

All glories to Sri Sri Guru and Gauranga!
A humble preaching tour report from Italy, July 2012

Dear Devotees and friends, I would like to share the beautiful experience I had recently, while traveling around Italy in the beautiful association of sweet devotees. Our journey began in Liguria, visiting the the devotees there. Very affectionately Chandra Kanti Didi and her husband Dina Bandhu Prabhu (together with little Ishan and baby Bimala) offer to Bhakti Lalita Didi, Anukrishna didi and myself a little flat above her home to stay. We spent a few days in the association of the sweet devotees from Liguria (which is a region situated by the sea side, next to France). We did some Nama-hatta programs in the home of Chandra Kanti didi and all the devotees joined us (Tatswarupa didi and Murali prabhu with little Madhu Krishna, Dayal Krishna Prabhu and his wife Suddha Bhakti Didi, Sharogini Didi and Syamaray Prabhu. Also we went to visit the new home of Mohini Didi and Aloka Chandra Prabhu which is still under construction. We did a pre-inauguration by chanting the Maha-mantra and honoring some prasadam that our dear Mohini Didi offered to Srila Gurudev especially for the occasion (some very nice 'focaccia' and fruit drink). All the devotees was very happy to have the opportunity to associate with such a gentle souls such as Bhakti Lalita didi and Anukrishna Didi.



At the home of Aloka Chandra Prabhu, Mohini Didi and Madhubala



Doing Nagar Sankirtan on the streets of Diano Marina (Liguria)



Also the kids want to sing Hare Krishna!

Also Munindra Mohan Prabhu and Ritu Raj prabhu joined us at some point and together we went for a Harinam Nagar Sankirttan in the road of the nearby village, during the evening. We also set a table with our books and some very nice persons got some of our books and many received an invitation to our temple. Liguria is a very touristic area, so many people from Milan and surrounding go there on vacation.

Then we proceed our exploration of Italy and this time Munindra Prabhu drove the car to Umbria, where Lilasari didi, the wife of our dear Mohita Krishna prabhu, live. We arrived on friday and she offered us a very nice hospitality and let us based there for our further exploration of the country. From there the next day we went to Rome!



Harinam sankirttan yajna in front of San Pietro, Vatican City!!

Remembering the desire of Srila Gurudev to open a center there, we walk around the city doing Harinam Sankirttan, and in this way we visited the Vatican, and some of the major places in Rome. Most of the local people were in vacation during the weekend, but still we met many tourists and also local persons very much attracted by the sankirttan. Some run behind us asking for an invitation! I felt that Srila Gurudev was very pleased by our humble attempt of preaching there, although very small.



Rome: Castel Sant'Angelo



Rome: Piazza Navona



At "The Bibliothé", from left:

Anukrishna Didi, Bhakti Lalita Didi, Krishna Kanta Didi, Munindra Mohan prabhu and Ekadasi Prabhu

We went for lunch in a very nice place called "The Bibliothé", a little restaurant-library manage by Ekadashi Prabhu, a disciple of Sripad Bhakti Swarup Damodar Maharaj. He received us in a very nice way and we had some affectionate exchange. We gave him some of our books to keep in his library and he was very happy. We are hoping that soon we'll be able to organize a program in his place, which is in the very center of Rome!



The conference room of "The Bibliothé"



From left: Munindra Mohan Prabhu, Anukrishna Didi, Krishna Kanta Didi, Bhakti Lalita Didi, Stefania and Dulal

We also meet our dear friend Dulal, who had the fortune to meet our Srila Gurudev and do much service in Ekachakra during the inauguration that took place when Srila Gurudev was still with us, and he blessed him with the name Dulal. We also met his very nice friend Stefania who seems really sincere and sweet. It was really a very nice experience and I am looking forward to go back to Rome for further preaching program. Dreaming about opening a preaching center there!

On our way back from Rome we proceed toward San Pio Delle Camere, to show Bhakti Lalita Didi where her paternal ancestors come from. It is a very small remote village in the middle of Italy, surrounded by national forest where you can still find wolves wondering about! We only met a few people and even distributed a book with an invitation to Villa Govinda Ashram.



*Above: San Pio della Camere's main square
Right: The fountain*



From San Pio we went back to Lilasara's home. We were very happy in her association remembering Mohita Krishna Prabhu, and she organized a program in her house, calling the dear friends of Mohita Krishna Prabhu and disciples of Srila Gurudev that live in that area. As Srila Acharyadev told us "If the devotees do not come to the temple, you can go to their home!" So we did, and Bhakti Lalita Didi gave them the news about our mission and spoke about Srila Rupa Goswami Prabhu and Srila Gauri Das Pandit since that day was their divine disappearance day. All the devotees were very happy and nourished, and we were also so very happy there!



From left: Prema Vilasa Didi, Anukrishna Didi, Lilasara Didi, Krishna Kanta Didi, Bhakti Lalita Didi, Munindra Mohan Prabhu, Prema Sundari Didi, Vijay Gauranga Prabhu with his daughter Suvarna Lata Didi and Laksmipati Prabhu.



In Assisi, from left: Bhakti Lalita devi, Lilasara Didi, Anukrishna Didi and Munindra Mohan Prabhu.

The next day in the afternoon we went, together with Lilasara Didi, for a very sweet and gentle Harinam Nagar Sankirttan in the street of Assisi, which we can say is the spiritual capital of Italy. It is the home town of San Francesco, the Patron saint of Italy. We were really impressed by the way it is nicely preserved and cared, and also we felt that our sankirttan was really appreciated! We met a very nice group of scouts from Sicily, resting in front of the San Francesco Church, and we gave them the invitation to our temple. When we met them again in the street there were all happy to see us and clapped their hand and dance with us for a while! So nice! Also a group of young girls from Assisi came to us very happily saying: "You are the Hare Krishna!!" We gave them couple of our introductory booklets and invitations and they were truly happy with that!





*Above: The boys and girls scouts!
Below: all of us in front of the main lower gate of San Francesco's Church*

Hoping that our humble preaching attempt will satisfy our Srila Gurudev Srila Bhakti Sundar Govinda dev-Goswami Maharaj, and Srila Bhakti Nirmal Acharya Maharaj and all the Acharya Vrinda of Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Math, I like to offer my sincere and humble dandavat pranams at the lotus feet of all of them, praying for their constant support and affectionate guidance.

An aspiring servant,
Krishna Kanta Devi Dasi