

Day 5: O living Flame of Love

As our pilgrimage continued into its 5th day, we were filled with anticipation of the sacred experiences that awaited us!



Pilgrims of Hope



The day began with a contemplative Eucharist, reflecting on the prophetic call of each person called to the ministry of service as shepherds for the Lord.

Following the breaking of Bread, we enjoyed a hearty breakfast, then packed our belongings and promptly checked out of our accommodations, ready to embark on the next leg of our journey to Segovia.

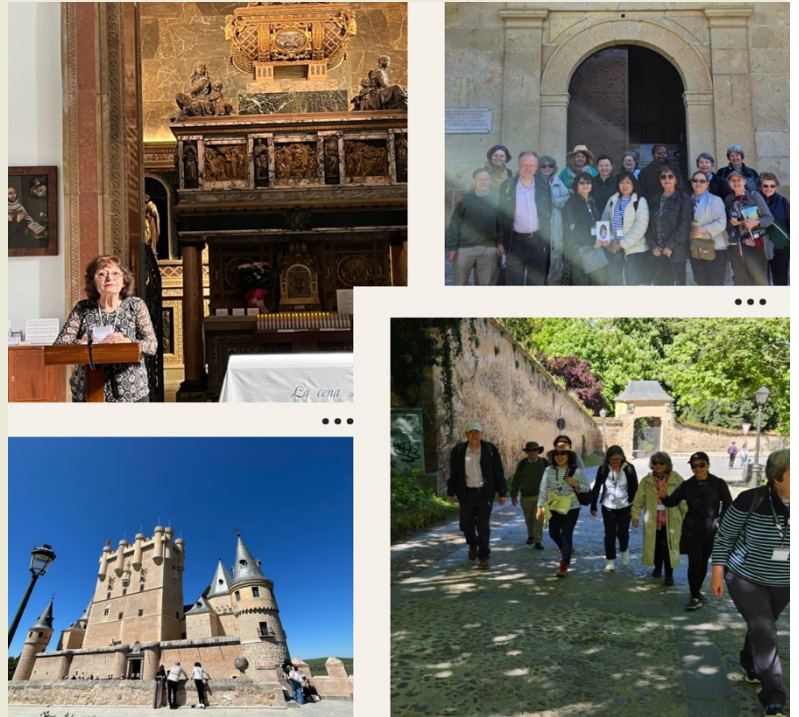
“Break the web of this sweet encounter...”

Our first stop in Segovia was the tomb of St. John of the Cross, where we paid homage to the revered saint and sought his intercession for our own spiritual journey. Enroute, Fr. Matt explained to us the significance of Segovia to both St John of the Cross and St Teresa of Avila. It was a moving experience for many of us and on-site, Dr. Susan graced us with her wisdom as she shared poignant quotes from St. John of the Cross's "Sayings of Light and Love," focusing on the theme of **rekindling the flame of divine love** within our hearts. These insights resonated deeply with each of us, inspiring us to deepen our connection with the divine.



“With his thousand graces streaming from him, and glancing at these places, with no more word or deed – cloth them in beauty”

After our visit to the tomb, we had some free time for lunch and to explore the charming city of Segovia. Many of us had a chance to marvel at its historic landmarks including the imposing Cathedral, and we all soaked in the richness of the city and its history.



In the afternoon, we departed for Toledo. Enroute, Fr Matt explained to us the complexity and politics surrounding St John's imprisonment....but also reminded us all that in the darkness lay the birth of creativity since this dark and painful time was where we got St John's most illuminating and beautiful writings.

We were excited when the coach neared Toledo and after a short walk from the drop off point, happily checked into our lovely rooms. As evening fell, we gathered for a delicious dinner at the hotel restaurant, sharing stories and laughter as we reflected on the day's experiences.



The warmth of Toledo

With our hearts full and spirits uplifted, we retired to our rooms, while some shared moments of “Teresian joy” in recreation with glasses of wine. We were grateful for the blessings of another day on this sacred pilgrimage, and eager for the adventures that tomorrow would bring.

*With no other light to
Guide me save that which
in my heart was burning*