

Our Sojourn in Europe: A "Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord" Experience

In a missionary life like ours it always brings a deeper kind of joy to have a "taste and see the goodness of the Lord" experience. This is what our travel to the beautiful land of Europe brought us.

Sr. Constance Tecson, OSB, Sr. Jessica Arante, OSB, and Sr. Stella Matutina, OSB left Manila last April 29 and arrived in Rome on the 30th to attend the International Weeks of Encounter 2014 in the Casa Santo Spirito of the Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing. There were 29 participants from 12 priories: Daegu 8, Seoul 5, Olinda 2, Sorocaba 2, Manila 3, Iberian/Angola 1, Windhoek 3, Ndanda 1, Uganda 1, Peramiho 1, Nairobi 1, & Bulgaria 1. We were grouped into 3 (according to language) with a facilitator: Portuguese with Sr. Salete, English with Sr. Lumen, & Korean with Sr. Caridad.



We travelled to the holy, wonderful, and breathtaking places in Italy and Germany. When we had an audience with Pope Francis, we were privileged to be placed near the façade of the Basilica. So we had the chance to take "close up" photos of our Holy Father. We also marvelled the grandeur of God's creation in spring time and the luxury to be in God's presence when we had pilgrimage and visited tourist spots like: St. Peter's Basilica, Campo Santo, St. Paul Outside the Wall, Sta. Maria Maggiore, Scala Santa, St. John Lateran, Catacombs, Norcia, Subiaco, Monte Cassino, Assisi, St. Pio, Mother Haus, Bernried, Haus St. Benedikt, St. Ottilien, Munich, Alps, and others. What a blessing!

To set foot on the lands where St. Benedict, St. Scholastica, Fr. Amrhein, and other Catholic saints left their footprints concretized the idea that we can someday be like them by the grace of our God. It is our prayer that our sojourn in Europe will enkindle more the flame of our passion to serve our God faithfully through the missions being entrusted to us. May the heavenly experience of "tasting and seeing the goodness of The Lord" lead us to our golden years as faithful Benedictine servants of God.

By : Sr. Jessica Arante, OSB



IWE 2014 PARTICIPANTS

On May 1, Sr. Caridad gave us an orientation on how to use the headset and microphone. In the opening liturgy, a shadow presentation on the life of Fr. Andreas Amrhein was shown at the community room by the junior sisters. It was an artistic and unique enactment about our founder's life and mission. After the liturgy, we were given a plant to take care of (mongo seedlings placed in a plastic cup). Mother Angela, in her opening conference, talked about community, relationship, and experiences of God's love. She ended her message with hope that we would have a "deep, happy, and life giving renewal" in the IWE 2014.

We had conferences with our sisters on the following topics: *Rule of St. Benedict* with Sr. Aquinata, OSB, *Congregation History* with Sr. Matilda, OSB, *Conversatio Morum* with Sr. Lumen Gloria, OSB, *New Evangelization* with Sr. Salete, *Inter-priory Exchange* with Mo. Angela, *Care for God's Creation* with Sr. Caridad. We felt enriched by their generosity in sharing with us their knowledge and wisdom.