

## FEMALE LEADERSHIP COURSE IN ROME

8 June 2016

In April I was fortunate to attend a six day course in Rome, run through the Anglican Study Centre, studying female leadership in the church. In the company of some extra-ordinary women, mostly priests with a few lay ministers, who came from all over the world, we spent our mornings in the company of very knowledgeable art historians visiting churches and learning about the lives and times of exceptional women from history. Saint Catherine of Sienna, Saint Francesca Romana, Saint Cecilia, Saint Sabina and others were all brought to life by our tutors and guides as we visited their homes and the churches built in their memory, seeing the many treasures and paintings. After sampling the local *trattorias* we headed back to the study centre to compare the lives of the saints with the roles of women in today's world; in a leadership within the church context. The course came to an end with a very special visit to the Monastery of Saint Gregory where the monks permitted us to celebrate the Eucharist in their chapel and then invited us to join them for lunch. All in all it was a fascinating glimpse into Rome, the history of the church, and inspirational to all of us. And the ice cream was excellent too!



A mosaic of Mary and the Christ child in a dome of a place of worship in Rome.

Jane Quarmby  
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The course *Women's Leadership in Christian History* was held at the Anglican Centre and in various major buildings in Rome from 9-14 April, 2016



Jane Quarmby, far left, with some of her classmates on the leadership course in Rome.