

How a monastery celebrates a brotherhood monk name day - the feast of (Saint Sergii from Radonezh) in Bulgarian Orthodox Church

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Now it is my 4th day being in *Pomorie Monastery* with Kimba. The monastic life is not so boring as I thought back in the days :)

Yesterday I was driven to the Kamenar pub, by one of the workers here in the monastery (with the monastic car an old *Ford*);

We went to the restaurant in **Kamenar** village with the blessing of the abbot has blessed that we go and enjoy ourselves for few hours there with a group of tourists staying for (1 or 2) weeks in the monastery.

The pub was quite a news for me as it was a nice looking place with a lounge and swimming pool, this seemed quite unusual for especially since it was located in a village with 200 or 300 hundred of people living :)

The village pub had even a billiard table, the coin price there was on the shocking 25 stotinki (0.13) euro cents! :)

In the pub came an orthodox priest dressed like a casual person and started singing some traditional old Bulgarian songs (typical for singing in the different regions in BG). The guy was really talented and his memory seem to be very strong, since he was able to sing by heart about 10 songs in a row !

Besides that the priest voice was very beautiful. When I later had a talk with the guy it appeared, he learned professional singing before he became an Orthodox priest some years ago.

What really shocked me when the priest started singing in Italian *Luciano Pavaroti*, he sang it so well so you can hardly find out if it is not really the real authentic Luciano voice :)

This priest and the overall people in the pub had a great fun, as the place and people in were quite spirited; Actually I felt in a while like being in Emil Kosturica's movie :) :) :

Being over with yesterday I will say few words on my monastic experience today

The Church bell rang early in the morning to summit the monks for the early morning prayer followed by a Holy Liturgy served. The Holy Liturgy today served was a co-memoration of the feast of **Saint Sergii of Radonezh**.

Cause it is weekly day here there were not too many people in the monastic Church. The monastery monks were there, few other people and some Russian pilgrim woman. By the way I'm more and more being convinced that many of the Russian people are very pious oriented and have strong faith in God than us bulgarians. Sadly it appears (from my observations so far) Russians generally are richer in faith. It is sad that Russian Orthodox Christianity is stronger than ours in Bulgarian, especially when we take the fact historically Russians have received the Orthodox Christian faith and language from us Bulgarians ...

One of the key figure (brothers) monks *Father Sergii* is having a name day here, so due to that and because it is not a fasting day today (Thursday), the traditional monastic dinner was bigger and more rich than usual. Some youghurt mixed with cucumbers (Tarator) as we call it in Bulgaria was served with a little salad a few pieces of **Banica** and even little meat balls (for people eating meat).

The Abbot of the monastery was not served meat as I heard from the cook lady he is completely abstaying from meat since about 10 years already; some of the monk brother didn't eat meat as well.

The dinner started about 12:20 in the usual dinner room. For another day the food in the monastery was tasting super-delicious.

It is rather interesting that the food here is more delicious than the food we usually eat at home; Probably

the food is so delicious because large portion of the food on the table is monastic-grown and besides that a food blessing prayer is said everytime before eat time. Earlier times I've heard many others who visited and eat food in monasteries that the monastic food is tastier and more delicious than we ordinary people have on our tables, however I was sceptical until I experienced it myself, these days.

Cause the food is so tasteful, I consume here usually twice more food than I usually eat at home :)

I recommend anyone who didn't eat a meal in a monastery (yet) to try this at least once in a lifetime ;;;