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Aid in Church in Need
Mr. Peter Retting

Dear mr. Retting,

My name is Beata Wolinska and I come from Poland. This year I had a wonderful opportunity to take part in the Summer University in Gaming organized by the Phoenix Institute Europe Foundation.

I came to Gaming with very high expectations with regard to the level of education and depth of discussions with other participants. I hoped to learn how to become a leader, meet outstanding professors and find new friends. All wishes were fulfilled and I am very grateful that I could take part in this outstanding program.

I took part in three courses: The New West and the New Europe, the History Soviet Atheism and Courage in Western Literature. All of them were wonderfully prepared. During the course on Europe I had a chance to learn about the moral foundations of Europe, trace the events of the European Unification as well as the Christian Roots of Modern Europe. The great personality of Professor Alting von Geusau, who is involved in important European initiatives, helped me to understand that cultural and moral integration is as important as economic unification.

The course on atheism in Soviet Russia gave me a profound insight in the Orthodox, Catholic and Baptist churches under the totalitarian rule of Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev and Brezhnev. Dr. Bourdeaux, who himself was actively involved in help to persecuted believers, was for us a tutor in the thrilling journey through the communist countries where public belief was not allowed. Coming from Poland I already knew about the tragedy and triumph of the Catholic Church during communism. It was very interesting to learn about other countries, like Russia, Lithuania and Hungary. I immensely enjoyed the presentation of outstanding personalities, like Cardinal Miszenty and Cardinal Wyszyński. They contributed greatly to the restoration of the Catholic Church.

The longest course which lasted for three full weeks included the analysis of the writings of great authors, in which courage played a significant role. Later it turned out that it was not only a course of literature, but also on ethics. Paul Gabriner, lecturer at the University of Amsterdam, presented both biblical texts like, "The Parable of the Good Samaritan", "Life of Abraham", "Joseph and his brothers", and modern novels and stories like "Red Badge of Courage" of Stephen Crane. Owing to the analysis of outstanding heroes I was inspired to look for courage in my own life. "True courage must have a noble end in mind", is a quotation I will remember forever.

By analyzing the behaviour of heroes I had a chance to find out that a courageous life is a great and difficult challenge. Few people decide to be heroes and choose easier ways of

spending their lives. Nevertheless modern society needs courageous persons. Examples are especially needed in countries with poverty, war and other misery. I am deeply convinced that all students that took part in the course contemplated courage and will be looking for that virtue in their own lives.

Phoenix Institute gave me a wonderful opportunity to meet great, deep and open-minded people from all over the world. We took part in lectures together, we prayed together, and we spent free time hiking through the mountains of the beautiful region of Niederoesterreich. I am sure that we will be friends for a long time, supporting each other. While spending time with Phoenix students I had a chance to see how other young people look for courage and leadership in their lives: I was inspired by the way they developed their professional lives while staying in harmony with their values.

I think that the Phoenix Summer Seminar is a unique opportunity for students, because during three weeks they can completely concentrate on subjects and themes rarely touched upon in everyday life. They develop noble ideas and plans. They have wonderful teachers as tutors and friends to support them. I am going to recommend the Gaming course to my friends.

Thank you!

Yours sincerely,

Beata Wolinska