

## About our Community

### **Who we are**

The name of our organization is „Franziskanisches Werk für Evangelisierung, Spoleto e.V.“ Spoleto is the town in Italy where St Francis of Assisi received the calling to dedicate his life to serving God. Our organization was formed and founded on March 25, 1991 by Franciscan Nuns of the Monastery in Gengenbach, in cooperation with Christians from the surrounding area.



Abtsberg and Haus La Verna

We have our roots in the Catholic Church (Archdiocese of Freiburg) and maintain good relationships with Christians of all Denominations. Our house and our seminars are open to all people in search for meaning regardless of individual belief systems.

### **What we do**

We offer seminars, retreats, spiritual guidance on an individual basis, and an environment for meditation for anyone who is in search of meaning and inner peace.

Many people that come to participate in a retreat or seminar at Haus La Verna find themselves in emotional and spiritual distress. They come to our Haus which is set in a beautiful natural environment. During their stay they find strength and oftentimes experience a healing process that includes the mind, body, and soul.



Conference Room

Spoleto specializes in helping people that feel empty and helpless so that they leave strengthened with a positive outlook about life.

Upon request, Spoleto also offers seminars to parishes and communities outside Haus La Verna. By reaching out past the boundaries of the Haus, Spoleto is able to offer its services to a larger section of the surrounding community and beyond.

## Mission, Vision, Values

### **Our Mission**

We are an organization with a clear mission. Haus La Verna, which is built on a mountain known as the Abtsberg, along with the Portiunkula Chapel is our spiritual center. Here we gather together, receive education and strength for our Mission.

### **Our core activities**

1. Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ as Lord
2. Worship God in various church services
3. Invitation of the public to seminars, pilgrimages, retreats, and offering of spiritual guidance for people in search of meaning in life.
4. We provide the environment for meditation and prayer in Haus La Verna. The Portiunkula Chapel, the „Path of St. Francis“, and the „Path for strengthening the human soul“ are wonderful tools to find peace and meaning.
5. Spreading the Word of God with **New Spiritual Songs (NSS)** by the Spoleto-Choir
6. Renewal and strengthening of Faith through external seminars in parishes and communities.



Chapel in Haus La Verna

### **Our Vision**

The Abtsberg is a refuge for all generations searching for meaning in life. It is a Franciscan gathering place for prayer and healing of the soul where people receive their calling and are sent out into the community to fulfill their mission. From this „city on the mountain“, the power of the gospel, like a beam of light, reaches the whole wide world.

### **Our Values**

1. Lively Community
2. Support each other
3. Compassion and Enthusiasm
4. Love is the way...
5. We pray for each other

## The Mustard Tree Project

### **The Parable of the Mustard Seed**

*The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches. (Mt. 13,31 – 32)*

The Mustard Tree Project is a fund raising initiative of the Spoleto organization to create a community that financially supports Spoleto with 1 € per day (€365/year) to allow us to continue our important work.

The Mustard Tree is an incredible symbol of life and potential because the mustard seed is the smallest of all seeds; yet once the seed is sown, its potential is realized and the seed grows at an amazing rate to become a very large tree.

**Spoleto uses the Parable of the mustard seed as inspiration to continue the work we do. We are the mustard seed working to become the tree.**

Time and time again, we find that people who come to seminars and retreats in Haus La Verna experience healing, inner peace, and renewal of faith. Our seminars, retreats, and other activities bring about 2000 people a year to us. Members and the 90+ volunteers of Spoleto support our work with great devotion.



Mustard tree in Galilee

To enable the Spoleto organization to continue its Mission, we depend also on your help; either with your work as a volunteer, with your prayers, with the distribution of our flyers and brochures, or with your financial support.

As a sign of appreciation, all supporters of the Mustard Tree Project will receive mustard seeds that originated from a tree in Galilee. We encourage each of you to sow these amazing seeds so that you may witness this incredible miracle of life.

### **To donate:**

Email: [spoleto@t-online.de](mailto:spoleto@t-online.de)

or simply send a check, made out to „Spoleto“ at:

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