

Ongoing Formation Sr. Mary Magdalene



At the end of September, I went on a week's conference for Benedictine Monks and Nuns of the Subiaco Congregation in Europe, who had made their Solemn Profession within the last 5-10 years. The purpose was for on-going formation as well as getting to know others who are at the same stage of Monastic life. This took place at Monasterio di Bose, situated in the beautiful hills north of Turin near the mountains of northern Italy, which is an ecumenical monastic community of

about 70-80 men and women that began in the 1960's. The theme was "Opening of the Heart" with an emphasis on Spiritual Accompaniment. The participants were from communities in France, Italy, Spain, Belgium and England, ranging in age from 28 to 50, with an added mixture of nationalities, including African, Polish and Australian. The speakers included members of the Bose community, a Jesuit Priest, an Abbess from an Italian Benedictine Monastery, and a French psychologist. We also were very blessed by having Abbot Bruno Marin, the President of the Subiaco Congregation, with us for part of that time, in which we were able to engage in dialogue with him about many aspects of the monastic life. He very beautifully put everything we discussed into a very positive and dynamic spiritual context.

We also met socially with the Bose community, including mealtimes when groups of 6 participants would be joined by 2 or 3 members of the community. This sharing of meals with the guests is a main part of their hospitality. Apart from lectures, dialogues and sharing in small groups, we also went on a pilgrimage to the holy place of Oropa, where we had Mass and climbed one of the mountains that towered above it. My time in Bose was a very enriching experience on many different levels, and I am very grateful to have been given this opportunity to participate in this conference.

