

Sisters of Our Lady CoRedemptrix

Sunday 29th October 2017
Feast of the Kingship of Jesus Christ

Dear friends and benefactors,

What a joy to be able to share with you some of our news in this first letter, which also offers us the opportunity to express our immense gratitude to all our benefactors!

In recounting the story of our foundation, we hope to show you that, after the example of our founder, Archbishop Lefebvre, we endeavour to follow the course of divine Providence even if it has us take at times a mysterious path.

In 2012, a number of sisters of the Society of Saint Pius X posed the crucial question of joining the Resistance. One sister voiced her thoughts "It is sure, we must leave! But where will we go? Is it really prudent?" The youngest exclaimed "Sister, the faithful will not abandon the religious who desire to stay faithful to the truth! I am sure they will find a little corner for us to sleep!"

The good Lord granted this little sister beyond all she could have hoped for. Never once since that day when she had to distance herself from her dear religious family did she lack either spiritual or material help. Never once. This little sister writes these lines with a deep gratitude towards all those who served or continue to serve as instruments of divine Providence.

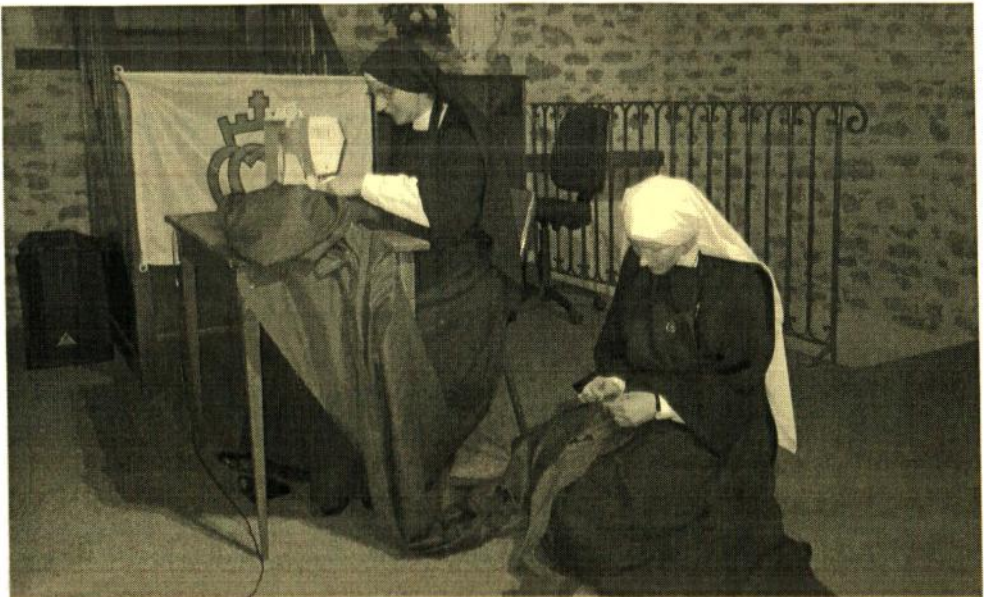
During the summer of 2014 a priest in the Resistance, the Reverend Father Bruno O.S.B., promised to assure daily mass to the religious who hoped to join the combat. Once this single indispensable condition was confirmed 'the great jump without a parachute into the arms of divine Providence' could take place. It came to pass, this one sister left her former community on 28th of October 2014. This happened just after the feast of Christ the King. A feast so dear to our hearts.

For the little exiled lamb, the good God had prepared a welcoming dwelling, in a favourable environment for the religious life, thanks to a kind family. The proximity to the Dominican Fathers at Avrillé proved precious. No less precious was the support of Bishop Williamson,

at the time the only bishop in the Resistance, who wrote to me on the 1st of February 2015 saying "In reality it is not you who left the Congregation, it is the Congregation that has left you in following the new line traced for the Society of Saint Pius X by its superior general and his two assistants... It is a matter of faith. You had perfect reason to leave the sisters of Bishop Fellay to stay faithful to the sisters of Archbishop Lefebvre."

With this beautiful encouragement the crossing of the desert could begin in peace, although not without difficulty. After two years, in a manner totally unexpected, a young Irish girl, ardent and decided, presented herself as a postulant. Her perseverance allowed her to overcome the obstacle of the language and all the trials of the postulate. The Sunday of Quasimodo, at the end of our week long retreat, she received the holy habit from the hands of our chaplain. Our religious bishop, Dom Thomas Aquinas, was pleased to send us his blessing for this wonderful occasion.

This day marked the official foundation of the 'Sisters of Our Lady CoRedemptrix'. Our little community has but one desire: to keep faithfully the precious treasure of the religious life transmitted by Archbishop Lefebvre and his sister Mother Marie-Gabriel, cofounders of the Sisters of the Society of Saint Pius X. We have held onto the Constitutions, the customs and the timetable, all established by the Archbishop. We have simply added to the holy habit a distinguishing mark: an insignia embroidered on our scapular, illustrating our vocation: "To offer oneself with the divine Victim, in the image and footsteps of Our Lady of Compassion", since "Mary was efficacious coredemptrix by Her compassion." (Constitutions drawn up by Archbishop Lefebvre.) This insignia, representing the Cross of Our Lord and the Heart of His holy Mother, is presented at the head of our letter.



As you can read in the chronicle, our young community was consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Joseph. It thus has the assured support in heaven. It has equally the need here below! Our survival depends a great deal on our friends and benefactors. We count therefore, first and foremost on your good prayers for our perseverance and fidelity, but also, for those who can, on your donations. Every offering, even the most modest, will be received with gratitude: Is it not said, that it is the little streams that make a great river?

We intend to give you a little news three times yearly, but it is every day our gratitude is conveyed through prayer: the community rosary is recited for the intentions of our benefactors. Our chaplain also offers the holy mass for you on the last Sunday of each month.

Sœur Marie Liesse

Chronicle of the Community

23rd of April, Sunday of Quasimodo: The first taking of the habit. Miss Nicola Collins becomes Sr. Marie Joseph. Fr. Marie-Dominique, Br. André-Joseph and two seminarians came from Avrillé; a good hundred faithful are present to support us. In the afternoon, before the Blessed Sacrament exposed, we consecrate our new community (*quasi modo genita*) to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Monday 1st of May: We visit the sanctuary of 'Saint Joseph of the Oak' at Villedieu-la-Blouère, to place ourselves under the powerful protection of him whom God confided His most beautiful treasures: His Son and His Mother.

Saturday 13th of May: This year being the centenary of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima, the pilgrimage of the faithful of the Vendée leads us to the chapel of Our Lady All Patient, which was renovated in the year 1713 by St. Louis de Montfort, who left there a statue of the Blessed Virgin which he had sculpted with care. In recognition, the Mother of God appeared to Her devout servant in this chapel.



18th-21st of July: We hold a Eucharistic Crusaders Camp: 20 girls, with a third 'Handmaidens' Directed meditation, the holy mass, catechism, singing, sewing, cake decorating, baking, pilgrimage to Saint-Michel-Mont-Mercure, a little edifying performance and sing-song organised by the older girls... are part of the program for the few days, the joy resulting in a renewed zeal for the continued service of Christ our King.

• **Saturday 12th of August:** We profit from the holidays of the seminarians of Avrillé to carry out a big clean of the chapel of the Seminary Saint-Louis-Marie.

• **Tuesday 15th of August:** We join one hundred faithful of Brittany and Normandy to celebrate the Assumption of our Queen. In the afternoon there is a beautiful procession in which we accompany a dozen little crusaders of the region, ending at the chapel of Our Lady of Fiévroux.

• **Saturday 26th of August:** We inaugurate the new formula for the reunions of the Eucharistic Crusaders in Namur, Belgium: from now on we can also accommodate the boys, hoping that it will soon raise an ardent army of 'Knights' of Christ.

• **Monday 4th of September:** Sr. Marie Joseph resumes her studies to continue her formation as a novice: french, latin, gregorian chant, catechism, liturgy, crisis in the church, the religious life, spirituality are her delights.

• **Thursday 14th of September:** "It's been 15years!" says one, "It's been one year!" says the other... since we had the grace to enter the religious life as postulants. *Ad multos annos!* To many more years!

• **Sunday 1st of October:** On our return from the 1st visit of our community to the faithful of the Paris region, we have the joy to stop at Chartres cathedral: after venerating the veil of Our Lady, we entrust our friends and benefactors to Our Lady of the Pillar.

• **Saturday 7th of October:** The community pray the 15 mysteries of the Rosary and have a candlelit procession at a neighbouring grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes.

• **Friday 13th of October:** To commemorate the centenary of the apparition of St. Joseph in the sky at Fatima, at the same moment that Our Lady preformed the great miracle which She had promised, we visit the sanctuary of Saint Joseph of the Oak, where we renew our consecration.

• **Sunday 15th of October:** This time, the biannual pilgrimage of the faithful of the Vendée takes us to the church of Saint-Michel-Mont-Mercure, for which we are joined by a number of seminarians from Avrillé. We there admire the monumental gold statue, set on the summit of the bell tower. St. Michael is the "Angel of Peace" and "Angel of Portugal" who prepared the three shepherd children to receive the visit of the Queen of the Angels.

How to help us?

- **By your prayers**, in particular by the invocation "O Lord, grant us many holy religious vocations!"
- **By your generosity:** cheque or bank transfer made payable to **A A S N D C** (Association des Amis des Sœurs de Notre-Dame Corédemptrice).

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