

June 2022

Saluti da Roma! C'è sole with the temperature to rise into the 30's this coming week. I can affirm that Rome is open for business post Covid 19, as evidenced by the buzzing sounds of laughter at the nearby Trattoria; not to mention the long trail of visitors to Basilicas, the Colosseum and the Roman Forum which are all within walking distance of the Pontifical University. Oh, to be a tourist!

Student Life

While tourists enjoy the delights of Rome, I continue to live the life of a 'studentessa' at the Lateran Pontifical University. Lectures for the second semester of Year 1 have just concluded. Exams are scheduled for June- my dates 10th, 15th and 22nd. Your prayers are most welcome, as I stammer my way along with limited Italian for Oral Exams!

I am looking forward to July and to once touching the 'green grass of home'. I return early September to Rome continue the second year of the Advanced Postulators Diploma Course for Postulators. Our second year will not be short on content or challenges: twelve courses, exams, a written 50 page 'tesina' and finally the defence of a large tome titled: Cause dei Santi. All this study is in the service of becoming officially recognised as Postulator for our congregation.

St. Patrick's Day



There was a great buzz and energy around the Irish College for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day. The last public celebration had been March 2019. From the beginning of the day, the Irish College was host to many dignitaries religious, and representation from Ireland of the Junior Minister for State, Mr. Tom Byrne accompanied by his wife, and the Irish Ambassador to the Holy See, Mr. Derek Hannon.

Also present at the Mass, was the recently appointed Irish Ambassador to the State of Italy, Ambassador Patricia O' Brien. She spoke with deep appreciation of her own education in Wicklow and her deep regard for Women Religious. Before departing, she expressed delight at meeting Irish Sisters and that she would very much like to invite us women Religious to join her at the Villa Spada, her residence in Rome.

Villa Spada, Roma

The invitation duly arrived for May 12th and a group of Irish Religious joined the Ambassador at her residence at the Villa Spada located on Via Giacomo, Rome, for afternoon tea. It was a most welcomed and enjoyable change to the world of study, at least for an afternoon!

We enjoyed a lovely afternoon with garden tea party in the company of the Ambassador and other members of her staff. For a few hours one felt transported from the world of books lectures and study to the world of interesting conversation, great interaction and listened with appreciation to Ambassador Patricia recount the various posts and places where she had previously represented Ireland.



During the visit, I was delighted to meeting with Siobhan Kelly, a member of Ambassador O' Brien's staff. She proudly declared that she was a former past pupil of Presentation, Terenure. In my subsequent conversation, I listened as she recalled with fondness her memories of Sr. Claire Grant and Sr. Joseph Hanley and Sr. Pauline Mc Galey. (Photograph with Siobhan).

Book Launch:

On May 19th, I was invited to join the Loreto Sisters on the occasion of the book launch commissioned by Teresa Ball and Loreto Education -Convents and the Colonial World 1794-1875. It was an occasion filled with great joy and celebration. **Deirdre Raftery** in the preface highlighted how *'the importance of writing women religious into the historical narrative has been recognized over the past few decades by scholars.'* (Photo of Book)



Canonization

A group of priests and some lay people stayed at the Villa Irlanda for the canonization by Pope Francis of 10 people men and women. Among those being canonized are Bl. Charles de Foucauld, *Founder of the Congregation of the Litterer Brothers of Jesus*, and the Dutch Carmelite Bl. Titus Brandsma, martyred in Dachau concentration camp. Among his many gifts was the ministry of journalism and his courage to speak and write the truth. The world now has a canonized saint for Journalism!

Nano's Cause?

People enquire as to what is happening regarding the process for Nano's Canonization. I visited the Congregation for the Cause of Saints some months ago. The response I received to this question is: **"il caso di Nano Nagle dorme"** – **"The case for Nano Nagle sleeps."** It will awaken when we receive news of a miracle through her intercession!

I am reminded of the wonderful occasion for our Congregation on October 31st, 2103, when Pope Francis declared Nano Venerable. In this act her life of heroic virtues were publicly recognised and we await in hope the next stage of the process – her Beatification.

This remaining step before beatification is the approval of a miracle, evidence of the intercessory power of Venerable Nano. I invite you to continue the great work that you are doing to promote devotion to Venerable Nano and to making her known and loved. This is our ongoing task in the process. We await God's will and desire to use her as His instrument of healing grace, to grant us the required miracle, to move forward her case for beatification and eventually canonization.

Do keep up the record keeping of any ongoing cause in which you may be presently involved. Records will be vital in any future investigation. For now, every good wish and I ask you to keep me in your prayers. It's exam time once again!

