

News Letter- 1
RNDM Renewal
“Rekindle the Gift of God that is within you”
2 Timothy 1:6
6 September to 6 November 2017



Dear sisters

About two weeks ago, sisters from across the congregation arrived in St Rambert to begin the RNDM renewal program. There was great excitement as sisters met each other from various provinces and regions. Some met old friends and others met new friends but this did not hinder the connection with each other.



The sisters attending the program are: Catherine Rozario, Marcia Gomes and Maya Gertrude from Bangladesh, Marie Celestine from France, Mercy Puthuva from India Center, Emelinda Mawlong and Victoria Kurbah from India North East, Dominica D’Cruz and Pushpa Manimuthu from India South, Anna Ngan Ha and Elizabeth Kan Hwai from Kenya, Elsie Valenzuela from Latin America, Agnes Tin Mi, Margaret Kon Tin, Mary Aung Seh from Myanmar, Molly Mathew from

Philippines, Roseanne Hamill from United Kingdom and Ireland, Maria Cam Linh, Maria Savio and Teresa Hong Xuan from Vietnam. It has been a great privilege to share and listen to each other’s stories from where we come from.

The community of St Rambert welcomed all of us very warmly and we truly felt at home the moment we arrived. We are aware that we are the first RNDM group to be in the new renovated house which looks and feels very fresh even though there are still a few things to be finalized when we finish the program. We have enjoyed good rests, the meals and the quietness of St Rambert.

We thank the PLTs for giving the sisters this opportunity and for all of you for your prayerful support during this time. We want to share with you some of our experiences of the last two weeks.



The program began with an orientation followed by the opening liturgy led by Sr. Lucy Wambui, CLT Liaison for Ongoing Formation. Patricia Boyd, Province Leader of France welcomed the sisters to the province and wished them well in the program.





Sr. Josephine Kane, Congregation Leader, in her opening address said: “This time of renewal is like a breathing space to restore your energies and take time to ponder what is really important in your lives as RNDM missionary women. It is an opportunity to enjoy this beautiful contemplative place and allow yourselves to be nourished by God’s Word in scripture, in creation and in each other. It is also a time to gain deeper insights into the person and life of Euphrasie Barbier as well as pondering her insights into the universal love of the Trinity and the Divine Missions”. Then she declared the renewal

session 2017 opened with the theme “Rekindle the gift of God that is within you”. Sr. Josephine led the next two days setting the scene on this theme.



On 8th September, we had the joy of celebrating a triple celebration:- the nativity of Our Lady, the Diamond Jubilee of Sr. Marie Bénédicte Ollivier and the feast day of Sr. Mercy Puthuva. It was also the profession anniversaries of some of the sisters. Sr. Lissy Sebastian arrived on Friday from Rome and joined us for the celebration in the evening.



To conclude the day we had a cultural programme presented by different countries with singing and dancing. The climax of the celebration was when Srs. Marie Bénédicte and Marie Laurent surprised everyone by singing a French song which everyone enjoyed.

We are all aware of the role Maureen McBride (RIP) played in the congregation and our various encounters with her as individuals. At the beginning, we went as a group to visit and prayed at her graveside. Each day the sisters visit her grave and pray. We remember her and all our departed sisters with gratitude for what they were in the congregation.



On 10th September , we went for the Eucharistic celebration in the Parish Church which is about ten minutes’ walk from our house. At the beginning of Mass, Marie Bénédicte introduced us to the parishioners. We felt welcomed and connected with the Christians who have been part of our sisters’ community for so many years. We were amazed to listen to the beautiful melodies played by Marie Laurent and the singing lead by Kim Yen in the Church.

From 11th - 15th September, we had very creative sessions by Sr. Lissy on “ **The Seasons of Our Lives**”. She invited us to come and have tea with the Lord and to go on a journey within.

Spring – A time of year when we create new beginnings for ourselves and our lives.

Summer - A season of fruitfulness, celebration and gratitude for work well done and missions accomplished.

Autumn - A time of surrendering, acceptance and of letting go of the past.

Winter - A season of waiting, reflecting and a time for planning.

Lissy gave us much to think about and to renew our lives in the presence of God.



On Sunday 17th September we were very excited to visit Lyon, our heritage place and privileged to walk in the footsteps of Euphrasie Barbier. We also visited the monument of Antione de Saint-Exupéry, the author of *The Little Prince*. We then proceeded to the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, the oldest Cathedral in Lyon.

We visited the ruins of the Roman Theatre and then walked down Rue Cléberg to see where the first RNDM house was. Then we proceeded to the small chapel of Our Lady of Fourvière where Euphrasie prayed many times. In the chapel, there are many plaques of names of different congregations which were founded in Fourvière and we were delighted to see our own. We spent some time in silent prayer, like Euphrasie. Then we proceeded to visit the Basilica beside the Chapel of Our Lady of Fourvière. From there we were happy to walk down 550 steps where Euphrasie and many RNDMs walked up and down for daily Mass.



We arrived at our house 14, *Chemin de Montauban* with much excitement and joy. We were welcomed by



the community with a very delicious meal. After the meal, we spent some time visiting the heritage rooms through the guidance of Sr. Patricia Boyd, Province Leader of France. We were most impressed by the work done by Marie Bénédicte and Marie Laurent in the heritage rooms.

Thank you once again for your prayerful support and we hope that you will enjoy our first newsletter.

Srs. Pushpa, Roseanne, Dominica, Elsie, Victoria, Maya and Mercy