

FROM YEAR TO YEAR

2013



The Holy Family Contemplative community of

La Solitude - Martillac

Days are passing by and winter is approaching! It makes us already think of Advent and dream of Christmas – of the feast of the Holy Family! Is not each day, in fact, a coming of the Lord into our lives, urging us forward, making us partners in his work of salvation for the world, taking us into his relationship with the Father? What an adventure!

You will see through this letter that life in La Solitude is not at all monotonous: joys and sorrows, hopes and shared suffering are the lot of each of us, as indeed, of every person in the world. It is this world; it is our brothers and sisters in humanity that are present in our prayer and in our heart. To live in solitude is to hope more than ever, with the whole Church, a world according to God's heart.

Important moments

With the Church... The resignation of Pope Benedict XVI , 28 February, that sparked emotion, admiration and thanksgiving, and the election of Pope Francis on 13 March! What intense moments for all!

Thanks to the TV, we could follow **the World Youth Day in Brazil**

With our local church:

Daily Eucharist is celebrated by priests of the sector. On Sundays and feast days the Eucharistic assembly is very big, and participation in the

singing is dynamic. Our Assembly is increasingly becoming a big family. Christmas and Easter bring many people from around, from Bordeaux and elsewhere too. The ecclesial dimension of our vocation is thereby strengthened.

Joy and hope for the community ...



Sr Sylvérie , from the Democratic Republic of Congo , celebrated her first vows in the Holy Family contemplative life on 12 June.



also ... sorrow and hope for our community

An intense moment for the community was the death of our dear Sister Maria Clara GALATAS on 06 July in the home of retirement, Sablonat, Bordeaux .



"Sr. Maria Clara went about doing good, she chose life and encouraged life all around her because she had found her happiness in God alone . Happy with her God and with her sisters in community, she was able to discover and live the secret of perfect joy.

A contemplative with the heart of an apostle, Maria Clara joined her Beloved to enjoy eternal happiness close to him. "She looked at Jesus so that others could see Him and follow Him."

**« The spirit of God Alone
is a spirit of universal charity »
P.B Noailles**



Our community welcomed.....

Sr Anne-Curie of the community of Nagoda –Sri Lanka, and Freeda for her second year of novitiate. In order to prepare for her Perpetual commitment, Anne Curie lived a month of solitude guided by Sr. Mary Slaven.

Srs. Anne-Curie and Freeda, made a pilgrimage to Paris, in the footsteps of our Founder, led by Sr Aine Hayde.



Time for sisterly exchange and meeting with the Sisters of the Cistercian monastery of Echourgnac.

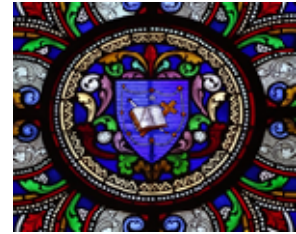
Srs. Odette, Gisele and Sylverie continued their doctrinal formation at the Theological Institute Peyberland, Bordeaux.

In July, Sr Pauline of the Delegation of the Democratic Republic of Congo gave them a 3rd session of formation and had an evaluation of the previous ones.



Guided by Sr.Lorette Laffargues the three sisters too made the pilgrimage in the footsteps of the Founder to discover the places where the Founder lived.

They also had the joy of visiting Royaumont Abbey, once inhabited by sisters of the Holy Family!



Coat of arms of Contemplative sisters of the Holy Family
Royaumont Abbey



Early September, the community welcomed Sr Christelda, of the community Nagoda for a long stay.



Relaxing with our apostolic sisters around a grill. A time of simple and sisterly conviviality for all of us !



We had the joy of celebrating the jubilee of three of our sisters : **Trinité Paniagua**, **Griet Van Hauwermeiren** and **Marie-Dolorès Sanzberro** (Oteiza) who had come to La Solitude for a council meeting.

Other meetings :

Meeting with the members of the pastoral team accompanying the families in mourning at the crematorium. Every first Saturday of the month we pray in community for this intention.

The A. C.A.T. (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture) - ecumenical movement, meets three times a year with us for a time of prayer and sharing. Srs. Teresa and Elena are involved in the preparation of the celebration with the laity of the Church of Graves.

On 16 October, Lucie and Valentin, two young adults, accompanied by their parents and friends, passed from the Gallican Church to the Roman Catholic Church. They received the sacrament of confirmation administered by Father Pierre Meunier who presided at the celebration . Father Joseph Pelloquin was also present. Lucie and Valentin received for the first time in the Catholic Church , the sacrament of the Eucharist. The assembly, witness of their journey of faith , expressed their encouragement, joy and affection.

Sessions and Retreats

- The community enjoyed some very interesting sessions including the one with the Father Gabriel Ringlet on the theme "Expanding our tents."

The retreat with Father Alain Marchadour on "**The Faces of God in the Bible** " was followed by Srs. Odette and Sylvérie .

- Sr. Gisèle who was in Idiofa (DR of Congo) to visit her family had no opportunity to see him since his arrival in France in 2010.

Srs. Odette and Teresa attended the meeting on the pastoral care of vocations – Martillac, 2-5 April.

The International sessions organized at the Noailles Centre gave us the joy of seeing many of our sisters from the monasteries of Oteiza (Epagne) Nagoda (Sri Lanka) , Posadas (Argentina) . All said how happy they were to have been able to follow these sessions. Our sisters Elena, Teresa and Margarita felt the same way.

From 20 to 26 October was the annual community retreat with Bishop Albert Rouet, emeritus bishop of Poitiers, on the theme: **Vatican II - Lumen Gentium**. To each one, it was a rich experience in every sense .

- Sr Odette participated for the first time at the meeting of the singers of the monasteries of the Southwest held at the Cistercian abbey of St. Mary of the desert, near Toulouse, from 18 to 20.November

Srs. Sylvérie, Gisele and Odette follow weekly classes in music theory, singing, directing.



*May we, throughout **the New Year 2014** live under God's blessing our everyday life as a gift, every circumstance as received from the Lord's hands*

May we live each day as a new day of creation, a day that has never been before, a day that dawns as an unexplored possibility and infinitely deep to generate the Word in the world!

