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Newsletter Good Shepherd Museum

MOTHERHOUSE OF THE CONGREGATION OF
OUR LADY OF CHARITY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
ANGERS

Editorial

From cribs to daffodils

This editorial is written on the first day of Spring, and time has flown by since the 2022 exhibition of cribs. This time, we chose to focus on Latin America, in honour of Sister Aguchita, a Sister from our Congregation, the first indigenous Sister to be beatified last May in her village of La Florida, in Peru. Alongside the 50 cribs, much admired by our visitors, the life story of Aguchita and a video gave a good idea of her commitment to the population...

When we hear the bells ringing in our time, we rejoice in their song... which tells us nothing of their history. Across continents and centuries, let us visit the House of Marcq-en-Baroeul to learn about the history of the bell on display in the Museum, and those that preceded it in the bell tower of Marcq.

And the beginning of 2023 was marked by the visit of the new Leadership Team of the Congregation. A good moment of listening and conviviality. They are "the head", the Mother House is the heart, so let us move forward together to build a future according to God's heart...

Enjoy your read!

Sr Marie Hélène Halligon

Coordinator of the Spirituality Centre of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

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A Museum on display!

Exhibition of the cribs and on Aguchita

**"Christmas in Latin America:
from the village of Jesus and that of Aguchita"**

The Museum and the Spiritual Centre chose for this new 2022 edition, which took place from 16th to 23rd December, to honour the cribs of the Latin American continent following the beatification of our Peruvian Sister, Aguchita.

Nearly 400 visitors discovered the 50 cribs very typical and representative of South American culture, as well as the life of Aguchita through an exhibition and a video.



The Museum Evenings

"Mary Euphrasia in tune with John Eudes"

The Museum was pleased to inaugurate its lecture series called "The Museum Evenings", with a first lecture given by Father Jean-Michel Amouriaux, Superior General of the Eudists, on 9th March, on the theme "Mary Euphrasia in tune with John Eudes". It was an opportunity for the fifty or so people present to discover or to recall the filiation link between the two founders of the Congregation, Saint John Eudes and Saint Mary Euphrasia. Father Amouriaux had also given an interview to the radio station RCF Anjou before the conference. You can listen to it again (in French) by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.rcf.fr/actualite/le-1819-linvite?episode=350053>

"I don't want people to say I'm French anymore. I am Italian, English, German, Spanish, American, African, Indian, etc. I am from all the countries where there are souls to be saved."

ST MARY EUPHRASIA





One Object, One History

The bell of Marcq-en-Barœul



This 31-kg bell was baptized on 8th February 1920 by Mgr. Margerin, Vicar General of the Diocese of Lille.

Made in a foundry in Annecy together with another bell for the Chapel of the community in Lille, it bears three engravings: the Heart of Jesus the Blessed Virgin, and the Lamb.

On the day of the official blessing, the annals of the community of Our Lady of Charity in Marcq-en-Barœul (in the North of France) indicate that the two bells were "clad in silks gracefully draped with lace, decorated with ribbons like the children presented for baptism".

This and the following two extracts appear in the notes of Sr. Marie Jean Vianney Sol for the preparation of the catalogue of objects in the "salle du souvenir", archives of the Congregation in Angers, ref. 1 N 4 / 1.



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DATES TO REMEMBER

* Solidary operation “Bowl of rice”

on Thursday 6th April,
in aid of women
victims of violence in
Burkina Faso

* Exhibition “Pastimes of the girls in care of the Good Shepherd in France”

from Friday 31st
March and Friday 30th
June

* 25th anniversary of the Good Shepherd Guesthouse

on Saturday 1st April
from 10 to 12:30 am.

One Object, One History

The bell of Marcq-en-Barœul



Source : Archives and Heritage department
of the city of Marcq-en-Barœul.

Its installation, at the end of the First World War was the consequence of the removal of the bells by the Germans in the area they occupied in Northern France. The annals have kept track of this. When, in October 1914, the Germans entered Lille, it was forbidden to ring the bells.

Three years later, in October 1917, a search for brass took place: “They also wanted to remove the drill bells, but one of them nearly fell from the

second floor, which removed their urge”, says the editor of the annals. The drill bell was finally removed in April 1918. The story continues: “One of the soldiers saw, as the bell was coming down, our bell tower and, suspecting that there were others hidden in it, went to climb it. His examination did not last long and soon we heard the sound of the destructive tools on the bronze of our largest bell which we had not heard since the day after the bombing of Lille.”

The Sisters were delighted when, in October 1919, Mgr Delassus, Dean of the Chapter of the Diocese of Lille, announced his wish to fill the belfries that had remained empty since the war. The installation of the bell on display on the first floor of the Museum filled a void that had existed for several years.

In the News of the Congregation



VISIT OF THE CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

From 7th to 11th January, the Angers site had the joy of welcoming part of the Congregational Leadership Team: the Superior General, Sr. Joan Marie Lopez, from Malaysia, two of her Councillors, Sr. Yolanda Borbon (Philippines) and Sr. Mirjam Beike (Germany), and the General Secretary Sr. Yvette Arnold (USA).

The Sisters took the time to visit the key places of the Mother House, including the oratory, the museum and the exhibition of cribs. It was an important visit for the team who began their mandate in April 2022.



Claudine Chevrollier, volunteer in the Museum since its opening in 2016.

MEETING WITH A VOLUNTEER IN THE MUSEUM

Claudine Chevrollier started as a volunteer at the reception desk of the Guesthouse of the Good Shepherd some twenty years ago. She then happily accepted to join the Museum team when it was created in 2016. Today, Claudine is on duty at the Museum and gives guided tours. She tells us that she loves the history of the Good Shepherd and the figure of this great woman, Mary Euphrasia, and what she accomplished in the 19th century. One of her favourite places in the Museum is the entrance hall, with its mythical "Green Door", through which Mary Euphrasia welcomed women in vulnerable situations and future young Sisters. If you are interested in joining our team of volunteers, please contact us!

You can watch this video testimony (in French) via the link :

<https://youtu.be/Ogs67UmaO68> and read the text (in English) via the link :

https://www.bonpasteur-musee.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Temoignage_benevole_3langues.pdf

The Museum is open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 5 pm.
Groups welcomed all week on request.

Free admission for all!

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*PRACTICAL
INFORMATION*

