

The history of the location of the XXII General Chapter of the Sisters of the Divine Savior.



The guest house of the passionists fathers is rich with its history and is located across the famous Colosseum in the heart of Rome. The history dates back to the 4th century. The place was initially dedicated to the martyrs Sts. John and Paul. The property was passed on to various hands such as devotees of Sts. John and Paul, Cistercian, Jesuits, Carmelite (Philippines) nuns, Dominican friars from England, Vincentian fathers and finally the Passionist fathers.

The richness of the history, the glory of colosseum and the touch of nature amidst the hustle and bustle of the Roman tourists is indeed great place for us as we come together during this XXII General Chapter.

Here below is a short history extracted from the writings of Fr. Tito Paolo Zecca, CP about the three important places, in the guest house of the Passionist fathers, Rome.

The Monastic Complex of Sts. John and Paul (400-1773)



The Monastic Complex of Sts. John and Paul is a historical religious site located on the Caelian Hill in Rome, where the soldier brothers John and Paul were martyred in 362. The initial oratory and basilica were built on the site of their martyrdom. Over the centuries, the site underwent various renovations and expansions, particularly after the damage inflicted by Robert Guiscard's militias in 1084. The community has included various

religious orders, such as the Gesuati friars (1454-1668), Carmelite nuns, Dominican friars (1671-1697), and finally, the Vincentians (1697-1773). Each group contributed to the monastery's mission, often focusing on charity and care for the poor.

The Basilica of Saints John and Paul



The Basilica was constructed over the martyred brothers' home and has historical significance related to early Christian worship. It has been a site of pilgrimage and has undergone multiple restorations over the centuries. The basilica experienced significant pilgrim traffic particularly in the 5th to 7th centuries, and its martyrs were recognized in the Roman Canon of the Mass.

The Retreat House at Sts. John and Paul



Initially less consistent in hosting retreats, the site became a key retreat center under the Vincentians starting in 1697 and later under the Passionists after their arrival in 1773. The retreat house catered primarily to young religious and later opened to laypeople, offering spiritual exercises influenced by Ignatian principles. It became an essential center for spiritual reflection, serving renowned figures including Popes and Saints, and continues to

provide a sacred space for retreatants seeking spiritual renewal today.