

Our dear Sisters!

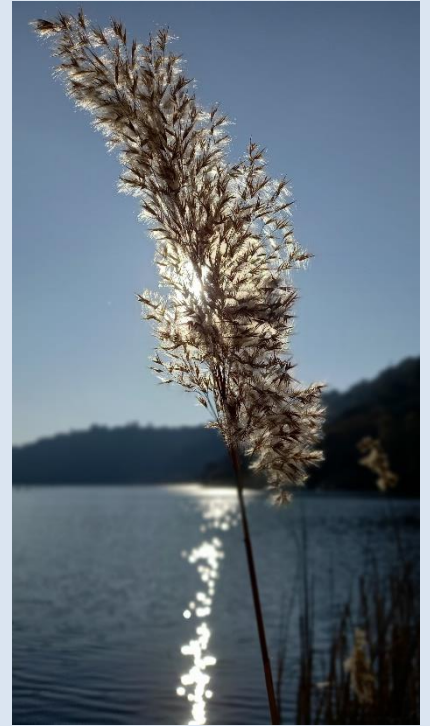
A few days ago, we finished our 30-day retreat, which was held from 07.01 - 07.02.2023 in Nemi, a small town in the province of Rome, more than 30 kilometres from the city, in the 'Albanian Hills' on Lake Nemi. It is home to the Centro Ad Gentes retreat centre run by the SVD priests.



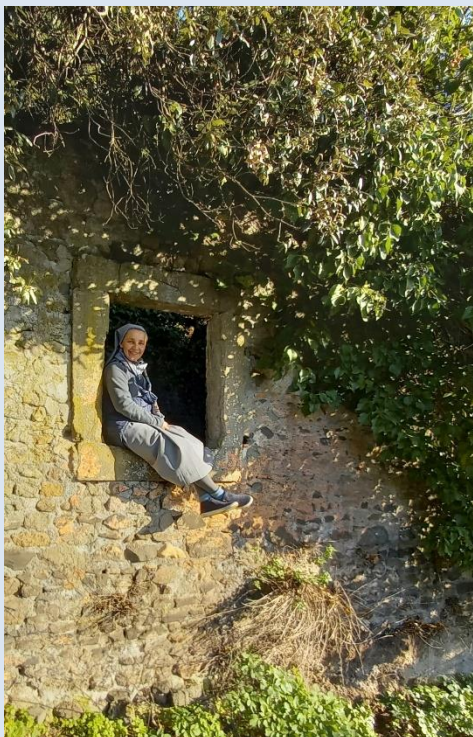
Our guides were Sr Susan Kienzler OSU (tertiary director) and Fr Gero McLoughlin SJ, who came from England. All of you are very aware of what these retreats are like since most of you have made them twice. However, the experience of being led individually and in a foreign language was not easy. The Lord God of course managed, because He knows every language and He "contacted" each of us in her own "dialect". It was surely an unforgettable time when, listening to the suggestions of the Holy Spirit, we tried to follow the paths that Saint Ignatius had set out several centuries ago. We began the retreat in Rome when we visited the rooms of Ignatius. There we participated in the Eucharist, in a tiny chapel, the place where the saint departed to his Master Jesus Christ, whom he loved so much.



The atmosphere of silence during the retreat and the beautiful landscape were a wonderful scenery for experiencing a holy and enriching time of grace. The house, surrounded by a park-forest, offered the opportunity for walks and prayer in the fresh air. For those who needed more exercise, the options were many. It was possible to walk down to the centre of the village on a very steep path and then climb up to the trail leading to the lake. Again, steep downhill, contemplating the beautiful nature and God's creation in practice and climbing again to return to the centre. Those who decided to take this "path" certainly did not regret it.



Dear Sisters, we are not just writing this to tell you about what we found at Nemi, but once again to thank you very much for your remembering and prayers. We had already been informed before the retreat that you were very supportive of us, and we felt the prayerful assault on heaven during this holy time, which is evidenced by the fact that each of us reached the end of the retreat happily, and let us trust that the fruits of the retreat will continue to grow. Let us trust that the fruits will be as beautiful as the views, sunrises and sunsets there. We can return the favour by praying, as we did during the retreat and will continue to do.



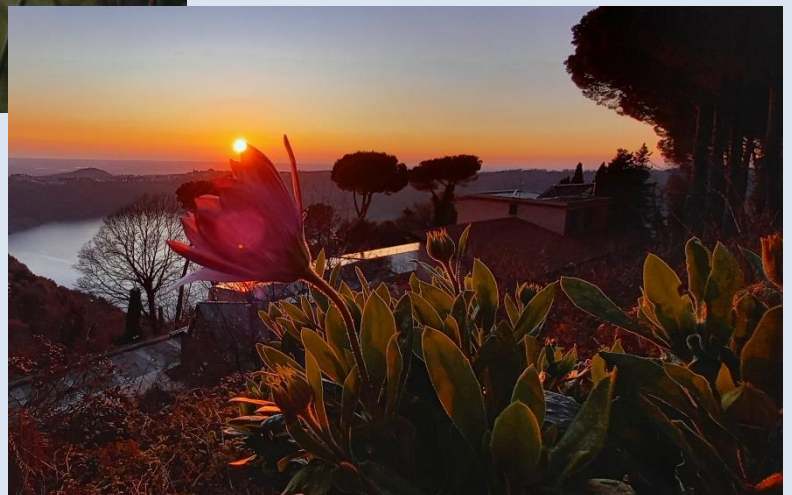
Photos can only show a fragment of the reality, but we share this fragment for the sake of pleasing the eye and to illustrate what we have tried to describe. And should anyone be looking for a venue for an upcoming retreat, we recommend this place ☺!



Our group - happy and smiling at the end of the retreat.



**The beautiful views
delighted the eyes
and inspired contemplation
the beauty of creation.**



**Kiwi plantation at hand
- you go to pray the rosary and ...☺**

Thank you very much!

sr Joanna on behalf of the Tertians