

July 20, 2017

Dear Parishioners,

I am safely ensconced in the Monastery of St. Benedict in Provence. The monks here offer the old Latin liturgy and pray nine times a day in the church, plus Holy Mass. I have been filling in for their priest who is away this summer. I have been studying the sacred liturgy and am amazed at the ancient books that are contained in the monastery library, including old missals from rites of the Mass that most never have learned about, such as that of Lyon and Braga, not to mention Rome itself.

The church in this part of France is rather flourishing, with many vocations and activity. There is a new religious group nearby called the "Community of St. Joseph the Guardian." I visited there and was surprised to find the priests to be Chileans who mostly speak perfect English! They are a very devout and inspiring group of men of God.

We are in a tiny medieval town called La Garde Freinet, 30 minutes from the Mediterranean Sea. This is a "village perché" or a "perched village." Provence is dotted with such towns, which were constructed as watchtowers of a sort against Saracen attacks from the coast. The streets are tortuously winding and narrow, deliberately so to confound invading soldiers. That of course does not help me navigate my rental car nor find a parking space! So far no scratches or dents...

I pray you are well. I am carrying all your intentions with me in two large manila envelopes and not forgetting you....

Peace,
Fr. de Rosa

