

Daily log
CIB Symposium 2010
Sister Nancy Bauer, OSB
Entry: September 12, 2010

Alleluia. After four days of intensive listening, we had a free day today. Most of us gathered ourselves into small groups and went on outings. Then we came together again in late afternoon at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls for a tour of the Church and Vespers with the Benedictine monks who live there.

I joined several other Sisters from the Federation of Saint Benedict, which has ten member monasteries, including mine — Saint Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, Minnesota. There are seven Sisters at the Symposium from this federation, including our president, Sister Susan Hutchens, a member of St. Mary Monastery, Rock Island, Illinois.

We made several stops on our outing, the first being a small church called "San Benedetto (St. Benedict) in Piscinula." It is built on the site that is believed to have been Benedict's residence when he was a student in Rome before he took up the monastic life. The church contains the tiny little "cell of St. Benedict."

Our next stop was the Church of St. Chrysogonus, where St. Benedict may have attended Eucharist during his student days. Next, we stepped into the Church of Santa Maria in Trastevere, the oldest church in Rome dedicated to Mary. Then, we headed to the mother of all churches, the Basilica of St. Peter.

By the time we left St. Peter's and had a lunch of pizza and gelato, it was time to get on the Metro to go to St. Paul's Outside the Walls. This is one of the four great major basilicas in Rome, the others being St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, and St. Peter's. It is, as the name suggests, built over the sarcophagus of St. Paul.

At the end of our day of church hopping, we were happy to return to Sant' Anselmo and rest our weary feet.