



NAVIGARE

VOLUME 1.7

Fun Facts...

1. 145 million greeting cards are exchanged every year for Valentine's Day
2. Spanish is the 2nd most spoken Native Language
3. Madrid has the oldest restaurant in the world: *El Restaurante Botín*
4. Instead of the tooth fairy, Spain had the tooth mouse: *Ratoncito Perez*

Did you know?

Did you know that Spain has the second-highest life expectancy out of all the OECD countries? (The age being 83)

What was Mozart's last written song?

- a) Requiem in D Minor
- b) Lacrimosa
- c) Confutatis
- d) Recordare



Here you can see Br. Ignacio contemplating his life

February...

Good day everyone! I hope everyone is doing well and being healthy. To start things off, I'd like to point out that February was an interesting month to say the least and I don't think I've lived such a weird month before. I say this because we went into February stressing about exams and we ended up finishing the month calming our hearts for Lent. Nonetheless, let's dive into this month shall we? I will discuss the Navigare's trip to El Escorial, the Disciple's trip to Avila for "Fin de Exámenes", a trapped Rabbit, Mozart's Requiem concert, and much more. So without further ado, let's get into *Navigare Newsletter: February Edition....*





This is the church inside of San Lorenzo de El Escorial



This is Br. Joe demonstrating how to drink from a bota bag



San Lorenzo de El Escorial

Earlier this month, the Navigare decided to go on a long day-trip to visit San Lorenzo de El Escorial. For those who aren't familiar with El Escorial, it is the largest Renaissance building in the world. It used to be the residence of the King of Spain but it's now open to the public for people to visit and learn about the history. And what's cool about El Escorial, is that they have the tombs of most Spanish kings within the past 5 centuries there. The paintings were so beautiful and the amount of art that are on the walls is very impressive. I remember there to be a hall full of painting of scenes of the lives of Jesus and Mary. It's probably the best art I've seen in a while.

It took us like 2 hours to get to Escorial and around 2-3 hours to finish the tour of El Escorial. After the tour, we took a couple of pictures and we went to have a few appetizers in a local restaurant, which was incredible. We finished the day by eating at this Mexican restaurant, called *El Rey de Tacos*, which is probably now my favorite Mexican restaurant in Madrid.

Free the Rabbit

I don't think I would've ever imagine me writing about this... but I'm glad that I am. If you don't know, something about this community is that they love to keep their garden in check. The amount of attention and care that is given to keep the lanscape clean and beautiful is amazing. However, for the past few months, some rabbits have also fallen in love with the garden and they have been eating away at all the plants. Although these rabbits are quite adorable, we have been trying to keep them away. So, like the obvious choice, Br. Riley decided to put traps for the rabbits. And I thought that the rabbits were too smart for this... but I stand corrected because we finally caught one! If you're wondering what we did with the rabbit, don't worry because we just liberated it somewhere far .

Mozart's Requiem

After our trip to Escorial, we went with Br. Stephen to a concert of Mozart's Requiem. Not only that, but Br. Stephen had been preparing us that whole week. We listened to Mozart's pieces the whole week and we also received a 3-hour class by Br. Stephen (which talked about the music theory of each piece and the style of them as well).



Fin de Exámenes

In the last newsletter, I explained how everyone was stressing over exams. Finally, exams have come to an end and it was time to celebrate! As tradition in the community, there's a weekend called "Fin de Exámenes" where all the brothers come together in a retreat house to relax. This weekend we spent in the province of Avila and we had so much fun! We did nothing but spend time with each other, pray, play games, etc. We went on a long, relaxing hike and the food was generously donated by the all the parents of the brothers; which was unbelievable delicious. Honestly, I might start doing this back in Colorado after exams too.

Keeping-Up with the Navigare

I just wanted to dedicate a little snippet of how the Navigare are doing in the program. We all have definitely been through a lot and we have all had a different experience from each other, even though we are doing the same program. I mean I just want to start off by saying how I've been appreciating this community so much more. It's so nice to have a good support system behind you, especially with people that know exactly what you are going through. We all still have 4 hours per week in Stella Maris Collegio to practice English with the kids. We've developed such a strong bond with the kids and they love to talk and share all the time.

Another thing is that we are still actively engaging in our apostulates: Emaús, Kairos, Frassati (my group), and Montañeros (Stephen and Dominik's group). I love every single one of these groups and I appreciate how I'm getting close to every single person. Every new person you meet can always teach you something new and I think this is especially true here.

Answer: A (this piece was left uncomplete when he died on December 5th, 1791)