

## Greetings from members of the Heritage Pilgrimage!

Twelve-day pilgrimage to Germany, Austria & Italy (June 18 – 29)

### Week 1



Greetings from Germany where sisters, staff and many leaders of SSND sponsored ministries are participating in the SSND heritage pilgrimage. Provincial Leader Charmaine Krohe wrote that on June 20, they celebrated the birthday and baptismal day of Mother Theresa and walked the path of many of the sacred places where she lived and began

the congregation, visiting Regensburg, walking across the Danube River, Bishop Wittmann's tomb, Neumburg and the Gerhardinger well.

Following the first week of the pilgrimage, two words that came to mind for Margarita Silva, Corazón a Corazón ESL Program coordinator, pictured here on the right, were strength and perseverance. "When I visited the grave of Blessed Mother Theresa Gerhardinger, I had this



overwhelming feeling of gratitude. If it wasn't for Mother Theresa's strength and perseverance in regards to education for the poor - especially for women - we all wouldn't be here. We all continue the SSND charism in one way or another. Being at Mother Theresa's gravesite made me feel that I was at Corazón a Corazón for a reason. The women and men we work with deserve the education they seek to survive in a country that does not speak their language. I have to be strong and persevere just like Mother Theresa in order to make sure I give the learners what they need to help themselves and their families. Moving forward as we head to

Rome I look forward to learning even more and depending my feeling of gratitude, strength and perseverance.”



Mayra Pimentel, Corazón a Corazón Volunteer and Intern coordinator, began the Province Ministry Formation program in the summer of 2015 and says that the program has been a significant part of her life. “It has provided clarity both professionally and personally.” She added, “The Heritage Pilgrimage has been a gift and an unforgettable experience that I know I will take with me forever. I’ve experienced a deeper sense of belonging as I continue learning about the deep roots of the School Sisters of Norte Dame. I feel as though I better understand the impact of each ministry and how they have been lovingly led

and cared for by SSND. To be invited to continue Mother Theresa’s legacy and become partners with the sisters is an honor. As we visited her hometown, where she took her first breath, and her tomb - it all has made me feel closer to her spirit. Visiting the motherhouses in Regensburg, Neunburg, and Vienna has been emotional. We’ve been received with open arms, warmth and many blessings time and time again. We’ve witnessed the fruit of the sisters’ ongoing labor and I am



happy and proud to continue serving my ministry because I know I am a part of a bigger vision with such a rich history. I am hopeful for the future and look forward to sharing Mother Theresa’s love and vision at Corazón a Corazón.”

