

## Eucharist - Commencement of the Bicentenary - October 6, 2017

On October 6, 2017, we will commence the Bicentenary celebration with a Eucharist in each place where Jesus and Mary is present.

This Eucharist will unite the entire family of JM. It will be a moment of:

**Grateful memories** for the years gone by since that night at Pierres Plantées: remembrance of all the religious and many other persons who during these 200 years have followed the footsteps of Claudine and have left a mark on the way; the remembrance of the events lived which speak about dedication, surrender, trust, courage, apostolic zeal, love of the persons...

**Immense gratitude to God** for gifts received: the Charism, the missionary expansion, the abundant life of our Congregation...

**Openness to the future** with hope and trust in God who leads history.

→ *The prayers for the Eucharist of this day will be those proper to the feast of Saint Claudine, February 3. The Readings will be the following:*

### 1st Reading: Ecclesiastes, 3,1-15

“There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every activity under heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot,

A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build,

A time to weep, and a time to laugh, a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace, and a time to refrain,

A time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep, and a time to throw away.

A time to tear and a time to mend; a time to be silent, and a time to speak.

A time to love and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

What does the worker gain from his toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on men.

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil – this is the gift of God.

I know that everything God does will endure for ever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him.

Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account”.

## 2nd Reading: Romans 12, 3-18

For by the grace given to me I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than one ought to think, but to think soberly, each according to the measure of faith that God has apportioned.

For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another.

Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them:

If prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor.

Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.

Bless those who persecute (you), bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all.

If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.

## Gospel: Luke 10, 25-37

But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

"Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead.

A priest happened to be going down **that road**, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him **was moved with compassion at the sight**. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.'

Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy."

Jesus said to him, "**Go and do likewise.**"

→ Each Province chooses the Responsorial Psalm, the introduction, petitions or hymns which are suitable.

We suggest some texts from the Positio that could be used to prepare the Eucharist: Introduction, petitions, thanksgiving...

**Letter of Claudine to her niece Emma, Fourvière, 27<sup>th</sup> January 1835.** Positio p. 359-360

"I cannot tell you very satisfactory things about the little Deschaux. She has nearly twelve years old when we took her in, and until that time she spent part of the day **on the streets** of Villefranche, and had fights with the little ruffians there. There was one of them who, one day, left her whole face covered with blood.

Her behavior at the beginning reflected this first education. She has changed since then but has still a long way to go. I hope that, with the help of God, we shall be able to make something of her, but there is still so much to be done.

One day she is good and the next day she is bad. If she took a really good turn for the better, I believe that she could become a good person. She is pretty and is a good worker for her age, and when she wants to, she behaves well, but she does not always want to".

**Testimonies after the death.** Positio p. 574.

"It was clear to everybody that the predilection of this excellent Mother remained always for the weakest, the most abandoned.

These poor little creatures that were taken to her were often in such a state of raggedness and dirt that it was revolting at first sight. "It is the worst you could find **in the streets**", they objected sometimes.

"What can you expect US to do with this child, Reverend Mother?", the Sister Portress said to her one day, showing into her room a puny and disgusting little girl of ten years. "**Leave her alone**", replied Mother St. Ignatius pleasantly, as she looked at the new arrival. "She will be a pretty girl at eighteen years of age, you will see!"