

*Newsletter- 3*  
*RNDM Renewal*  
*“Rekindle the Gift of God that is within you”*  
*2 Timothy 1:6*  
*6 September to 6 November 2017*



Dear Sisters

Greetings from Rome where we have just come to the end of a very energizing and refilled renewal program. In this newsletter we share with you some of the highlights of our pilgrimage to Caen, Beech Court, Sturry, London and Rome. We hope you will enjoy reading it.



On 21 October, we left St Rambert early in the morning for Caen the birthplace of Euphrasie. We stayed in the monastery of the Benedictine sisters in Bayeux for two nights. They were very hospitable to us. One evening they invited us to pray with them in the cloister, which was a first-time experience for many of us. We are grateful to Patricia Boyd who guided us in the pilgrimage

in Caen.

We visited L'Abbaye aux Hommes (Abbey for Men) founded by William the Conqueror and L'Abbaye aux Dames (Abbey for Women) founded by Queen Mathilda, his wife. The Abbey for women



which later became a hospital was of more interest to us. Euphrasie's mother was admitted in this hospital when she was bitten by a mad dog and she eventually died there.



We attended the Sunday mass in the church of St Pierre where Euphrasie received the first communion. It is here that she felt the missionary call and we were very excited to re-imagine it in this church. The Parish priest was very hospitable and he prayed for our congregation and us. He wished us well on the remaining part of our journey.

Three sisters from Bangladesh could not go to England because they were not granted visas. We missed them but we were glad to see them again in Rome.



Our journey from Calais to Dover was an exciting adventure and this was the first experience for many of us. We imagined Euphrasie crossing The Channel on a similar journey though in a simpler boat and for a longer time.

We arrived in Deal in the evening of 23 and we were very happy to meet our sisters there. Some of us stayed in Deal and the others stayed in Sturry and travelled for the days' pilgrimage. Kathleen McGuire led us in the pilgrimage in Deal. We were delighted to see Middle Street where Euphrasie and the early sisters had an orphanage which was started by Miss Catherine Boys. We visited the cemetery where many of our RNDMs are buried.



We had a visit to the school where RNDMs taught for many years. We admired the mosaic on the wall depicting the mission of the congregation in Deal and worldwide.

The pilgrimage in Sturry and London was guided by Rose Mary Harbinson. Praying at the Tomb of Euphrasie Barbier was a very touching experience for all of us. Each one lit a candle and offered our intentions to God through the intercession of Euphrasie. We also spent time in the Heritage Centre and at the Archives with Nicola the archivist.



We had a short visit to the Canterbury Cathedral. We visited St Anne's garden and opposite the road, we were very delighted to see the first house where Euphrasie stayed in London when she was with the Sisters of Calvary. A statue which was there during Euphrasie's time is very visible on top of the window.



A visit to the Buckingham Palace was a delight. Our pilgrimage in England concluded with a beautiful evening meal and a short social evening together. We are grateful to the PLT and the communities in England who made us feel so much at home during our time in England.

Early in the morning of 29 October we travelled to Rome. Unfortunately the three sisters from Vietnam could not travel to Rome as their Schengen visa had only single entry. We felt sad to leave them behind but we knew they were well taken care of by the sisters in London until they returned to Vietnam.

On the morning of October 30, Bich Quyen led us on a pilgrim prayer. We greeted Victoria, our companion, a very happy feast day.



Carmel Eberius led us on the first two days of our pilgrimage in Rome. On the first day we visited the Major Basilica of St Paul outside the wall. We then went to the shrine of Our Lady of Revelation and finally to *Tre Fontane* where St Paul was imprisoned and beheaded.





On the second day we walked the footsteps of Euphrasie in Rome. Carmel told us that in all Euphrasie made 8 visits to Rome. During her visit to Rome Euphrasie and her companions stayed at No.18 Piazza Margana – The Home of the Sister of St Joseph of the Apparition. Among the churches where Euphrasie would have attended Mass and places she would have visited were Church of Santa Maria in Aracoeli, Gesu Church (a Jesuit Church), and the Mamertine Prison where the Apostles Peter and Paul were said to have been imprisoned. We visited these places and spent significant time in each of them.

On the third day in Rome, Smitha Thomas led the pilgrimage. She took us to the basilica of John Lateran and the church of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem where there are different relics related to the Passion of Jesus.

Near the basilica of John Lateran is the church of the Holy Stairs. Legend holds that these were the actual stairs in Pilate’s house and Jesus walked down these after he was condemned to death. Many people go up these stairs praying on their knees.

Bich Quyen guided us on the fourth day. We visited basilica of Mary Major. The special attraction in this church is the relic of the holy crib of Bethlehem. We also visited another church named Peter in Chains. In this basilica, we saw the chain which was used on Peter while he was imprisoned in Jerusalem and in Rome. We also saw the famous marble sculpture *Moses* by Michelangelo. Bich Quyen explained to us the history and importance of these places. We also had a glimpse of the Colosseum which is in the same vicinity.



On the fifth day, we attended mass in the parish church in Via di Bravetta. After that we headed for the Sanctuary of our Lady of Divine Love which is in the outskirts of Rome. Joyce Peter guided us on this day by explaining to us the history and the significance of the place. For the rest of the day,

we had quiet time for prayer and reflection and then in the evening we concluded together with a short prayer.



Crescencia guided us on the seventh day to Saint Peter’s basilica. We spent significant time in the basilica and also in the crypt where many popes are buried. Many of us climbed up the dome and the view from the top was magnificent. After this we joined the crowd at the piazza for the Angelus. We were excited to see Pope Francis come to the window to lead the Angelus and to bless the crowd. We prayed for all of you at these special moments.

In the evening, we had a beautiful prayer prepared by Lissy Sebastian. This brought closure to the renewal program. This was followed by a feast of pizza at a nearby pizzeria which we all enjoyed. We are grateful to the CLT and the Generalate community for their hospitality to us during our pilgrimage in Rome.



We thank God for keeping us safe and healthy throughout the two months. Unfortunately on the last day of our pilgrimage in Rome Margaret Kon Tin from Myanmar had a fall and fractured her left ankle. She was taken to the emergency and several hours later she came home with her left leg in plaster! Special arrangements were made for her travel back to Myanmar the following day.

We thank all of you who have been part of this journey of our RNDM Renewal in any way. We know you have prayed for us, you have encouraged us in various ways and we thank you for all this.

We wish you all many blessings in all that you do

*Mercy, Rose Ann, Celestine, Agnes, Mary, Catherine and Savio,*