

# Give birth to joy and participate in it, is a path towards greater communion... Our elderly Sisters show us the way!...

to be a "sign of the communion that Christ came to inaugurate among men and women... to live there among the local people and in the Church... in sickness as in health..." (Rule of Life 10)

"A saint who is sad is a sad saint" (St Francis de Sales)

***SR DENISE lives in a Care Home for Dependent people  
(– GRENOBLE – FRANCE)***

Here, I measure the benefits and the grace of being thrust into the people of God, of bearing witness to their sufferings, of their sorrowful progress (each step hurts), of the faithful love of their children and grandchildren, fruits of life.



**Are we witness of communion?** First of all of meetings, of inventiveness, each one in small ways between ourselves and with the laity especially when Sr Elizabeth brings us her latest brainwave and her joyous animations; tomorrow we are going to make masks together for the carnival, we sing together in a choir, "We shall

Overcome" with the passionate voice of Joan Baez or 'Cottingen' de Barbara in a Franco-German ditty.

**This Communion extends beyond the house.** On 2nd February at Grenoble we spent the day of consecrated life with our Bishop. I discovered where both contemplative and apostolic sisters lived scattered as they are in mountains. Meeting of a multitude of consecrated people, men and women of the diocese, discovery of diverse missions and courageous commitments, effective presence to people whom I guessed were not necessarily in distress. More than 450 lit candles praying, creating and this included the monks of La Chartreuse. Of course we are in communion with all of them.

To be an agent of unity is also **a grace which my community opens up to me** as it gathers us together, starts out again and rejoices. So a film we've viewed together followed by a discussion about St Francis de Sales and then a sharing by Sister Jeanine our Sister in Charge, about her experience of the Provincial Assembly and then a look at the site, "Sisters of Christ". Here Jeanine does not abandon any of us and wakes up those who are dozing.



And all this takes place beyond our human differences : religious people or not... And so, what **sign of communion** ? Without doubt because little by little it is no longer we who live...but Christ...