

EUROPASSION in ESPARREGUERA (Spain) March 3 – 6 2022

After the arrival of the participants on Thursday evening in the porch of the Esparreguera Passion Theater (40 km west from Barcelona), Secretary General Josef Lang welcomed 32 groups from 13 countries with 128 participants.



On Friday morning, representatives of the Europassion Board, representatives of the Esparreguera Passion Play and representatives of the Federation of Catalan Passion Play Venues were received by Archbishop Joan Josep Omella in the Bishop's Palace of Barcelona.



A visit then took place to the Parliament of Catalonia, where the delegation was welcomed by President Mrs. Laura Borrás.



The other participants visited the city of Manresa, where 500 years ago St. Ignatius of Loyola had his



mystical and spiritual experience that led him to write his work on the Spiritual Exercises and found the Society of Jesus (the Jesuit Order) years later.

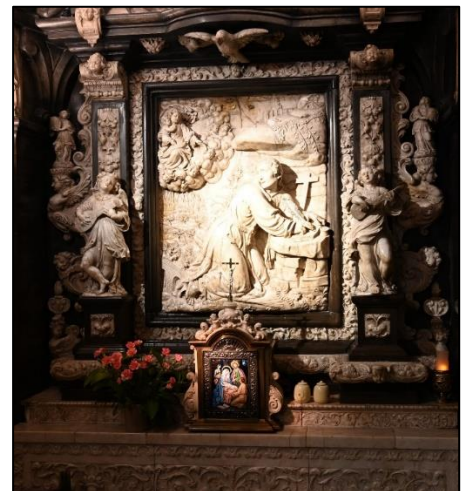
The Basilica of Santa Maria dominates the cityscape.

The Old Bridge and the Cave of St. Ignatius - a complex of buildings with a church, a retreat house and the Cave of St. Ignatius

During a visit to the cave, the view of St. Ignatius expounded on the passion of Christ.



The Church of St. Ignatius with the St. Ignatius Cave.



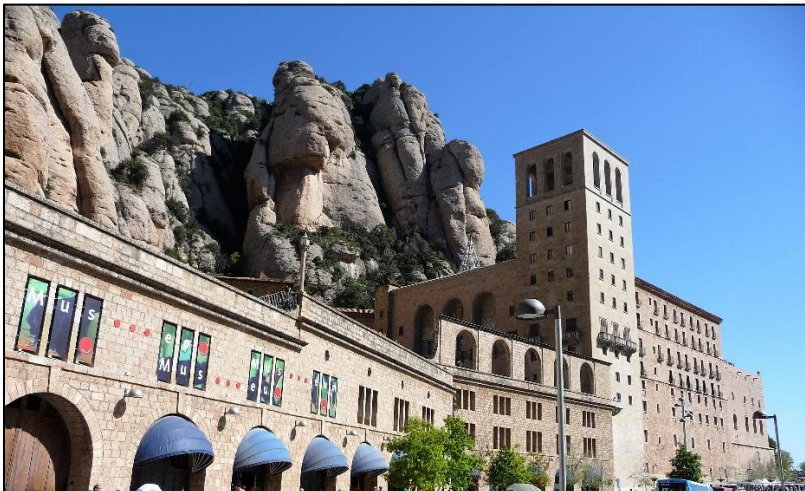
The Church of Santa Maria.



In the afternoon all participants have lunch in Montserrat – Benedictinian monk from the monastery talks about how the Passion is portrayed today.



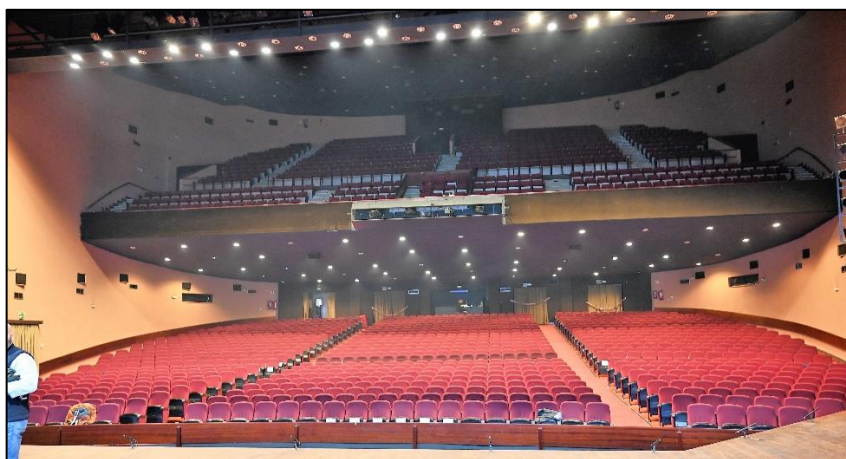
Then we visited the Monastery of Montserrat and pray for Peace in Ukraine in the chapel behind the miraculous image of Montserrat Black Mary.



Welcome dinner by the authorities – presentation of gifts to the representatives of the Passion play cities that initiated the creation of the Europassion in Esparreguera in 1982.



On Saturday morning, the delegates gathered for the General Assembly of Europassion in the Passion Theater.



After the welcome by the representative of the Europassion, Jordi Ros, and the reading of a greeting from the Holy Father Francisco I, the President of the Passion Play of Esparreguera and the President of the Federation of Catalan Passion Play Venues brought greetings to the assembly.

Yves Feuvrier from Loudeac, the only contemporary witness from 1982, reports on the start of the Europassion in 1982. The idea of the Europassion was born at a meeting of the Passion Play cities Loudeac, Masevaux, Nancy (F), Olesa de Montserrat, Ulldecona and Esparreguera (ES) in Montserrat.



According to the reports of the members of the Board of Directors, a resolution on the war events in Ukraine was adopted by the General Assembly, which will be sent to the European Commission and to the members of the European Parliament.

After the presentation of the new members Llinars (ES), Grossenlöder, Kleinenberg, Dammbach (DE) and Nettuno (IT), the need to amend the Statutes of the Europassion was pointed out and 2 cash auditors and a three-person election committee were appointed.

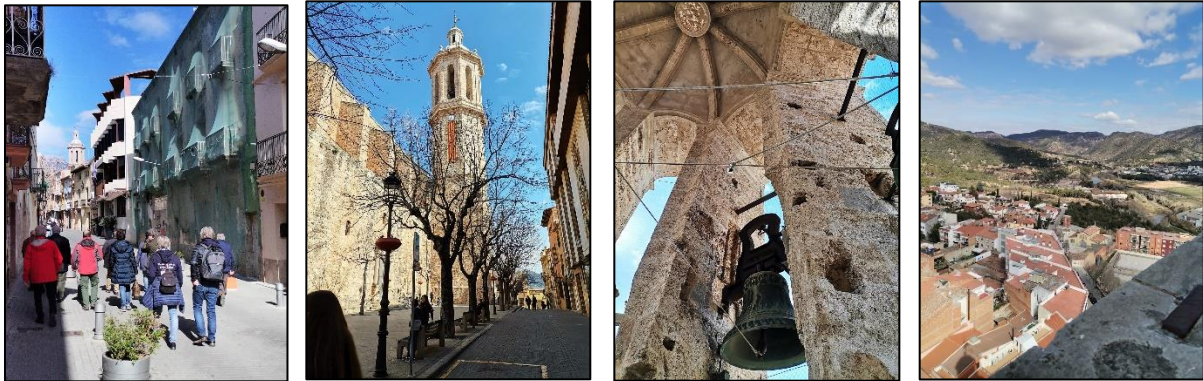
Josef Lang handed Jordi Ros 100 years old wooden cross on the occasion of 40 years of the Europassion.



Miroslav Kutlák invited to the Europassion 2023 in Horice na Šumave in the Czech Republic (8. - 11. 6. 2023)



During the General Assembly, the accompanying persons took part in a guided tour of Esparreguera (Bell Tower, Church of St. Eulàlia, Pottery Museum).



In the late afternoon, before the performance of the Passion Play, performances of Catalan folk culture take place in front of Passion Theatre.



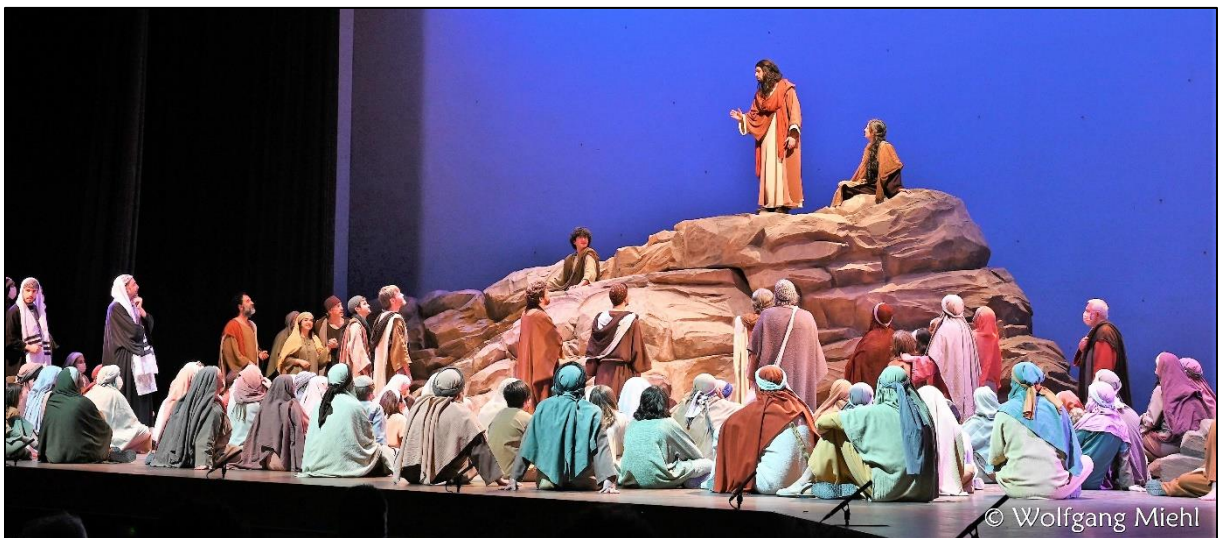
The Esparreguera Passion Play



The Passion Play begins with a musical prelude by the orchestra.



Jesus chooses the 12 apostles.



Sermon on the Mount.



Annas fears for influence and power.



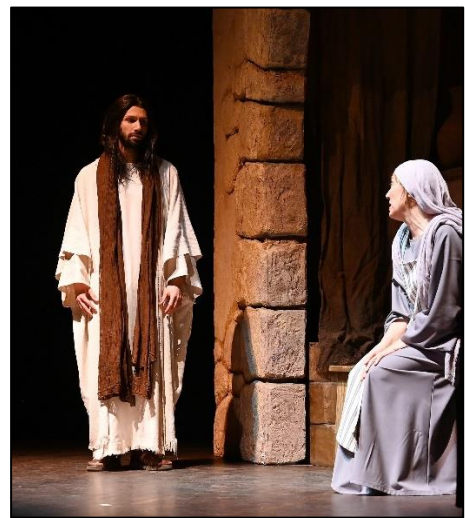
The raising of Lazarus.



Entry into Jerusalem.



Judas betrayal.



Jesus' farewell to his mother.



The last supper.



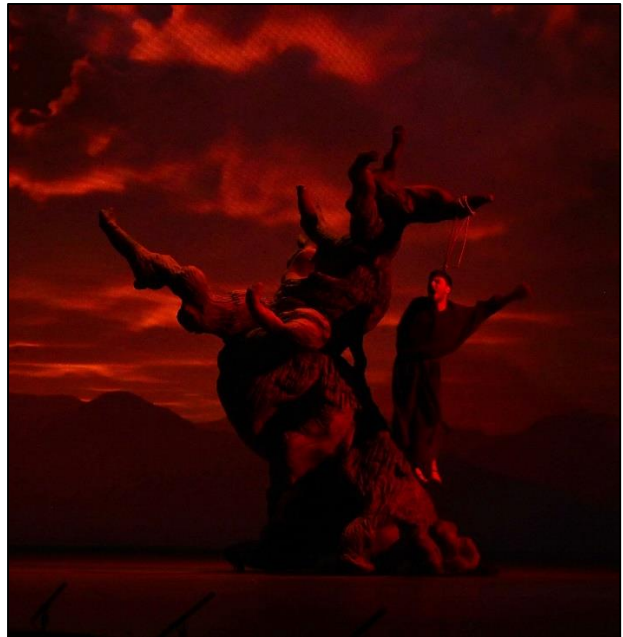
In the Garden of Gethsemane.



Jesus before the Sanhedrin.



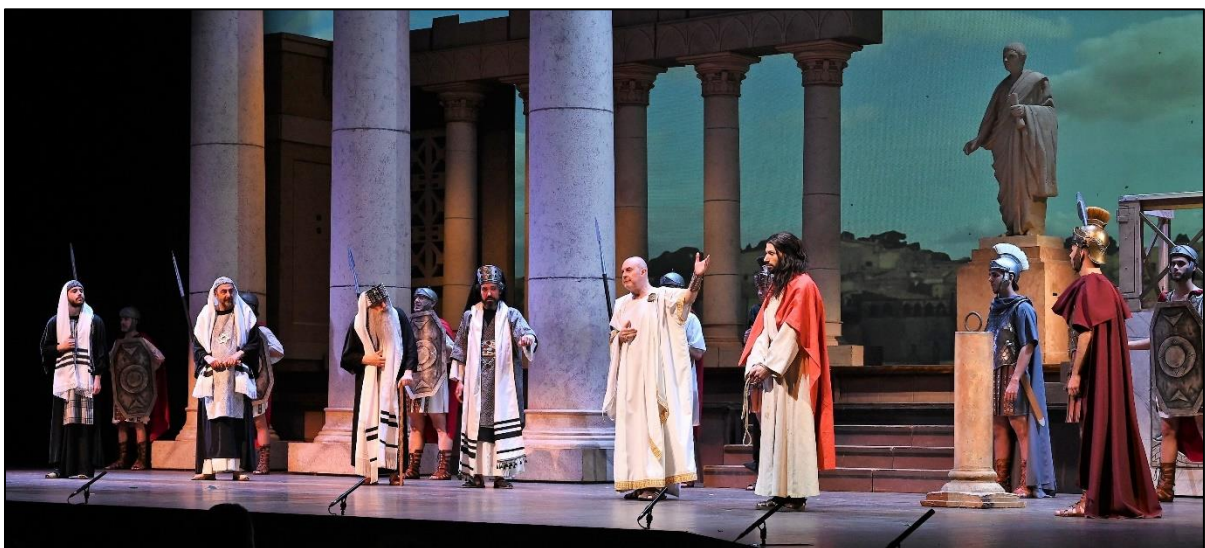
Betrayal of Peter.



Despair of Judas.



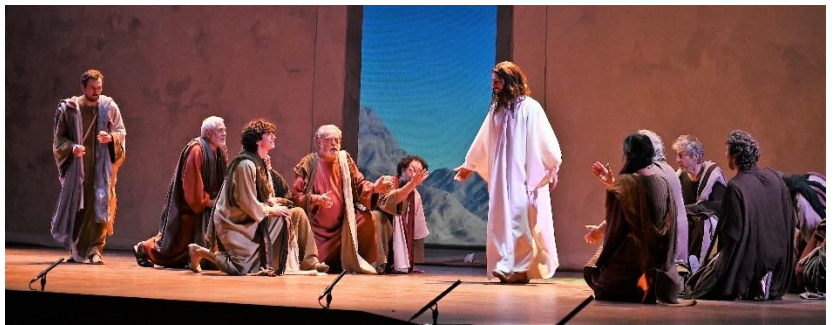
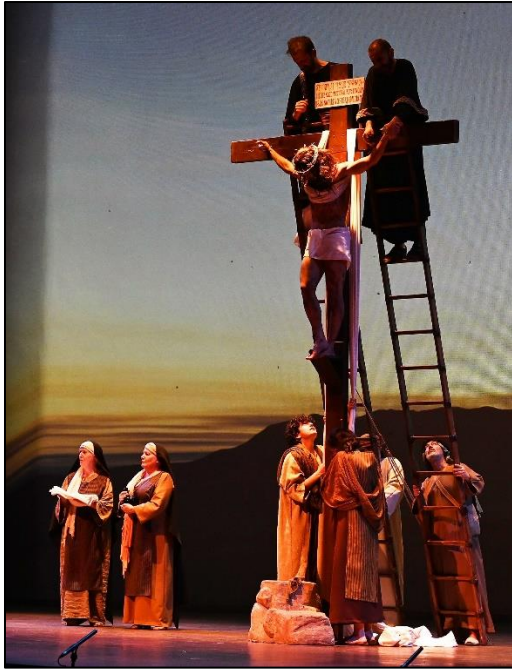
Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin.





Jesus before Pilate.





Sunday morning: Mass with the Bishop of Sant Felui in Esparreguera main church, official transfer of Europassion Statue from Esparreguera to Horice na Šumave (Czech republic).



Photos: Wolfgang Miehler, Franz Miehler and Melitta Hahofner
Text and design: Franz Miehler