

Newsletter Good Shepherd Museum

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

Editorial

Ten years already! The anniversary of the reunification with Our Lady of Charity is highlighted in various sections of this new issue. The statue of St. John Eudes, which occupies a prominent place in the Museum, bears witness to St. Mary Euphrasia's attachment to him. The abundant material provided by the Bulletin reveals a decisive meeting in Angers, in the midst of the world conflict, between the Superior of the Refuge in Caen and the Superior General of the Good Shepherd. We also share the celebration organised by the Mother House to enable the Sisters and their lay partners in Angers to get together on "D-Day".

Welcoming people has been at the heart of our activities over the last few months. Internationally, during a memorable pilgrimage from Singapore, and locally, during a pastoral day with schoolchildren.

As summer settles in, the birthplace of St. Mary Euphrasia in Noirmoutier will be open to the public for various activities until the end of August.

Have a great summer!

Sarah Elbisser

Interim Coordinator,
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Charity of the Good Shepherd

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One Object, One History

Cardinal Odescalchi and the Magnificat Garden

In addition to the article we published in the March 2024 issue, we would like to recall that the Magnificat stone tablet at the back of the Chapel commemorates 15th August 1834 and St. Mary Euphrasia's essential initiative in writing to Cardinal Odescalchi to request the establishment of a generalate.

The flint stone for the stele was found in the foundations of the Chapel when it was rebuilt between 1958 and 1960.

This "commemorative monument", solemnly inaugurated on 15th August 1961, stands on the site of the office of St. Mary Euphrasia in the early days of the house. The premises were later used by the printing works established in 1916.

Even before the monument was installed, the Sisters visiting the Mother House would go there to "venerate the memory of the letter written within these walls to Cardinal Odescalchi" (Bulletin no. 4, 1961).



Stele of the Magnificat



17^e siècle *Comment tout a commencé*

17th century

How it all began

En el siglo XVII

Todo comenzó



One Object, One History

The statue of St. John Eudes



This statue, made of steatite, a very soft rock that is easy to shape, was one of St. Mary Euphrasia's personal possessions.

Initially kept in what became her oratory, it was later displayed in a showcase, alongside other personal memorabilia, in the "Espace Pelletier", the building of the current Museum.

St. John Eudes is shown standing, his shoulders covered with a cloak. In one hand, he is holding the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary, a gesture also present in

several of his painted portraits, and in the other an unidentified document, perhaps as an echo of his numerous publications.

This object, which has survived the centuries, bears witness to the deep attachment of St. Mary Euphrasia to the founder of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity, whom she called "Our Venerable Teacher", and whose works she had read during her novitiate.



Saint John Eudes holds in his hand the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary.



DATES TO REMEMBER

*** 1st July - 30th August**

2024 : Pastoral activities at the oratory in the birthplace of St Mary Euphrasia in Noirmoutier

*** 5th & 6th August**

2024

Sales from the Sharing Fair in Noirmoutier

*** European Heritage Days**

Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd of September 2024

*** 21st & 22nd of November 2024**

Symposium on the history of the Abbey of St. Nicholas

Gems from the *Bulletin*

The visit from the Superior of the “Old Cradle” in 1916

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the reunification with Our Lady of Charity. In connection with this commemoration, here is an article published in the April 1916 Bulletin recounting the visit to Angers, in the midst of the First World War, of Sister Mary of St. Ambrose Desauvais, the Superior of the community of Our Lady of Charity in Caen.

This event, which may seem anecdotal, was a high point and the beginning of a rapprochement between the two congregations. The article details her visit to the entire Motherhouse site, including the ambulance where wounded soldiers had been treated since 1914, and her moving meeting with the Sisters. It ends with a letter of thanks to Sister Mary of St. Domitilla Larose, the Superior General.

You can download the full text of the Bulletin, in three languages, **by clicking here.**



In the News of the Mother House

SINGAPORE PILGRIMAGE, MAY 2024

From 12th to 19th May, we welcomed 14 people from the Province of Singapore-Malaysia. The group was made up of one Sister and 13 Mission Partners from the Board of directors and the employees of the Marymount Centre, which takes in girls and teenagers up to the age of 18 with family problems and women and children who are victims of violence, and the Marymount Convent School.

For most of them, this was their first visit to Angers, or even to Europe and France. The aim of the visit was to immerse themselves in the roots of the Congregation. There were several sessions devoted to the founders, and three pilgrimages. In Angers and Noirmoutier, they visited the museum and the key sites linked to Saint Mary Euphrasia. In Normandy, they visited the village of Ri where Saint John Eudes was born, the community of Cormelles-le-Royal and, in Caen, the house where he died, as well as the church of La Gloriette.

They all spoke of the richness and depth of their experience, particularly for those who work on a daily basis with people in difficulty.



Park of the community, in Cormelles-le-Royal



Oratory of St. Mary Euphrasia, Noirmoutier



Labyrinth experience, Mother House, Angers



Historic entrance to the Mother House, 3 Rue Brault, Angers

In the News of the Mother House

PASTORAL DAY WITH ST AGNÈS SCHOOL IN ANGERS, 7TH JUNE 2024

We welcomed to the Mother House a class of 26 pupils, aged 9, from the Ste Agnès school in Angers for a pastoral day. We organised the day around their theme for the year, "The Builders". We reflected on and exchanged ideas about the word "build", as well as around the parable of the house built on rock or sand through an experiment. We shared a time of prayer in the Great Chapel with the Sisters of the International Community. In the afternoon, after the Sisters' testimony to the children, we worked on the theme of creation and the Laudato Si, all the while keeping to the theme of "builders of tomorrow".

A day rich in sharing and spiritual reflection!



10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REUNIFICATION IN ANGERS, 27TH JUNE 2024

On Thursday 27th June, we celebrated at the Mother House the 10th anniversary of the reunification of our two congregations, Our Lady of Charity and Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, with a celebration in the main chapel, followed by a lunch shared with the Sisters and employees of the Angers site. It was a very convivial and festive time, enjoyed by all!



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*

