



Casa Generale  
Religiose di Gesu Maria.  
325, Via Nomentana,  
Rome 00162  
28<sup>th</sup> February, 2017

Our Very Dear Sisters,

Greetings from the Eternal City!

It's been just a little more than a month since we have begun our tertianship but time seems to have passed ever so quickly. Indeed we have been deeply immersed in our programme, that we have lost track of time!

We were to begin Tertianship on the 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 but were unable to do so as the sisters from the Delhi Province were stranded in Istanbul due to heavy snowfall and those who were to arrive from Bombay were not allowed to board their flight due to the cancellation of many flights at Istanbul. As a result some of us arrived in Rome only on the 11<sup>th</sup> January. However it was an experience of God's goodness in and through it all. The God of surprises doesn't fail to surprise us each time on this journey. Finally after having settled down, we had our inaugural Mass on the 13<sup>th</sup> January.



The first week began with the topic 'The Gift of Tertianship'. We are filled with gratitude for this privilege and the opportunity for this Gift of Tertianship. To add to this gift, we are ever grateful for the gift of Sr. Francoise as our Tertian Mistress.

We are fortunate to have the celebration of the Eucharist in English thrice a week. On other days we join the community for Italian Mass. Every Friday or Sundays is a day of cultural visit. Till date we have visited St. Peter's, the Necropolis, St. Paul's, the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel, the Colosseum and of course Gezu: St.

Ignatius's Church. The day before our visit, we are briefed about the significance of the place with a video presentation and handouts giving us details to help us prepare our hearts and minds. Either Sr. Francoise or Sr. Elisabeth accompanies us. They both make wonderful guides and companions.



Humble Service is something new that is introduced since the past two years. We go every Tuesday to the Aruppe Centre, Caritas, the Missionaries of Charity and St. Ediggio to offer our services in whatever way needed. Sr. Francoise along with our General Councilors Srs. Irene and Alejandra go early in the morning to offer coffee to people just waking up from their sleep on the streets on a cold winter morning. In the evening, we meet to share our experiences of the day. It's interesting and enriching to listening to each other.





Celebrating India's Republic Day was an event which united us together not just as Indians but one human family... with our sisters in the community preparing a special meal for us and then joining in singing "Hum Hindustani" in the short cultural programme that followed during recreation.



The Feast of St. Claudine too was an experience that will remain with us for a long long time... beginning with a deep spiritual preparation that included reading, reflecting praying and sharing our lived experiences of the Positio went through an entire week, followed by a prayerful lauds and the Eucharistic Celebration with the Religious of the neighbourhood including the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. It was truly a family celebration in simplicity beyond words yet a deep spiritual experience.



We spent a good amount of time preparing for our 30 day retreat to enter wholeheartedly into the Ignatian Exercises. Much time is given for study and personal reflection. We began by writing our Autobiography. For many of us, it was the first time we were entering into such an exercise and for the others even though we have done it at some stage of our life, there were new experiences, that surfaced while going through this exercise. We take it all to our retreat.

Soon we will be commencing our retreat and so we thought it the appropriate time to send you our first newsletter. Besides we need your prayer for each of us – Srs. Angeline, Ursula, Elsa, Selma, Nataline, Madhu, Reena, Jhansi and Rani and of course our Directress Sr. Francoise. We will be leaving for Nemi on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2017. Since Sr. Clara has already made the 30 Day Retreat last November 2016, she will remain in Rome and live a new experience working at the Vatican Radio, and deepening into formation in our Congregation.

We know you will support us with your prayer.



United with you in love and prayer,  
The Tertian Community. Rome,  
2017.