

Is the Village of Bruxelles becoming a Pilgrimage Place?

June 2017

After one year of thinking, preparation, seeking guidance in the planning, plus lots of prayers to find the right time to create this special pilgrimage project, it seems that, as of today, the Saint Gerard Majella Church, in Bruxelles and its surrounding area is becoming more of a pilgrimage and praying place. Slowly but surely, it is noticeable that more people are coming to this area to rest, pray, and meditate, seeking spiritual and physical relaxation and inspiration. The reason that this is now happening is not only because of the beauty of the parks in the area, but mainly because the parish has installed the fourteen Stations of the Cross outdoors around its small chapel. This invites people to take a moment to reflect and ponder about the realities in their lives. ***“I feel very much at peace in this park and at the Grotto of the Virgin Mary. My heart and thoughts remain still while praying in this place...”*** said one of the visitors.



The Stations of the Cross coupled with the Grotto of the Virgin Mary and its small park with benches to sit, rest and pray the Rosary while contemplating the statue of our Blessed Mother, are also an invitation to see the beauty and goodness of the Lord, in the midst of our busy life. Another visitor says: ***“You cannot but rest, meditate and ponder about God’s beauty and contemplate the simplicity of his love to us. We need to take time away from our work, business and worries in the world nowadays.”*** And, that is what this place is trying to offer to everyone. Some groups of people come for spiritual retreats, others come to take time off from the ‘busyness’ of life, and others just stop to pray for a while. All are welcome.

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There is also a small chapel, which accommodates about ten people. It was built and donated to the Church in Bruxelles by one of the faithful and first pioneer founders of the Saint Gerard Majella parish. There is a small story about the building of this chapel: it was dedicated to the Virgin Mary after a father's little daughter was healed from a terminal illness – so, this small chapel is based upon a miraculous healing! People stop to pray inside the chapel, bring their concerns to the Virgin Mary and pray the rosary for their loved ones – all this being done for the intention that faith and spiritual growth will occur in the parish and peoples' lives. The pilgrimage place is open almost all year round.



Bruxelles also offers a “Bed-and-Breakfast” (B & B) house which is available upon request for those who wish to stay overnight for more than one day, for a spiritual retreat or otherwise. The B & B, which was previously the Rectory House, was completed renovated. It seems to be busy most of the time and is presently completely booked! So if you plan to visit this pilgrimage place to rest and pray, and would like to reserve a room at the B & B, please contact them ahead of time.