



h e r i t a g e w a l k i n g t o u r

10. Madonna House - Heritage Place, 1st Avenue East

Madonna House was a Catholic community of laymen, women and priests formed in Toronto during the 1930's when a young woman followed a call from God to live the radically simple life of Nazareth. This calling evolved into the formation of a family who chose to live together in poverty, chastity and obedience, striving to teach the Gospel with their lives by being people of the water and towel - praying for and serving the needs of people and the Church in our everyday world.



Madonna House

Field houses of this order were established in response to specific requests by bishops throughout the world. In 1975, Bishop Noel Delaquis of Gravelbourg invited Madonna House to open a poustinia to be located in the former Precious Blood Monastery. A poustinia is a type of prayer house that takes its name and essence from the Russian word "desert". For those who live there, the poustinia is a way of life. For others, the poustinia is that place of silence and presence of God within our deep hearts. For all who desire to pray in this way, the poustinia is also a physical space: simple rooms in Madonna House were open to all who wished to spend twenty four hours in quiet, solitude, fasting and prayer.

The poustinia - "the desert" - is the contemporary as well as the ancient meeting place of God and man, a place to bring personal needs and the needs of the entire world to the Lord. The Madonna House was purchased by private interests in 2000 and is now a bed and breakfast enterprise.

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