



TYBURN TALK

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,



In his meditation on the feast of Christmas, the late Pope Benedict XVI observed: *“In the child Jesus, the defencelessness of God is apparent. God comes without weapons, because he does not wish to conquer from outside but desires to win and transform us from within. If anything can conquer man’s vainglory, his violence, his greed, it is the vulnerability of the child. God assumed this vulnerability in order to conquer us and lead us to himself”*. Just as over two thousand years ago the Eternal Light entered into a world that was in the darkness of paganism and was born at the darkest time of the year, now, in our world darkened by violence and uncertainty about the future, our hearts are warmed by the remembrance that God, in the humility of a little child, is the One who holds this same world

in his hands with infinite love, and He only can bring peace.

Community News

This year was special for all our monasteries as it marked the **125th anniversary** of the founding of our beloved congregation in Paris in 1898. All our communities wished to share our joy with the public, and here at St. Loup many friends came to celebrate with us. Everyone looked radiant with happiness, and Mother Foundress truly

seemed to be present with us in spirit. Our bishop, Rev.Mgr. Joseph de Metz Noblat, concelebrated Holy Mass with our chaplain, Rev.Fr. Alain, and other priests of the diocese, and good friends of the Community joined us for this joyful occasion. Our photo display captured the international character of our congregation, showing how our monasteries have spread to different countries over the globe in recent decades, and include sisters from every continent. The words of Père Balme, spiritual director to our Mother Foundress, which he uttered in 1897 to the first sisters gathered together at Montmartre, have certainly proven true:



“You are still but a grain

of mustard seed, but this little grain will shoot up and become a tree, a great tree under which many souls will come to take shelter.”



Our New Novice





The 2nd July brought great joy to our community, and indeed to our congregation, as our postulant, Sr. Aurelie, was transformed into a novice, Sr. Marguerite Marie of the Sacred Heart, a fitting name for the community's first French novice. We were also delighted to have Very Reverend Mother General with us for a few days- who came especially for this occasion, accompanied by Mother M. Joanna, Mother Mary Jude. Mother Foundress must have been rejoicing with us too on this wonderful day! May she intercede and inspire many more young ladies to respond to their Call from God.



More Jubilees!

Another special anniversary for us here at St. Loup, was the **10th anniversary of the foundation** of our community here. We were fortunate to have Very Reverend Mother and Mother M. Joanna with us again, this time accompanied by Reverend Mother Ines and our



good friend Tom Henry. The 29th September was a big day for us, as it marked the 10th anniversary of the opening Mass of the foundation in 2013, as well as being the feast day of our Reverend Mother Prioress. At the same time we had a belated celebration of the Silver Jubilees of Profession of Reverend Mother M. Ines, which had occurred earlier in the month, and of Mother M. Joanna, which had taken place back in January. And so we had a triple celebration with a barbecue in the evening, expertly cooked by Very Reverend Mother herself.



Our community in Australia has also been blessed with a postulant, Sr. Jasmin, who entered in June. We ask for your prayers for all our sisters in formation, that they may persevere in our beautiful Eucharistic vocation.

We rejoice with our sisters in New Zealand as well, as on October 7th they enjoyed their own festivities in honour of their Silver Jubilarian, Reverend Mother



Philippa Mary.

350th Jubilee of the 1st Apparition of the Sacred Heart to Saint Margaret-Mary at Paray-le-Monial

It certainly seems to be a year of anniversaries, not just in our congregation, as here in France there will be a great celebration at Paray-le-Monial to mark the 350th anniversary of the apparitions of the Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary.

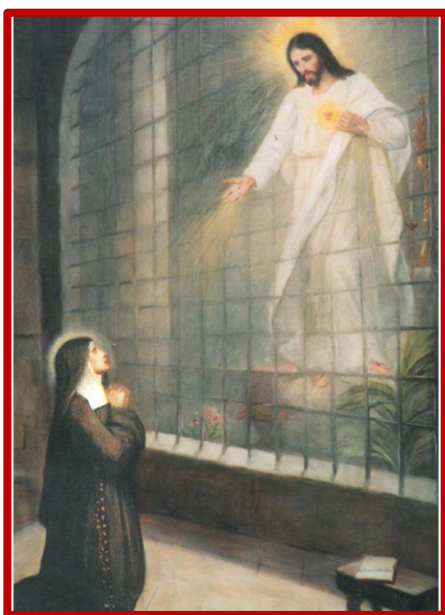


First Apparition to St Margaret Mary :
Dec. 27, 1673

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque:

“One day...I was praying before the Blessed Sacrament, when I felt myself wholly penetrated with that Divine Presence, but to such a degree that I lost all thought of myself and of the place where I was, and abandoned myself to this Divine Spirit, yielding up my heart to the power of His Love.

“He made me repose for a long time upon His Sacred Breast, where He disclosed to me the marvels of His Love and the inexplicable secrets of His Sacred Heart, which so far He had concealed from me. Then it was that, for the first time, He opened to me His Divine Heart.” “It seems to me that this is what took place”:



Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque:

“My Divine Heart is so inflamed with love for men, and for you in particular that, being unable any longer to contain within Itself the flames of Its burning Charity, It must spread them abroad by your means, and manifest Itself to them (mankind) in order to enrich them with the precious graces of sanctification and salvation necessary to withdraw them from the abyss of perdition. I have chosen you as an abyss of unworthiness and ignorance for the accomplishment of this great design, in order that everything may be done by Me.”

Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque:

“My well-beloved, I give you a precious token of My love, having enclosed within your side a little spark of its glowing flames, that may serve you for a heart and consume you to the last moment of your life; its ardour will never be exhausted, and you will be able to find some slight relief only by bleeding.

“Even this remedy I shall so mark with My Cross, that it will bring you more humiliation and suffering than alleviation. Therefore, I will that you ask for it with simplicity, both that you may practice what is ordered you and also to give you the consolation of shedding your blood on the cross of humiliations.

“As a proof that the great favour I have done to you is not imagination, and that it is the foundation of all those which I intend further to confer upon you, although I have closed the wound in your side, the pain will always remain. If before, you have taken only the name of My slave, I now give you that of the beloved disciple of My Sacred Heart.”

What a consolation and sign of hope in our troubled world to be reminded of the ever present love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for all humanity, revealed in such a special way to this privileged nation through St. Margaret Mary in the 17th century, and later to our own Mother Foundress, Mother Marie-Adele Garnier, in the 19th century.

With deep gratitude to you, our dear friends and benefactors, and with the assurance of our continual prayers for you and your loved ones and for a joyful and blessed Christmas,

Devotedly in the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,

The Tyburn Nuns

