**2024 July Meditation**

**Conversation at Ostia Saints Monica and Augustine**

*… leaning in a certain window*

*removed from the din of people*

*resting from the fatigue of a long journey*

*discoursing together with much dear tenderness*

*forgetting those things which are behind*

*reaching forth unto those things which are before*

*inquiring together between ourselves*

*in the presence of the Truth*

*of what sort the eternal life of the saints was to be…*

*we made a kind of progress by degrees.*

Augustine describes how this ‘dear tenderness’ arose from a **lively and intense conversation** and is specific about where and how it took place.

It became extraordinarily absorbing as he and his mother, Monica, talked about the purpose of their endeavours, and so moved closer and closer towards God.

Such mutuality in conversation itself became a prayer and an amazingly graced moment of understanding themselves, their lives, their calling within a big context – ultimately that of eternity.

May our conversations take us gracefully

into the realms where God ‘makes all things new’

through, with and in Truth. Amen.

How best might our conversations generate hope, imagination, engagement, creative action, and new possibilities?