

Day 2: Where have you Hidden Beloved?

Surprised by Grace...

The second day of our retreat pilgrimage with St. John of the Cross was filled with profound moments of reflection, discovery, and unexpected blessings.

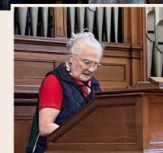
We all arrived the Chapel in the presence of the Divine in the Blessed sacrament accompanied by a meditation by Dr. Susan Muto from the Sayings summarized in these words: **“All for you and nothing for me”**

We concluded with the morning praise from the Psalms of David. Following an hour of praise was a hearty breakfast to set the tone for what was to come.

Where pilgrims meet...

Our first destination was Medina del Campo, where we embarked on an hour-long journey to visit the monastery of St. Joseph, the second convent founded by St. Teresa of Avila and the meeting place of John and Teresa that changed the course of history.

On route there, Fr. Matt Blake elaborated on the importance of Medina Del Campo to St John, emphasizing his poverty, experiences as a nurse and educator. Once we arrived, we visited the museum there and saw the simple rooms that the sisters stayed in, all in their original state. It was profoundly moving to be in the same spot



WHERE PILGRIMS
MEET

that St Teresa first met St John of the Cross and sit on the same chair that she would have sat on to speak with St John through the cloistered windows. One of the pilgrims beautifully played the Salve Regina on the Organ of the Carmelite nuns that brought all into the prayer of praise of God's glory.

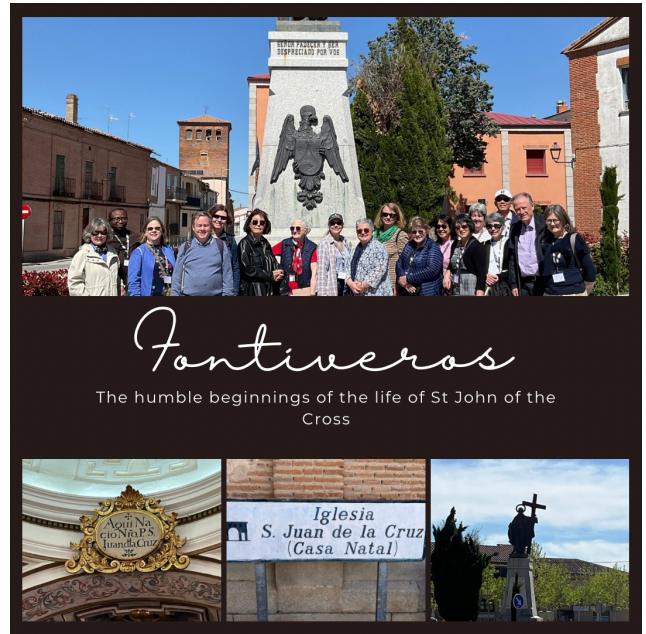


The wound of love...

The Eucharistic celebration held in the chapel there was a poignant reminder of the sacredness of our journey, and Fr. Matt's homily resonated deeply as he spoke of finding God in the most obscure and challenging aspects of our lives.

The cradle of John

After the Mass, we enjoyed a leisurely stroll through the small town, soaking in its charm and history before indulging in a satisfying lunch. In the afternoon, our travels took us to Fontiveros, the birthplace of St. John of the Cross. Although our attempt to visit the chapel erected on his birthplace was initially thwarted by its closure, the Holy Spirit intervened through the pilgrims and the priest of the Church opened the church doors, granting us access to this sacred space.



Alleluia! sing to Jesus!

As evening approached, we gathered in the chapel to offer thanks - for a day filled with blessings - in our Evening Praise

Table of laughter

The day culminated in a delicious dinner, where laughter and camaraderie filled the air, further strengthening the bonds forged on this journey of spiritual growth and exploration. We eagerly anticipate what tomorrow will bring as we continue our pilgrimage of love and the heart.





*Retreat - Pilgrimage with
St. John of the Cross*

17-23 April 2024