

RNDM Renewal - Come and Rest a while

Communication - 2

THURSDAY 7th April (NEW JOURNALISTS)

As usual the day began with our Lectio Divina which we feel is bringing us closer, creating bonds and leaving us enriched through the deeper level of sharing the Gospel of St. John.

The reflection of the day focused on creation, something of which we feel more and more a part of and which brings us a sense of wholeness and oneness.

As part of our study of St. John's Gospel with Maureen, we learned that 'Exegesis' is a great tool for understanding the message of the Scripture. We tried it out, using passages from three of the Gospels. **IT WORKED!** The chosen texts were about women who we found were far from being overlooked by Jesus – on the contrary – as he picked them to teach important lessons to those present at that time and for those of our time. The texts took on new life, especially as we acted them out.

This was our last session with Maureen. We thanked her for being such a wonderful teacher – one who had prepared her lessons well and who was patient and generous with her time. It was so unfortunate that she “caught the bug” which put her to bed for a day or two. **SORRY MAUREEN !**

The day ended finally a little differently in a way but it was still in the context of “WOMEN”. We watched a film which powerfully showed the plight of women and young girls when they are abducted and used mercilessly by ruthless men. It was a true story of 14 year old girl, DIFRET. Besides experiencing the horror of her abduction from a loving home, we were literally moved to tears by the love and concern for DIFRET, of a young woman lawyer, HIRUT, who risked her all to win freedom for this wretched girl, and to bring about a change in a corrupt system.

We much appreciated FRIDAY 8th Our First Official Free Day, when we could relax and do the necessary washing, cleaning and sorting. We were able to join the community for Morning and Evening prayer and for Mass. En silence etait chez nous ! (Our house was in silence.)

In the afternoon Marie Benedicte prepared us thoroughly for our visit to Lyon, providing us with hand-outs full of information about background history, pictures and leaflets particularly about places we would visit and what we would see and do – WONDERFUL – we were so grateful.

Saturday 9th - The day that we were waiting for was great to have Marie Benedicte with us for this special trip. The bus – a 16 seater – arrived promptly at 8 am and we all excitedly took our places. There was much to see and admire on the way; especially the medieval city of Perouges - proudly standing on the hill.

Our first stop in Lyon was at the monument of Antoine de Saint - Exupery, who as a pilot in 2nd World War was shot down by the Germans.

It was a beautiful monument on which the “Petit Prince” is standing behind his creator – quite poignant really and something everyone wanted to photograph.

Then it happened! Poor Sheeba missed a step and bang! She fell heavily on the marble plinth. Oh, her pain was great! Eventually she was helped to the bus by so many concerned sisters and we proceeded to Fourviere where it was decided that Maureen and Jacqueline should take Sheeba in the car to Accident and Emergencies.

Although concern for Sheeba’s pain and disappointment coloured the rest of the day, we went on to 4 Rue de Clerberg, Euphrasie’s first accommodation in Lyon then followed her footsteps up to the Basilica of Our Lady of Fourviere, a most beautiful and prayerful Shrine overlooking the river Saone. We celebrated Mass in the small Chapel which was the only church there till 1896 when the great Basilica was added and dedicated to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, in thanksgiving for protection during the wars. We knelt around the plaque placed there for our 150th anniversary – we felt such pride and gratitude to Euphrasie for the gift of the congregation.

We then went to **“our Mother House”** 14 Rue de Montauban – home of our Foundress which has undergone such complete transformation. Four very happy and welcoming sisters were there to greet us – Sisters Odile, Pauline, Regina Tripura and Cecilia Mandez. They had prepared us a wonderful meal of both Vietnamese and Bangladesh – style, and we did great justice to it and to the desserts, wine and even champagne! Sister Lissy arrived from Rome in time for the meal so there was an added feeling of joy and oneness - a highlight of the day.



All this was followed by a tour round the property. Although Euphrasie’s room is not there anymore, the space is, and her presence could be felt everywhere. The heritage centre was full of atmosphere and everything was so well presented in a most creative way - the work of Marie Bnenedicte and Marie Laurent.

It would be impossible to relate all we saw and discovered, thought and felt – it would fill a book. Our journey had to end and it did so after a visit to the Cathedral of St Jean (John) (constructed from 1180 on) a most magnificent place. There was an “Exposition” of the Cistercian Monks who 20 years ago were taken hostage from their mission in North Africa and were never seen or found again. We didn’t have time to visit, but we saw the film later “Of God’s and Men” – heart-breaking, but inspiring. So we left Lyon. All praise to Marie Benedicte for arranging such a visit and for all she did for us to get the most out of the time. Merci bien, Mere !

Arriving at St. Rambert once again we were delighted to see Sheeba return even though her leg was in plaster and she had 2 crutches! Help was not wanting to transport her upstairs and to work out a Rota for her care! All’s well that ends well.

Sunday 10th: Thank God for a free-ish day. We needed the peace of Sunday. We had Mass in our Chapel at 11 am and in the afternoon Maureen and Jacqueline took seven of us to visit the five sisters in the Care Home in Lyon. It was a great visit! To begin with the home itself was huge, newly built, airy – each room opening on to a balcony – wide corridors, artistic displays, lights and en suite rooms. There was such a feeling of warmth, calm and joy. The sisters were so glad to see us and Mary Jeanine acted as a guide – in fact she came right outside to see us off and we left her on the pavement! Since we were nine altogether we tried to separate but inevitably ended up in a heap – we had a happy time together. Thank God the sisters were so content and well cared for.



We welcomed Lissy to our group on the week of 11 – 15 April – she had been guided acquainting herself with us and we with her. For some it was the first time to meet with her a member of the CLT but she put us at ease and drew us gently into the mysteries of the Enneagram – the system of distinguishing nine personality types. For some it was new, for others a little vague, but most at least know “their number” straight away. With a little humour and sharing experiences, things fell into shape. We learned about “our wings” – the number (type) before and after our own, and about the three different central energies by which we operate –**GUT, HEART, HEAD** (which one is yours?) We enjoyed sharing and watching examples of these in action, especially in the film “**The Wizard of Oz**”. Many things spoke to our hearts and minds. We became conscious of the gifts within and that nothing is impossible if we have the will.

Everything could be summed up perhaps like this:

PRAYER: God of the journey I offer you the beauty as well as the struggle of being human, in the process of our journeying.

WORDS OF WISDOM: Value yourself. Don’t undermine your worth by comparing yourself with others. It is because we are different that each of us is special.

OUR THOUGHTS



THE CONSTITUTIONS



Sr. Margaret McInerney came to give us draft copies of the Constitutions which both she and Shanti had the task and privilege of writing. Margaret was best placed to know and explain so clearly why the work had to be done, how this was accomplished, and what it should contain. Her

power-point presentation was powerful – sensitive to the original aspirations of Euphrasie (we were shown a page of Euphrasie’s hand-written first draft) and yet fulfilling requirements of Canon Law. There was certainly nothing dull about the study. We all had a part to play. Everything

came alive. Thank you, Margaret! We all want you to come **“home”** and spread the good news! We will treasure our New Constitutions and feel strongly that we are **ONE** and we are **LOVE!**



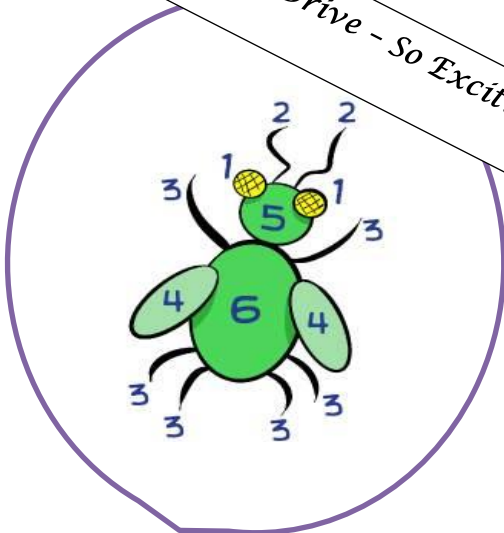
*A visit to the beautiful
Museum in St. Rambert*

FUN TOGETHER

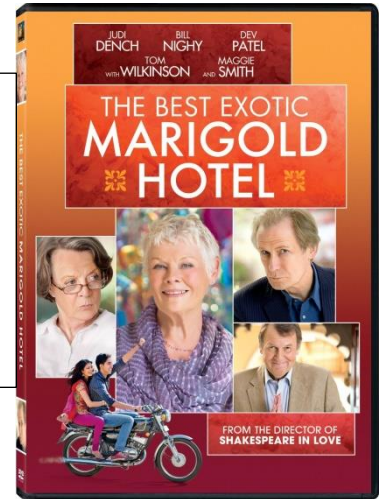


*A Cultural Evening -
Dancing, Singing
From around the
World*

A Beetle Drive - So Exciting !



*Watching
the Most
Exquisite
Exotic
Marigold
Hotel*



*Bingo ! Compliments of
Antoinette - a most kind and
generous woman a former
Eurasian child brought up in
Switzerland. The prizes & gifts
she brought were amazing !*



Thankyou!



Srs. Yvonne & Valsa