." Please remember them in prayer. They are young in age and young in the Gospel but they are praying and working toward a maturity of the spirit.