

GATHERED INSPIRED SENT



In the 1939 classic film *The Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy is instructed to click the heels of her shoes and repeat the phrase “there’s no place like home” in order to leave the Land of Oz and return home to Kansas. She does so and finds herself once again in the familiar confines of dear loved ones. For many people, the concept of home is linked to loved ones with whom we share a familial and emotional bond, life events shared with loved ones, and a physical place in a specific locale. When I think of home, I remember the house that I was raised in, the experiences I shared with my parents and siblings, and the life events that I shared with my family. The thought of home gives us a feeling of love and security as well as a feeling of connection

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Vocation Newsletter

that forms us and encourages us to move forward through life. While home is a physical place, it can be a spiritual place as well.

Home can be a place where one feels emotionally and spiritually connected. The reason the place exists is that historical events have happened there, there is a connection with persons associated with the place and the feeling of comfortability and security felt by a place can all make it home for an individual or a group. To

feel at home is the universal desire of all people. Servites have a place that is home to them. The Sacred Convent of Monte Senario is the spiritual home of all Servites. Located on mountain top outside of Florence, Italy, Monte Senario is the place to which our Seven First Fathers, the founders of the Order, built a small house and chapel, and lived as they began their common life. The Seven are buried there. Their faith and spirit fill the place. For Servites, the mention of Monte Senario conjures thoughts of our Fathers, their life and faith, and what we ascribe our life to be. Monte Senario is the touchstone to the life and faith of our Fathers which inspires Servites in their life and ministry.



In describing the significance of Monte Senario for the Servite religious life, the 1989 General Chapter of the Order decreed that “Monte Senario reminds us of what our life of work and prayer ought to be: austere and penitential, hospitable and fraternal, hidden in God and attentive to the needs of others.” These six characteristics are the guideposts for the communal life and ministerial action of all Servites. In living these six characteristics, we Servites not only keep alive the spirit of



our Seven First Fathers, but create a space to meet God within our hearts. This inner space becomes home, the place where we encounter the One whose life fills us with love and security, the Lord Jesus. In remembering Monte Senario, Servites have a concrete touchstone not only to the life of the Seven Founders, but also the six characteristics which marked their life: austere and penitential, hospitable and fraternal, hidden in God and attentive to the needs of others. Our spiritual home of Monte Senario is a place in the heart where we meet the Lord in the memory of the Seven. It is the place from which we draw the courage to serve others.

heels but have the desire to meet the Lord and encounter His love in peace. Just the mere thought of meeting the Lord in the home of the heart can facilitate to movement of discernment for when one calls upon the Lord, He is there.

Lastly, discernment is aided by creating physical space in which to pray and making quality “unplugged” time to focus prayer without distractions of any sort. Having a home is necessary to feel comfortable, secure and to grow in knowledge of self and in love. The need for a spiritual home is equally important. This is the place where we meet the Lord, whose love fashions us into the person we are the called to be, and

Prayer:

Lord, it is you whom I desire. It is your love that I need to feel fulfilled and whole. I need your love, in grace, to show me the path that you invite me to follow to love you, serve you and to serve others even as I feel the joy of doing so. Grant me the courage to make a home for you. When I do, come be with me and, in love, show me my goodness and the way that I can use my goodness to bring you to others. In your name, I pray. Amen.

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follow



Discernment needs a home. This home, this place in the heart, is where the Holy Spirit and the discerners meet to consider the call of the Lord. The Holy Spirit's home in heart is furnished with the faith, hope and love of the discerners. Sacred scripture, prayer and silence is the activity of this home. Jesus and the discerners are the inhabitants of this home. To enter this home, one does not need to click their

the place where He prepares us to serve others as He serves us. Monte Senario is this special holy home for Servites.

Called to Serve, #26

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