



**'Pilgrimage of trust'**

**Taizé on the Maas in Vlaardingen 28/12/2010 – 1/1/2011**

**Summary of the first day, Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> December**

Vlaardingen too has contributed its mite to the international meeting of young people 'Taizé on the Maas'.

For months we have as a working group been busy with the organization to receive more than 200 youngsters in Vlaardingen and to arrange that 80 host families would be found for them.

And on 28<sup>th</sup> December the day had come.

Together with twenty volunteers, among them also youngsters from our parishes, we received the young people from various European countries: Ukraine, Poland, Croatia, Italy, Romania, Germany and France.

And what a warm-hearted young people. The energy flew off and they were looking forward to it. And then to think that some of them had more than two days' travelling by bus behind them.

At half past eight everyone in the Windwijzer was ready for it and knew what to do. Around 11 o'clock a young Italian priest from Venice was the first to arrive. After that, little by little the groups of youngsters came trickling in. In Holland you don't begin anything without first having drunk coffee or tea, so that was poured out generously that day.

After that the young guests first got an introduction in Leo's and Peter's small classes about what they could expect.

Next they were assigned to a discussion group and then to the host parents, who were quickly on the spot to be able to offer a home to their 'children'.

In the afternoon it was very, very busy. The pilgrims were streaming in. The Windwijzer looked like the terminal of a big station. The young people stood waiting, quiet and tired, until the formalities were fulfilled and they were coupled to their host parents. At 17.00 the last one was accompanied to one of the host families. But quickly they had to go to Ahoy again for their program.

After consulting Javier, our contact person in the Ahoy halls, we could go home.

At 22.00 the youngsters arrived home at the host families, to fall asleep soon after a very long day of travelling.