



Dear Friends and Family,

We realize that we have many friends and families who do not understand our French letters except for the photos. That's why some parts of our annual letter this year have been translated into English. We hope that this can give you some insight in our life here in Langeac and what we have been doing during the last year. If you expect some news about our new Guest house, you will, however, be disappointed. We have been talking about that for at least two years now, so we are closing the subject.

Our intention is not to speak about the "Three Christmas Masses" written by Alphonse Daudet either. We think that most of our readers do not go to all three of the Masses said on December 25th, at least not every year. Here, in our monastery at Langeac, however, the tradition of three Christmas Masses remains very alive and appreciated. Compared to the Midnight Mass and the Mass of the Day, the Mass of Dawn which is also called the Mass of Shepherds, more discreet and quiet, proposes its own Gospel! These verses merit to be meditated upon.

The angels seen rejoicing in the night have left the shepherds setting out towards Bethlehem in a hurry to see what has happened. Behold, they discover Mary and Joseph with the New Born Child lying in a manger and witness with stupor that the angels' message is true. Amazed, they go and proclaim what they have seen and heard. They praise and glorify God. In his Gospel, St Luke, puts forth several responses to this happening. The discovery of the Child in the crib and the encounter with Jesus, brings forth several reactions: stupor, marvelling, meditation, praise and preaching.

We propose to you for this year, to let yourself be guided by the Gospel of the Mass at Dawn. Firstly, in going to the stable of Bethlehem to find Jesus, and then, not stopping but going further. We must learn to proclaim the Good News like the shepherds, marvelling at what God has done for us together with the Holy Family, meditating in our hearts the Word of God as did Mary all her life – and praising and glorifying God with all our hearts, like the shepherds.



At the term of this Jubilee Year of the Order of the Preachers, we sing out "*Laudare, benedicere, predicare*" with all the family of St Dominic.

May we say that the shepherds, without knowing it, were the first Dominicans?

From our chronicle 2016

This year 2016 was truly a Jubilee year for us: Jubilee of Mercy, Jubilee of the Dominican Order, Jubilee of our diocese of Le Puy.

Various celebrations brought us great joy. On August 8th, feast of our Father St Dominic, we welcomed Mgr. Pierre Raffin op who gave us inspiring reflexions on the theme of "St. Dominic and the Mission of the Order of St Dominic", rooted on the prayer of St Dominic.

On this same day were inaugurated and blessed two beautiful icons written by Sr Marie-Aline o.p.: one of St Dominic and another of "Holy Predication".

For our Jubilee year, a Rosary calendar was proposed to all the monasteries in the world, each community reserving two days to recite the rosary and to promote it in their own region. Ours began on the Sunday 18th of September with mass celebrated in our chapel for all the families of our parish, preceded by a workshop where the children were taught a choreography on the Magnificat (one of the Joyful Mysteries) which they did after Communion. After Vespers, we meditated the glorious mysteries together. In the afternoon the next day, a film was shown on the sorrowful mysteries. This was followed by a "tea" where all were warmly welcomed and happy to meet each other. To complete the day - and the mysteries -, we prayed the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary prepared by the Rosary Team of our diocese. Both days, the Sisters took turns to pray the Rosary between the liturgical prayers.



The jubilee of Le Puy was celebrated on July 14th with Father B. Planche, Rector of the Cathedral of Le Puy, and Fr Jean Lesparre op from the Convent of Nice during which we passed through the door of our Chapel, magnificently decorated.

We celebrated Easter with fr Modeste o.p. from the Convent of La Tourette near Lyon and we were very happy when he came back in July as chaplain to replace our parish priests for their vacation.

With our new Guest House "the Farm" – a renovated stable – opened last August, we have had "full house" many a time and are very happy to welcome more and more guests with whom we can share the feature of the knowing of Christ.

During the last two months, Snit, a Norwegian student has been staying in our guesthouse and helping us. She is now in Norway for her holiday.

Sr Pamela and Sr Christiane Dominique celebrated their milestone birthday this summer; Good reason for sharing a delicious cake covered with candles

Several Sisters have been hospitalized during the last year. The last one is our oldest sister, sr Marie de la Visitation, who finally will celebrate Christmas at the



hospital of Langeac. Sr Pascal was hospitalized in September due to complications after her car accident two years ago. She is now back after some weeks of reeducation.

Our last piece of news: we have a new Sister affiliated to the community after the closing of the Monastery of Evry in Paris. Her name is sr Marie Therese and she is living in a rest home in the north of France. She is now our Sister and we will share news and keep her informed although the link is spiritual and fraternal as closely as possible.

Happy Feast of the Nativity and Holy Year 2017

Sister Merete of the Eucharist and the Community of the Sainte Catherine Monastery in Langeac