
Asian District Pilgrimages for Vocations

Here is a little description of the cities and shrines visited with some of the pilgrims' highlights:

Milan: We started with the impressive Duomo with its more than 3000 statues, the baptistery where St. Augustine was baptised by St. Ambrose, and the remains of St. Charles Borromeo; then we prayed at the Church of Sant' Ambrogio which contains the bodies of Ss. Ambrose, Gervasus and Protasus, Martyrs.



The Cathedral of Milan where St. Ambrose converted St. Augustine.

Turin: This was the highlight of our trip with the possibility to venerate of the Holy Shroud. Then we were able to see the incorrupt bodies of St. John Bosco and



Mass offered by Fr. Couture at the altar of St. Lucy whose body remains incorrupt.

St. Maria Mazarello, and to have our Holy Mass at the church of the Consolata, Our Lady Consoler of the afflicted.

Padua: Visit of St. Anthony's basilica (with our mass in the chapter room!), of the basilica of St. Giustina, virgin and martyr, which hosts the relics of St. Luke the evangelist and of St. Mathias, Apostle.



St. Anthony's Basilica, Padua.

Venice: We were reserved a real special grace with our holy mass right in front of the incorrupt body of St. Lucy, who died in 306 A.D.! This was followed by the visit of St Mark's basilica, with the tomb of St. Mark in the Main altar, with

its extraordinary treasure comprising besides the skull of St. James the lesser, some hair of our Blessed Lady and a piece of Our Lord's purple garment.



The Basilica of St. Mark, Venice.

Loreto: Veneration of the Holy House with all the mysteries which took place in it! We couldn't have our mass in the Holy House itself because of the crowds passing through, but we had it in a little crypt just below, within the precinct of the Basilica.

Lanciano: A miracle which reveals the very nature of the Holy Eucharist: it is nothing else than the Heart of Our blessed Lord! Very moving.

San Giovanni Rotondo, Convent of St. Padre Pio: It was a bit of a rushed visit, early on the morning of Pentecost, nevertheless, we got many graces to help us grow in our love of the Holy Passion of our Divine Saviour, contemplating a man who was so united to the Saviour's Passion

Monte Gargano: The Sanctuary of St. Michael the Archangel (Santuario di San Michele Arcangelo) is a sacred cave where the Archangel Michael has appeared in 490 A.D., 492 A.D. and 1656 A.D. and consecrated the shrine himself. This feast is commemorated in the liturgy on 16th October.

Mugnano: On Pentecost Sunday, we had the privilege, thanks to the very kind

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Rector, to sing our Holy Mass on the main altar of this shrine which contains the remains of St. Philomena.

Nettuno: On arrival in Rome, we took a half day off for a break and visited the Goretto country house where St. Maria Goretti was wounded to death to preserve her purity, and the Shrine which contains her remains.

Rome: "To see Rome and to die!" There is some truth in this statement, with the sight of all the Saints venerated in the more than 900 churches, not counting the catacombs (where we had Mass in the catacomb of Priscilla), the Colosseum, and other sites where the Martyrs and Saints climbed to their heavenly rewards. So many edifying lives and death! Near these saints, we almost feel ashamed to be alive! But we have to be worthy of the immolation in order to share in the celestial crown! No doubt one of the highlights of these few days in the Eternal City was to be able to attend the Holy Mass in the very Basilica of St. Peter. Actually, the very morning when we went, three SSPX priests were celebrating at the same moment on three different altars : the altar of St. Pius X, of St. Leo the Great and of St. Processus, martyr. We were told that many priests now offer the tridentine mass every day in St. Peter since the Motu Proprio. That is certainly a step in the right direction.

Cascia: Mid-week through our stay in the SSPX house in Albano near Rome, we took a day trip (a really beautiful ride in magnificent countryside) to pray to the great St. Rita, one of the patronesses of the Asian District (because of the graces she constantly gives our priests in their travels) and especially venerated by many



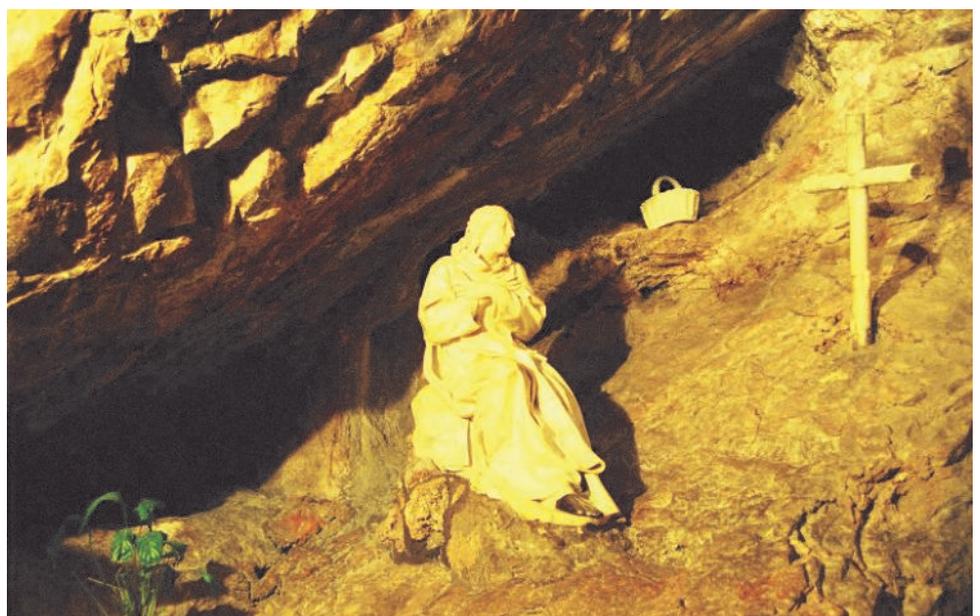
It was in front of this painting that St. Rita received the privilege of sharing in the Crown of Thorns. The body of St. Rita is incorrupt.

of our group. Her body is also incorrupt since her death in 1457 A.D.

Subiaco and Genezzano: Our Sunday outing brought us to these two shrines. Less than two hours' bus ride East of Rome lies St. Benedict's cave of Subiaco, where at the age of fourteen, he retired from the world and lived for three years. This is the birth place of the great Benedictine Order. And about one hour away is the shrine of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Genezzano, a miraculous image which came from Albania in

1467 A.D. and has been the source of countless miracles.

Assisi: The very name evokes two luminous stars in the firmament of the Church: St. Francis and St. Clare. The city itself is a real beauty. We did not forget to stop at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels, the Portiuncula, which saw the beginning of the Franciscan order and in which St. Francis received so many graces for himself and anyone praying there.



St. Benedict retired to this cave ...and then changed the course of history.

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The Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi.

Florence: Here the group dispersed in search of various goals. Our group spent time in the convent of St. Mark to admire, to contemplate in silence the original paintings of Fra Angelico, one of the most famous Catholic painters. The Duomo (cathedral) of Florence is truly 'out-of-this-world!'

It is impossible to detail every day of this unique pilgrimage which turned out to be a kind of retreat at the same time, thanks to the daily meditation and the explanations of our chaplain, our District Superior, who prepared us well each day to what we were about to see.

We left Italy filled with deep gratitude for all the graces received and with the desire to return one day to one or the other of these famous shrines. Deo gratias.



Fr. Couture preaches to pilgrims in Malacca.

MALAYSIA

*The Second SSPX Pilgrimage to Malacca,
12th June 2010*

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

The faithful of Kuala Lumpur and of Singapore have a common holy destination for their pilgrimage: Malacca, which is somewhat in between both cities. St. Francis Xavier spent more than 6 months altogether in Malacca during his five transits through this Portuguese hub between 1545 and 1552. After his death on the island of Sancian, near Macau, his remains were brought back to Malacca, laid in the church on top of St. Paul's hill for one year (1553) before being sent to Goa in India where they are still to this day.

In 2002, a first pilgrimage had been organized by the Society by car, attended by about 40 pilgrims. This year, to add some 'difficulties' to this little one-day pilgrimage, it was decided to walk the last 22km with a very early start before dawn.

Thus, 'KL' pilgrims arrived the night before to prepare the venue for the Mass, and the Singaporeans decided to leave the priory by bus at midnight sharp in order to arrive at the church of Ayer Salak on time for the start of the walk, scheduled at 5.30am. Some five hours later, a prayerful sung Mass rewarded the pil-



Yajiro and St. Francis Xavier.

grims on arrival in Malacca, with some beautiful four parts polyphonic pieces, by the "KL choir". Then lunch in a restaurant, a further short walk to St. Paul's Hill to venerate the burial spot of St. Francis Xavier, this was then followed by a little catechism on the veneration of relics, and everyone was on the road home again, exhausted, sleepy but satisfied.

A total of 52 pilgrims partook in this event for vocations in this part of the district. May the Master of the harvest send laborers in this part of His vineyard! Ω

