

RNDM's Generalate in Rome



First Mother house

In 1861 Euphrasie Barbier began to realize her dream of going to the “foreign missions” when she left London and the Sisters of Compassion/Calvary and headed to Lyon, France. Little did she realize that within a very short time she herself would become the foundress of a new Congregation, whose special aim was to work in the foreign missions

The political situation in France was anything but supportive of religious freedom at this time and by the turn of the century this young Congregation under the leadership of Mother Mary of the Holy Rosary moved to England. Even prior to this Euphrasie had already arranged for the removal of important documents to Deal, England, her first foundation on English soil.



Deal



Hastings

Thus the Mother House, as it was then called, moved first to Deal, then in 1923 to Hastings where it remained until the 1966 General Chapter decision to move the Mother House/Generalate to Rome, Italy.

“With the progress for the Cause of our Venerated Mother the expediency of a house of the Congregation in Rome became more evident”

Yet as early as 1962 Mother Mary Dominic Savio, Superior General, has already applied for permission to establish a convent in Rome, to enable Sisters to come for

study purposes. This convent was located in Piazza Antonia Salviate, Monte Verde. Early in 1967 a second property was acquired at Via dei Laghi 15, Marino, overlooking Lake Albano and thus the third move of the Generalate took place.



Piazza Antonia Salviate



Via dei Laghi 15, Marino

The House at Via dei Laghi also served as a House of Renewal and as often happens, the house became too small for the two groups, thus the fourth move of the Generalate ensued, this time to shared accommodation with the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM) a stones-throw from the Basilica of Maria Maggiore at Via Ferruccio 23. Having settled into their new home, the Sisters were overwhelmed when “six trunks of archival materials, sent from Hastings, arrived in Rome in perfect condition on 13th Nov. 1974.”



Via Ferruccio 23

With the transfer of the Generalate to Rome, General Chapters now also took place here until 2002 when they moved to Asia. While the Sisters have no specific outreach beyond the walls of the house, hospitality is, none-the-less an important part of their ministry besides the service to the Congregation at large through ensuring the Leadership is able to carry out its mandate of service to the whole Congregation.

“Ours is an open house and from time to time all kinds of visitors come here for all parts of the world.”

Re-location seems to be a recurring theme, in 1983 house-hunting began again as the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, were going to undertake some major re-structuring of



Via di Bravetta 628

their facilities and that meant we needed to move. After much searching Via di Bravetta 628 was found and before long the removal vans were there to pack, transport and unpack our treasures. Since 1984 to the present the General Administration has been directing the mission of the Congregation from here.

One of the positive aspects of being in Rome is the availability of access to the various Vatican Congregations and organizations such as UISG (International Union of Superiors General), SEDOS, JPIC, the work in collaboration with other Congregations in South Sudan, meeting other members of Religious Congregations, both men and women, enabling a great exchange of ideas, support, and encouragement during these times of major shifts and challenges.



Congregational Leadership Team

L – R: Lucy Wambui, Kenya, Crescencia Sun, India, Josephine Kane, New Zealand, Lissy Sebastian, India, Bich Quyen, Vietnam.