



## **The LIGHT of Pentecost from Saint Louise... to the present day**

### **ENGLISH**

#### **Introduction: SISTER FRANÇOISE PETIT - ORAL LANGUAGE**

What a joy to meet again today,

As part of the jubilee of the 400th anniversary of the light of Pentecost.

All the Provinces in the world find occasions to celebrate joyfully.

There are celebrations, there are also many... there is formation.

Some Provinces offer training to the Vincentian Family

The Vincentian Family also offers training courses.

Everyone gives thanks to God.

I believe that this Jubilee Year is truly an invitation

To put ourselves under the guidance of the Spirit.

This year, the Holy Spirit has played an even more important role than usual.

I believe that the exhibition we are about to see highlights

The place of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Celebrate, of course...pray, of course...be formed, of course.... But also to act.

So I'm going to give the floor now, I think, to Sister Magdalena who is going to present...

I would already like to thank the team who prepared the content and form of this exhibition

## **A life illuminated by the Holy Spirit**

Saint Louise's spiritual experience on the day of Pentecost in 1623 represented a major change in her search for God's will. On that day, God showed her a community dedicated to the service of others, living the evangelical counsels in a constant coming and going.

Without really understanding how all this could come about, Saint Louise embarked on this new path, always attentive to God's signs. With the help of the first Sisters who embarked with her on this new life project, and with the support of Saint Vincent, Saint Louise laid the foundations of the Company of the Daughters of Charity. She led the Sisters along the path of self-giving to God for the service of the poor, in dependence on the Holy Spirit and abandonment to Providence.

The aim of the exhibition is to trace this adventure, which was lived first by Saint Louise and the first Sisters, and then by all the Daughters of Charity right up to the present day.

Through the various photographs, we wanted to highlight the way in which this life project has been passed on, like a flame, from one generation to the next.

We, the Daughters of Charity of today, are the inheritors of this Light. We must nurture it in order to pass it on to future generations. Like those who have gone before us, we have the example of life and the words of Saint Louise.

The adventure continues. We are invited to use the last two panels, texts and photos, to write about "the light" as we experience it today, personally and in community, throughout the world.

**Let us give thanks to God for the light that Saint Louise has passed on to us.**

"How I must have great confidence in God, and the assurance that his grace will be sufficient for me to carry out his holy will, however difficult it may seem, provided that it is truly the Holy Spirit who is calling me, which I will know by the advice he will give me" (A. 5, page 712).

"I beg the goodness of Our Lord to dispose our souls to receive the Holy Spirit, so that, burning with the fire of his holy love, you may be consummated in the perfection of this love, which will make you love the most holy will of God" (L 429, page 351).

"How happy you are, my dearest Sisters, to have the conduct you have! Make good provision for when Divine Providence calls you elsewhere, and do not think about when that will be, but live indifferently. Remember, my Sisters, to pray to God for our whole Company, which often needs it, either for each individual, or for the jobs God asks of us" (L. 182, page 205).

"Pray for the whole Company and ask our good God for workers for his work, if he wishes to continue it, for they are needed in so many places that it is impossible to provide them" (L. 391, page 439).

"We have so much to adore that we would be the most ungrateful in the world if we failed to entrust ourselves to it. It is she alone, my dear Sister, who must maintain us, who must give us all our needs, especially those which human prudence can neither foresee nor provide for" (L. 153, page 162).

## **Conclusion: SISTER FRANÇOISE PETIT - ORAL LANGUAGE**

You'll pass by, have a look and then come back

Because each panel has its own richness

I think this might be an opportunity for each of us to pray here in this cloister,

Praying to the Spirit with Saint Louise

Saint Louise, I forgot to tell you earlier...

But in many Provinces...the Provinces are doing everything they can

to make Saint Louise known, and I think they're right to do so.

And we at the Mother House are also right to do so.

Saint Louise is someone for today who can speak...

Speak to Christians, speak to non-Christians,

  speak to young people, speak to the elderly, speak to everyone.

And I think that Saint Louise is truly relevant today.

And we have the grace of having her as our foundress.

So that's a good reason to sing "Jubilate Deo" together

Because now we're doing it well all the same!

A lot of progress has been made.

The exhibition is now open, so let's move on and contemplate.