

RNDM RENEWAL APRIL – JUNE 2019

“A PILGRIMAGE TO OUR ROOTS”

News Update 2

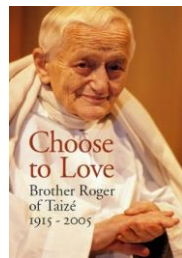
THE STORY WE ARE GOING TO TELL...

We are at the end of a beautiful spring here at St Rambert. Good Shepherd Sunday welcomed us with a threatening sky, and strong wind making music as the leaves danced happily with the singing of the birds. As we came down from L' Abbaye to the bus stop, the beautiful colored wild flowers seemed to jump around our feet. We are now off to Taizé!



We are grateful to have had M. Benedicte prepare us for our journey to Taizé as she has been there a number of times.

On one occasion, she actually met Br. Roger founder of the ecumenical Christian Taizé.



We were fortunate to have Br. Jean share his personal story and the life lived at Taizé.

A peaceful atmosphere was very deeply shared at Mass, especially as we shared the experience of Eucharistic communion.

Here in Taizé, although we are RNDMs it was not difficult to feel one with the young people from different backgrounds and religious beliefs, in their search for God and their mission in life. The way of life in Taizé is a “Sign of the Times” about how the Christian vocation could be lived in the world today.



Going to Taizé is to be invited to search for communion with God through community prayer, song, silence, personal reflection.





Holding the peace and serenity within us as we journey to the well-known Cluny Abbey a former Benedictine monastery in Cluny, founded in 910. It radiated over Europe throughout the Middle Ages, with its 1400 Cluniac sites. Still today the restored remains and the monastic buildings bear witness to the past.

We then visited ARS the shrine, Jean-Marie Vianney, was born May 8, 1786 in Dardilly, France. St. John Vianney would often say: *"Private prayer is like straw scattered here and there: If you set it on fire, it makes a lot of little flames. But*



gather these straws into a bundle and light them, and you get a mighty fire, rising like a column into the sky; public prayer is like that."

Here at St Rambert, we learnt that the Abbey of St Rambert traces its colourful history back to the 5th Century and the arrival of the hermit Domitien in the beautiful valley of the River Albarine. In 1949 the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions were invited to take up the ministry of education of Eurasian children who had been brought to France from Indochina by the Federation des Oeuvres de l'Enfance Francaise d'Indochine (FOEFI).

Sr Kathleen Prendergast gave input on Intercultural Living. She is an experienced RNDM in this field, as she could speak and share from her lived experiences. We all enjoyed the practical demonstrations of "correctness" when dealing with other cultures other than our own. Sr Kathleen, you are a gifted teacher! We leave with the following: *we are a unique, unrepeatable work of art.*



Thank you Sr Kathleen for bringing Euphrasie so much alive for us. "It was like watching a serial to be continued... and we looked forward to the next session with much anticipation. We travelled with Euphrasie Barbier all over the world.

Once again, Sr Patricia Boyd accompanied us and was our tour guide for our visit to Lyon. She clarified many questions we had regarding our past RNDM history in Lyon and also the history relating to France.

Unfortunately, the Cathedral of St Jean was closed due to the French Festival celebrating 1269 – 1271. So we were unable to see the Astronomic Clock. However, we received another blessing as we felt we were participating in their special day of celebration.

Walking in the footsteps of Euphrasie when we attended Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Fourvière where Euphrasie would often have attended daily Mass. It was with thankful hearts that we stood at the stone plaque, honoring our RNDM foundation erected sometime after the death of Euphrasie.



“Have among yourselves only one heart and one soul”. We were very touched and we appreciated the lovely welcoming of the Sisters in Lyon. They prepared a big banquet showing the love and hard work of the community with the assistance of friends Mrs Loan and Mrs Antoinette a former Eurasian student brought up by the Sisters in Vietnam and France.

One of the highlights during this time “despite the rain and freezing condition” Fr. Joseph, chaplain here at St Rambert, invited us to participate in the liturgy on Sunday at the local church as the Parish Priest was away. It was Mass rich in culture with our Indian Sisters offering a very meaningful “Arathi” worship during the Eucharistic celebration.

As the result of Schengen Visa we were all able to travel to Geneva for the day. Three outstanding memories for us of the visit were

- the UN Office “*work is to maintain international peace and security*”. The UN of Geneva is the second-largest of the four major office sites of the UN. Largest is in New York, others in Nairobi, Vienna and the Hague.
- the exhibition was an emotional discovery for each one of us as we walked into a multimedia history from present-day conflict zones, these contemporary issues are of concern to each of us today and, in a wider perspective, will affect our common future for decades to come.
- The Broken Chair is a monumental sculpture in wood by the Swiss artist Daniel Berset, constructed by the carpenter Louis Genève. ... It symbolizes opposition to land mines and cluster bombs, and acts as a reminder to politicians and others visiting Geneva.



The theme for our retreat “Encountering Christ Jesus more deeply”. We were very grateful to have Sister Clare Murphy who guided us and journeyed with us over 7 days of silent retreat. Under her able guidance we were able to have a profound God experience. We thank Clare for the way she led us into silence, stillness, and solitude that enabled us to be “awakened to the Spirit”. We very much appreciated the support Kathleen and Lucy gave in the time of our retreat. At the

end of the retreat we all had the opportunity to renew our Vows.

A prayerful liturgy led by Lucy concluded our stay in St Rambert. Remembering in a special way our three Silver Jubilarians: Elizabeth Bich Hang, Anna Hoan and Maria Tuyet Mau.

“Pray well, laugh well and eat well,” all of St Rambert rocked with much laughter and fun as we shared RNDM Cultural singing, dancing and games.

We continue our journey in Euphrasie’s footsteps in England and we wish you a very happy feast of Pentecost.

Your loving sisters of the renewal group