

SSS INTERNATIONAL

n. 226 – 20 December 2013

SSS Generalate
Via G. B. de Rossi, 46 - 00161 Rome – Italy
www.curiasss.net



Pilgrimage in Fr Eymard's footsteps from 8 to 15 September 2013

The Year of Faith invited us to renew our faith by looking at our ancestors' faith, which in the case of our Founders was built on rock.

This is a good occasion for us during this year to return to the source, to the birthplace of our Founder, St Peter-Julian Eymard. With joy we describe what we have experienced as we walked "in his footsteps".

In September the six of us, Vietnamese sisters, set off from Paris for Grenoble. Fathers Manuel and Vergel came to meet us at the station. It took an hour by car from Grenoble to La Mure, which is situated on the Matheysine plateau (1000 metres in altitude) between Grenoble and Gap. We travelled along the "Route Napoleon," called thus because it was along this that he passed as is commemorated by a statue of him on the side of the road, not far from La Mure. Before arriving there we passed three lakes.

We arrived by car in front of the number 67 rue du Breuil. What joy to be there in the house of St Peter-Julian Eymard for a week! This was really too short, but a wonderful time for each of us.

The house has seven rooms of visitors. Father Eymard's room is on the second floor. It is there where he was peacefully called to the home of the heavenly Father. It is now an oratory where we celebrated Vespers with the Fathers of the Community during this week. The oil-press of his family, where the young Peter-Julian hid himself to study Latin, has been transformed into a conference room. We shared various topics there regarding his life, in which he witnessed to the Eucharist. We were deeply struck by all that.

Father Manuel was an excellent guide for us. He first invited us to walk around the old historic streets of La Mure. Seeing the Monday market we were able to imagine all the people exchanging the news that Mr and Mrs Eymard had a son after the loss of almost all their children at an early age. This son is a saint today: a wonder of the Lord!

Then we climbed to the place of the three crosses, from which we enjoyed a beautiful view of La Mure. The Calvary evoked the spirit of penance and reparation of the young Peter-Julian. Then we returned to the old church of La Mure, where we were reminded of Father Eymard's orientation to the Eucharist. As he put it in his retreat at Saint Maurice: "*The great grace of my life was a lively faith in the Blessed Sacrament from my childhood*".



As regards the other places, we visited them by minibus with Fathers Manuel and Vergel, who accompanied us. These were Our Lady of Laus and Our Lady of La Salette. We were delighted by the calm of solitude, the recollection of Laus and the majestic mountain of La Salette. The Marian dimension was very important in Father Eymard's life. He told his sister: "*I received my vocation from the Holy Virgin's hands*".

Father Eymard taught the first Sister Servants: “*The Virgin Mary is our Mother and our model*”. He was already putting into practice what Pope Benedict XVI would express in his Apostolic Exhortation “*Verbum Domini*” in 2010: “*our apostolic and pastoral work can never be effective unless we learn from Mary how to be shaped by the working of God within us*” (n.28). May Mary teach us to celebrate, adore and live in the fullness of the Blessed Sacrament!



Father Eymard placed the Eucharist at the centre of his life. Beside this he had beautiful human friendships. We understood better the friendship between him and the Curé of Ars when we went to Ars; the same also regarding his friendship with Madam Natalie Jordan when we visited Saint-Romans. We have many letters that Father Eymard wrote to Madam Jordan. I was very surprised when Brigitte (a parishioner of La Mure who was accompanying us) showed us the cedar tree – the *cedar of friendship* between him and this lady, Madam Jordan, which lasted for twenty five years. This tree is still alive today.

Another surprise was on being able to visit the chapel of the Major Seminary of Grenoble, which is now transformed into a Cultural Centre. Thanks to the Week of Patrimony, we were able to visit the seminary. The woman who is in charge was there. We asked her to show us the chapel and she agreed.

At the end of the week we were happy to meet the faithful of the parish of La Mure and also the Association “Friends of Father Eymard in Matheysine”. These associates share in the parish mission with the Fathers and visits to the house of Father Eymard.

We were struck deeply at each place, at each venue that we visited, since they are imbued by our Founder’s presence and his spirituality. We give thanks to God and to good Father Eymard. We entrust to him our desire to live from the Eucharist, to proclaim it today.

Our group of six included two sisters in charge of formation, who have returned to Vietnam. They will be enabled better to transmit the eymardian spirituality to the young. I have a great dream: that all SSS brothers and sisters may be enabled to go once to La Mure and have this beautiful spiritual experience! It is magnificent!

SR TERESA DINH THI ANH DAO, SSS



Gathered to build up communion and live the mission

This Sunday of 1 December 2013 was beautiful day to live as a parish our entry into the new liturgical year and Advent! We counted a good hundred or so participants, with 150 at Mass. In the multipurpose hall of Tors we were welcomed by persons from the Tabor Relay who had magnificently decorated the environment, prepared coffee and made badges so that we could more easily get to know one another. What a warm welcome!

Fathers Armand Moudilou-Silaho and Pascal Baret animated the start of the day: “*The purpose of the day is to live a time of mutual welcome, friendship because the mission of every Christian is to bear witness, to go towards others,*” as Father Armand said, followed by welcoming Father Patrick Gaso, a vicar general of the diocese of Grenoble.



From left to right: Fr. Manuel Barbiero, Fr. Vergel Dalangin, Fr. Armand Moudilou-Silaho.

Jean Jacques Crochon, a member of the parish pastoral Council, presented his mission as a deacon with many tasks: pastoral work in the mountains, spiritual direction, participation in the