



large-scale call for donations, we have only advertised in the church; I preached about it, and a dear benefactor wrote about our cause in the local newspaper. Right the day after, a pensioner came and gave 1000 forints (about € 4) for the children's breakfast – this was the first, then others followed... and the "Breakfast program" began. When we ran out of money, I prayed: if it's God's will for us to go on, he will also give us the opportunity – and in a wonderful way, there was always an unforeseen donation from which we could feed the kids the next day. A little wonder..."

There are three elementary schools in the vicinity of the Salesian community. Father Gábor asked the management of the schools to inform the pupils in need that there is this breakfast opportunity.

"On the first occasion there were fourteen children who came", he recalls. "We didn't know who they were and what their circumstances were. Then, the rumour slowly began to spread and from the initial 15-20, there soon grew a merry group of fifty. Thanks to our kind benefactors, we could serve tea or chocolate milk with cookies,

bagels and little packs, which the children could take with them to school". Father Gábor and his helpers have distributed 10,000 packs over one and a half years.

About seven o'clock, Father prepares Morning Prayer for the children.

"We have thought much about how we could include the prayer", says Father Gábor "for most of the children are not religious; they are not even baptised. First, we just displayed the words of the prayer on a board, which the children slowly managed to learn. With time, some of them also started learning some religion; but with a tricky little idea, we began to bring a little piece of religion to everyone".

"The nearby Don Bosco confectionery stood by us from the beginning; they send a little dessert now and then", the young Salesian tells us. "Those who take breakfast await the small cakes, and in addition, for a little ice-cream, they can bring back the empty bags of cake, which are stamped with the Salesian logo. Our idea was to include a little quiz in these bags, which they have to fill in to deserve their dessert. These questions are very simple of

course, but thanks to them, we can smuggle a 'mini religion lesson' into every week for our pupils.

We know that most of these children are at a disadvantage; they are in need and they live in difficult circumstances, although they are not required to show any proof of this. The children can tell us their daily worries; they can share their pain or fear. They write their homework, if they still have to, memorise poems, and celebrate birthdays, Christmas and Santa Claus together... In the last week of June we even organised a summer camp for the children, and thanks to that, the bond between them hasn't weakened, but has become even stronger. It was wonderful to perceive the change going on in these children! These little 'everyday holidays' forged this occasional breakfasting group into a real community.

But this requires a huge financial and human sacrifice. Many give and have given money, food and help for this programme, which is so permeated with the love of Don Bosco. This little early morning help really has become an example of Christian love and sacrifice 'in use'".