

16, 17 and 18 septembre 2016  
ARS (France)  
MEETING « LAY PEOPLE WITH THE SISTERS



« You showed me the way to Ars, I will show you the way to heaven »

This is what the holy Cure of Ars said to young Anthony, when he met him while seeking the way to his new parish.

We entrusted ourselves to him and to his promise when we met as

« **Spiritual Family of the Sisters of Christ.** »

We were just twenty, lay people and Sisters, who came from different corners of France. Right from the start of this gathering, we met each other, sharing in twos our answers to some questions that enabled each one to present themselves:

**The Biblical personage who speaks most clearly to me is Saint John the Evangelist, since he is the only one to announce the word « love » as I desire to live it: « And the Word was made flesh and he lived among us. »**

**I came to Ars to immerse myself into the simplicity of the Cure of Ars, to relive his passion for the Love of God and to find again the other groups and share what is dear to us.**

*Renée, Laywoman, Lyon*



**My participation in this group of Associates was first of all a question of friendship which helped me to know the Sisters of Christ : Jacqueline, Jeanine, Sister Geneviève, where I experienced a true, simple, sisterly and generous friendship.**

**For a long time I was the lost sheep, lost through trials, bereavement...I allowed someone to approach me. The Lord came to search for me in the depth of the tunnel, he was a little flicker which lights up. This gathering with the Sisters of Christ is quality time and allows us to meet other people from many places, to live fraternity, to visit the Word and to continue our journey for greater fraternity.**

*Colette, Laywoman, Toulouse*

«At Vendhuile a group of associates existed and I wished to join them. I discovered people who were attentive, very committed and discreet. Each one is a source of unity by her commitment as a Christian, living the project of the Sisters of Christ; this helps them to live their life as a missionary to serve Jesus Christ and make him known.

I am very happy this weekend. The Curé of Ars is one of those who leads me to the heart of my Christian identity, because of his humility, his coherence. I am disarmed before him I feel that his strength comes from his faith. God calls...if we answer, all is put at our disposition...A weekend like this one shows the importance of human qualities: God became flesh, we can share fraternally. transparent with his Love”.

*Sister Denise, St Quentin*



I have come to Ars for the theme of Mercy more than for the Curé of Ars, even if I like his simplicity. For me it's like Moses and Isaac, when I am worried about speaking in public, I let the Holy Spirit take over and put myself into the hands of God.

I also love the openness and the fighting spirit of the Curé of Ars and his care to not see differences, to hear each one, little and great sinners. I am also touched by the tension that there is between the “poor Church for the poor” and his struggle to smarten up his church because “Nothing is too beautiful for the Lord.”

This gathering is the occasion to question our concrete actions and allows us to stimulate our group.”

*Pierre, Deacon, St Quentin*





**"In France, The project "Lay Associates "was born in Villeurbanne... Thanks to the obediences, other groups were born... A group of associates is certainly a group of friends but more deeply, a place of human and spiritual growth which helps them to discover unity in their lives.**

**In coordinating these groups I discovered that the movement of Lay Associates is a life; we are not owners of the charism of the Congregation. The charism is a call so that the associates bear witness to it, there where they are. We walk together on a way of life in which we are witnesses.**

**At the dawn of the 40th anniversary of the Congregation, my desire would be that that these groups called "*spiritual family of the Sisters of Christ*" would not be afraid of expressing what helps them to live and that they continue to be replenished so as to bear witness to Christ, Source and Maker of Unity."**

*Sister Geneviève, Craponne-sur-Arzon*

***Yes, this was a time of growing to know each other better, simple and true, nourished by the message of the love and humility of St Jean Marie Vianney, by two reflections on the theme of mercy, by times of prayer and celebration, without forgetting references to the spiritual Masters and sharing of what sustains life.***

