



# Sagesse Internationale

*“Do all your Actions out of Love and with Love”<sup>i</sup>*

On October 11<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the tri-centenary of the arrival of Mother Marie-Louise at St Laurent sur Sèvre. It was a significant event that reminded us of our origins marked by poverty and the desire to love God in the poor and needy people of the time. For Marie-Louise arriving at St Laurent, it was the beginning of a new mission for which Montfort had already prepared her over time. After 300 years the Montfortian family once again gathered around the tombs of Montfort and Marie-Louise at this historical moment of Covid-19, to celebrate the past, to acknowledge the present and to affirm our desire to do everything with love and out of love. Recalling the life of our founders impels us to go forth to deepen our relationship with God, to embrace a new beginning, to let go of the known and familiar, to be open to learn new things, to be creative and to go forth to meet life.

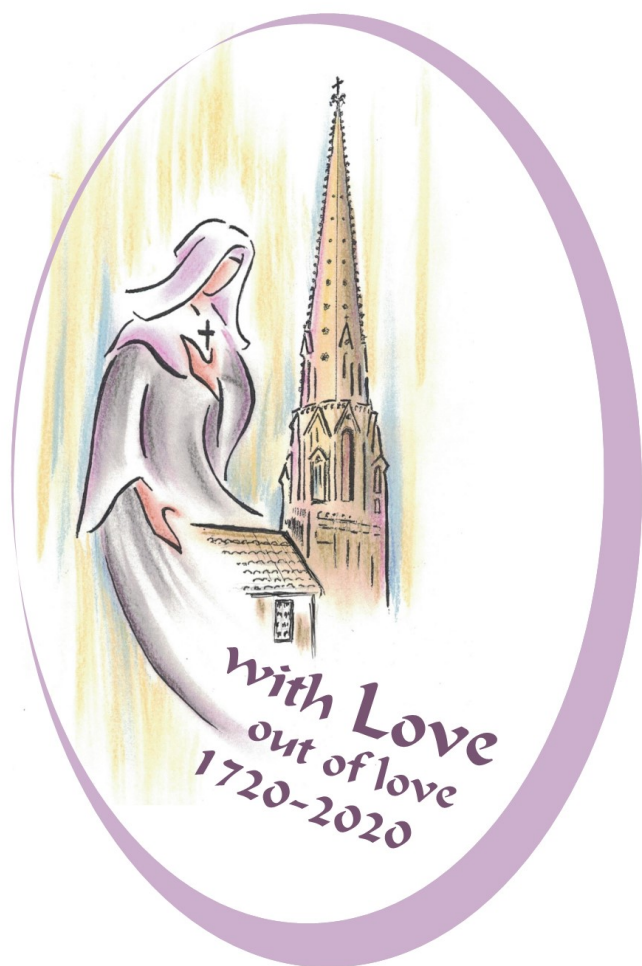
## **Love without Borders<sup>ii</sup>**

As Daughters of Wisdom we heard the prophetic call of Wisdom inviting us to ‘Love without Borders’. The General Chapter recognized that we were at an historical moment in the life of the Congregation. Today we recognize that we are also in an historical moment in our world marked by Covid -19. *In a “Church that goes forth” we have heard the call of Wisdom Incarnate to be witnesses to the Reign of God, welcoming God hidden in our neighbor, without distinction of race, religion, class, gender or age, with a heart without fear and without borders.* Courageously with an open and sincere heart we have been searching for ways and means to respond to this call. This historical moment calls us once again to be united with our Brothers and Sisters who are suffering in many ways and it challenges us to change our life style, our mentality and our way of being in our mission in order to adapt to the present reality. The call to seek and contemplate Wisdom urges us to *witness to the Reign of God* wherever we are, whether in active ministry, in a sick bed or in the infirmary.

## Sisters to All

In his Encyclical letter *“Fratelli Tutti”*, Pope Francis wrote: *“ If the music of the Gospel ceases to resonate in our very being, we will lose the joy born of compassion, the tender love born of trust, the capacity for reconciliation that has its source in our knowledge that we have been forgiven and sent forth.”*

Called by the Acts of the Chapter-2018 to *“Love without Borders”* and invited by Pope Francis to *contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity* let us be Sisters to All in following the footsteps of Montfort and Marie-Louise.



Sr. Rani Kurian DW  
Congregational Leader

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<sup>i</sup> In dialogue with Marie-Louise de Jésus p. 101

<sup>ii</sup> Acts of the 2028 General Chapter

<sup>iii</sup> Ibid p. 4

<sup>iv</sup> Encyclical Letter Fratelli Tutti n° 277

<sup>v</sup> Ibid n° 8



## VOCATION AWARENESS

*"You are Precious in my Eyes" (Is. 43: 4)*



I am Doreen Lare, born in Enga Province, Papua New Guinea 22 years ago, the youngest in a family of five. My parents, registered nurses, have been separated since 2000 and I grew up with my mother. My desire to become religious started when I was in grade three, the year I informed my mother that one day I would become a Sister. My Mother's answer was "study hard". The Rosary Sisters in my parish taught me how to become altar server which I loved. After that, I was never absent from any Sunday masses.

Often, my mother and sisters were surprised to see me faithfully taking part in the church as young as I was. My mother having no time to teach me the Catholic prayers, I followed my peer group and the old ladies in the church to learn the prayers by heart. I memorized everything. I knew that I was serving the Lord and that I was with the Lord close to his holy altar, sitting next to Him. I felt precious to God.

As I continued my studies, I took part on occasion in church activities. I completed grade twelve and continued in nursing through self-sponsor in Port Moresby. In September, 2018, I decided to follow my desire of becoming a religious as it became stronger. My heart was really longing to join a religious Congregation. I took part in youth groups, Legion of Mary, visiting the sick, homeless, hungry etc. In Morata, where the Montfort Fathers are working, I got involved in the parish, and, at the grotto I would ask Mary to lead me to a religious Congregation.

One evening, our priest invited people to confession. I was deeply touched by his words. After my confession, I whispered to Father's ear "Father, I want to become a Sister but I'm seeking a Congregation." Suddenly, he turned his face towards me. I thought I had done something wrong and I kept quiet. He asked me my name. Next day I went to meet Fr. Roy in the parish and he told me that there are Montfort Sisters in East Boroko, Port Moresby. He gave me their address so I wrote my interest letter to them.



Not long after, I was invited for “Come and See program” in Providence community in Port Moresby. After, I went home for three months of reflection but I did not keep quiet, since I went around in different parishes in my Province to do vocation promotion. Many young girls and boys were interested to know the Montfortian Congregations. After 3 months, I wrote a letter of request to continue my formation and I was accepted. Sr. Philomene came to visit me and we flew to Kiunga. Then in November, 2019, I officially entered the Aspirancy and later, the pre- novitiate in August, 2020.

What really attracts me with the Daughters of Wisdom, are the lives of the Founders, their love for the poor, the Charism and Spirituality, community and prayer life and the Montfortian Family Spirit. I am also touched by the logo of the Congregation, "Love without Borders".

I am so grateful to God for bringing me to this wonderful Congregation and I am happy to continue my formation to become a Sister one day. My daily prayers are helping me to discover my vocation more and more.

*Doreen Lare, prenovice,  
Papua New Guinea*

## *Commitments in the Congregation*

### *First Vows*

France	Sr. Bernadette Coche	04-28-2020
Asia Oceania	Sr. Magdalena Palu (Indonesia)	09-08-2020
D.R. Congo	Sr. Joséphine Lokenye Ankfuko	09-13- 2020
	Sr. Pauline Liilo Boogali	09- 13-2020
Malawi	Sr Catherine Kaluwa	10-17-2020
	Sr Annie Solomon	10-17-2020

### *Perpetual Vows*

Asia-Oceania	Sr. Beata Ayombe (PNG)	08-15- 2020
	Sr. Yuliana Emol (Indonesia)	08-22- 2020
	Sr. Maria Sriati Jiwing (Indonesia)	08-22- 2020
India	Sr. Josphin Xalxo	08-22-2020
D.R. Congo	Sr. Thérèse Isangimbole Bongenge	09-13 2020
G.B.I	Sr. Siobhan Boyle	10-15- 2020





## *The Season of Creation : Jubilee for the Earth*



The Season of Creation is a yearly celebration to connect to the entire Christian community and to bring one voice in prayer and thanksgiving to God for the beauty of creation. “It is also a time for more radical actions, for renewing commitment to revere and protect creation”. This celebration began in 1989 by the Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I, for the Orthodox, and was embraced by other major Christian European churches in 2001. In 2015, Pope Francis embraced it as well for the Roman Catholic Church. The 2020 Season of Creation theme “Jubilee for the Earth” was celebrated from September 1 to October 4, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. It is joined by the “2.2 billion Christians from six continents”.

The Season of Creation guide tells that a “Jubilee is a time to renounce overconsumption and economic systems based on constant economic growth at the cost of the Earth and those who are poor; a time when those who have consumed the most must make restitution to those who have suffered the most; a time of rest for the land from constant exploitation, to restore ecosystems and people. It is rooted in holy wisdom that there must exist a just and sustainable balance between social, economic and ecological realities”. In addition, “Jubilee means a ‘ram’s horn’. It was blown to mark the start of a time of universal redemption. The year of Jubilee involved release from indebtedness, when injustices of the past fifty years were to be restored.”

In the book Torah of the Earth it explains that, “The Torah’s vision of social justice focusses on resting, not only from the physical work of tilling the land but from the political and social work of building institutions and concentrating capital. For the “eco-Judaism” of the Bible, spiritual enrichment is profoundly connected with limiting the society’s exploitation of the earth, and both of these are intimately intertwined with limiting the mastery of the rich and powerful over the poor”. “Jubilee is both the final healing gift of the people of God to complete the old cycle, and God’s first blessing to the people and the earth in the new cycle”.

The Faith leaders’ invitation for this Season of Creation is a call to the entire Christian family to “support and challenge their countries’ leadership to implement visionary and significant goals... to listen to the “prophetic voices of young people”. A call to be together in this “special time to pray, reflect, and take bold action to realize a Jubilee for the Earth”. (Season of Creation Guide)

In the opening of the Season of Creation on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020, “over 70 church and civil organizations launched the Philippine celebration. Online activities are lined up that include a Virtual Walk of Creation which features communities and sites battling ecological issues, daily reflections, and webinars, press conferences on ecological issues, etc., explained John Din, National Coordinator of Global Catholic Climate Movement-Pilipinas.

For the past years during the month of September, our community organized activities like tree planting, cleaned up drive on the streets and seashore, and prayers with the sponsored students and Friends of Wisdom as part of their formation on the care for the Earth. In our kindergarten school, the Season of Creation was also celebrated by the parents and children. This year is different as we experience the pandemic that affects the life of all specially the vulnerable and the poor. In the Philippines, Covid 19 cases continue to rise. We still have restrictions and protocols in meeting people and no big event activities are allowed.

Nevertheless, we never stop praying, hoping and dreaming for the healing of the Earth. As a community we work together to care for the earth by improving our small garden, planting vegetables and using the 3 Rs (recycle, reuse and reduce). We decided to embrace the Laudato Si Goals-LGSs #4 Adoption of Simple Life-styles, #5 Ecological Education with awareness and concrete action for our staff and sponsored students, #6 Ecological Spirituality, promoting creation-centred liturgical celebrations, and developing ecological catechesis, prayers, retreats and formation.

*Sr. Malou Santos,  
Philippines*

#### References:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/gccm-pilipinas/season-of-creation-2020-pilipinas>

<https://catholicclimatemovement.global/christians-come-together-to-celebrate-season-of-creation>

<https://seasonofcreation.org/2020/08/25/season-of-creation-2020-jubilee-for-the-earth>

Torah of the Earth Exploring 4,000 Years of Ecology in Jewish Thought Vol. 1 Edited by Arthur Waskow

Laudato Si' Special Anniversary Year (24 May 2020- 24 May 2021) Laudato Si' Goals- LGSs



## *Do All Things With Love*



At the historic site of the Mother House, our experience of the Wisdom Year was an opportunity to deepen the Charism and the Spirituality of the Congregation. Courses, sessions, integration, accompaniment and retreats have opened our hearts to a new missionary and apostolic impulse. Subsequently, the visits to memorial sites shed light on the reality of the Congregation. The testimony of the life of our elder Sisters has touched and encouraged us to live in fidelity and to keep the lamp of faith burning.

Despite the pandemic, we were allowed to make the pilgrimage to Lourdes. It was a unique time to touch the place where Mary appeared to St. Bernadette and an opportunity to entrust to Mary the intentions of the Congregation, of our Entities, of our families and of the Church.

During this time of uncertainty due to Covid-19, we organized the community's schedule by carrying out these activities: sewing, embroidery, gymnastics, making masks and cards. The experience of confinement allowed us to discover our vulnerability and our closeness to the world through prayer.

We ended this year of formation with a Eucharistic celebration in the presence of Sr. Rani Kurian Congregational Leader, Sr. Isabelle Retailleau, the Vicar, and Sr. Marie-Françoise, Entity Leader of France, followed by a cultural evening in the thousand colors of our intercultural diversity. This joy was shared with all the Sisters of the Mother House and those of the surrounding area.



We warmly thank the General Council, especially Sr. Antonella who accompanied us during this time of formation. Thank you also to our animation team and to the Sisters of the Mother House who welcomed us with joy and simplicity. Each one contributed to the success of this enriching year.

*The Sisters of Wisdom Year*  
2019-2020



# Say Yes and Take a Step Ahead

While preparing our entrance to the novitiate, we felt great joy when reflecting on God calling our founders, Montfort and Marie Louise, the first disciples and Mary. It was indeed for us a very helpful moment.

We were deeply moved and touched by the humility of Mary in accepting the will of God and her receptivity to the call of God in her life, the openness of heart of Father Montfort and Marie Louise, freely taking steps into the unknown, leaving everything to follow Him. Being inspired by their faith and trust in following Jesus' invitation, we are filled with thanksgiving and happiness on this special and wonderful day. With courage and strength, we say 'YES' and take a step ahead to choose God's will and love on our behalf.

With grateful hearts, we would like to thank the Congregation Leader, Sr. Rani Kurian and the Council, and in a special way, Sr. Gina, the Delegation Leader of Asia Oceania, who officiated this entry, and the Daughters of Wisdom for their love, support and prayers.

As we journey, seeking Christ Wisdom, we kindly ask for the continuation of your help and prayers that we may reach the goal and the desire of our lives in saying yes to God's call.



**Novices- Malawi (left to right) Patricia, Eunice, Sella, Edina, and Memory.**

*The novices from Malawi,  
Philippines*



# Follow me

With grateful hearts, we express joy for this day of our entrance to the International Novitiate of the Daughters of Wisdom in the Philippines. If we were able to take this important step, it is not due to our own merits or efforts. We recognize God's unconditional love leading us to this moment.

In the Gospel of John, we read, "Follow-me." This is the motto we chose as a beacon of light to guide us through the Novitiate. We wish to follow Jesus calling us at each moment and event of our lives, and to let Him lead us to total commitment. We left our boats behind us so that Jesus Wisdom, like a potter, can shape and form us according to his loving heart.

We are just at the beginning of the journey and we cannot predict the future. One thing is certain: the love of Wisdom for us. Therefore, we feel confident, ready and open to the unknown that the Novitiate entails, since it will be the fulfillment of the steps already taken in formation in our own Entity.

We thank our Mother General and her Counsel for accepting our request to be novices of the Congregation. May our prayer accompany them. We also thank Sister Virginie Bitshanda, Delegation Leader of the Congo, and the Sisters, for having taken care of our formation helping us to grow spiritually and as human beings.

Filled with the joy of our entrance to the Novitiate, we entrust ourselves to your prayers. May Mary, seat of Wisdom, help us grow and say our "yes" in union with her "YES". May our Founders intercede for us.

*The novices Congo  
Philippines*



**Congolese novices : (left to right) Godelive, Jacqueline, and Solange**

## SAYING YES TO GOD

At dawn, we woke up to a very unusual beginning as we proceeded to live the special moment of our entrance to the Novitiate. A true gift from God! We are grateful for his wonderful event, as he allows us to experience his infinite love for us. We are chosen by God. As he calls us by name, we are happy to answer “Yes” today to his invitation and we look forward for each moment with joy.

Our life is a journey full of mystery. We don’t know what will happen tomorrow, but we believe that this is the day that God has promised to us. We cannot imagine that we have reached this stage of openness to the grace of God. Jesus said “follow me” so with confidence we have taken a new step to follow him in our formation. We are joyfully singing the hymns of praise to him, wholeheartedly reciting the prayers and committing ourselves to him before his people.

We are also very happy because the day was beautiful. The Sisters and ourselves made it very special, knowing that it is a true gift from God. As novices of first year, we are aware that God draws us to him, and he alone will be our companion on our journey.

With grateful hearts, we thank you, dear Sisters, for praying and supporting us. It is because of your love that we are here today. We give thanks for offering us to God, to our dear parents and relatives and all those who have come into our lives. This is not the end of our journey as it is just the beginning of everything we dream.

“Leave all things and you will find all things by finding Jesus Christ Incarnate Wisdom”

*St. Louis Marie of Montfort.*

*The novices of Indonesia  
Philippines*



**Novianita, Ica, Yohana, Kornelia, Flafiana and Agata**



## *Never Forget the Poor*

Never forget the poor is a key word of Blessed Marie Louise which she lived all through her life spent in the care and service for the poor. The Daughters of Wisdom of the Province of India strive to imitate the values of Marie Louise through their various missions of social service, education and health.



**There is greater joy in giving than in receiving**

During the time of Marie Louise there were many poor people and the option for the poor was the whole mark of her mission. Today, the entire world is suffering with the Covid-19 Pandemic. The people are suffering in ample ways. But poor laborers and migrants who are dependent on daily wages for their survival are the people most affected due to the lock down. We are one with suffering humanity, united with them in special prayers and reaching out to them by distributing kits.



The arrival of Marie Louise to St. Laurent in the year 1720 is very significant for the Daughters of Wisdom. The Entity of India decided to have a very simple celebration with the focus directed towards the poor. Each community contributed items. We came to the Provincial House for packing the food items to distribute to the poor. There was great joy of working together for a cause. We had a simple Eucharistic celebration followed by a fellowship meal on June 13, 2020.

In the afternoon, we went around Bengaluru and distributed the kits to the poor migrants and transgenders. Thus, we brought joy to the people as we visited their places and interacted with them.

*Daughters of Wisdom  
India*



## ***Life of the Poor***

In March, 2020, we learned about the presence of Covid-19 in Kinshasa, spreading a climate of panic and insecurity. We felt powerless on account of the condition of our hospitals, poorly equipped for this pandemic. Moreover, in the eastern part of the country is facing Ebola, a deadly epidemic. Covid-19 adds misery to the country, already experiencing a post-electoral political crisis. This situation causes exorbitant prices of foodstuffs and basic necessities. The poor are getting poorer because shops are closed; large families live day and night with their children as they no longer attend school.

As Daughters of Montfort and Marie-Louise, we feel united with the precariousness experienced by our brothers and sisters. With poor people, we also seek to invent some honest means for survival. The community of the pre-novitiate had many ideas: to make protective masks out of local fabric for the benefit of the poor in the neighborhood. This activity was a true source of life.

We involved Mr. Trésor's family in the making of masks. This man was welcomed with us after having been evicted from his home with his wife and three children. The family lived on the street. Mr. Trésor, a shoemaker was thrown out of his rental place because of failing to pay his rent during the confinement period. During his stay with us, the mask activity sold at low price, bringing him a little money. He also could repair shoes in front of the wall of our fence. His wife was initiated to the sell of lemongrass (herbal tea) giving her also an income.



**The Trésor Family**

This is an action on behalf of poor people. We also financially assisted a woman of the neighborhood who had hemorrhages after giving birth. Without money, the hospital could do nothing for her. We could not remain indifferent in front of this situation, being solicitous to save her life and the life of her baby.

This time of pandemic made us attentive to what the population is experiencing. Our contribution is also to be present and in solidarity with our people as a sign of hope. Our community prayer is often colored by these experiences that we present to the Lord.

*The Sisters of the Prenovitiate  
D.R. of Congo*

# Mayaka Health Center

Mayaka Health Centre is one of the health facilities owned by the Daughters of Wisdom under Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM) in Zomba Diocese. It is situated in a rural area, away from Zomba township and is a hard to reach area. The Centre has a catchment population of 60,313.

The primary target group is the poor community from the surrounding villages whose main income is derived from subsistence farming. These are the people who come to seek medical attention without being adequately prepared to meet the cost of such treatment and they end up leaving unsettled bills. It is with this background that the Health Centre has put in place some measures for infection prevention to control the spread of the virus in the country where the Health systems are already weak.



In line with the directives from the Ministry of Health and the Episcopal Conference of Malawi (ECM), the Centre has put in place the following measures in order to promote infection prevention:

- Introduction of a Covid-19 task force comprising of Departmental members both technical and supporting staff to implement various tasks towards awareness and prevention of Covid-19 within the health facility.
- Morning Assembly from 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 moved from small conference room to Maternal and Child Health (MCH) to allow 2 meters apart for social distancing.
- Hand washing materials put in all health delivery sites that include running water and soap.
- One Entrance and Exit: this system is to control the number of clients/ patients entering into the Facility, for traffic control in wards and to ensure proper screening and triaging.
- Use of Ambulance: The facility has reduced the capacity of passengers in the ambulance and encourages use of infection prevention measures.
- The facility started a novena every morning during assembly from 15<sup>th</sup> April to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020, a suggestion initiated by the Bishop of Zomba Diocese to pray during this time

- Use of Personal Protective Equipment's (PPEs). The Facility procured protective equipment and employees are encouraged to put them on all the time.
- Use of hand sanitizer by technical staff only when discharging out duties.
- Identification of isolation room: a special room identified for Covid-19 suspects admission, so as to manage them separately. Special equipment has been located there.
- Health talk/ Education: Every morning the Facility offers health education to all clients and patients.

So far there is no case that has been identified from the Health center catchment area, however, we continue to do awareness campaigns to the people of this area. This is the only way that will help the people to live in hope and peace during this time of Pandemic.

*Sr. Emma Nazombe  
Malawi*

# The Joy of Being Together



Togetherness means working hand in hand with unity and love. This togetherness brought joy to our being. It was in June, 2019, when we started our journey in the International Pre-Novitiate. It was a great pleasure to live and start our formation program with people from different nationalities and cultures.

On this journey of joy and pain, we were accompanied by the love, laughter, kindness, patience, humility of Sr. Victoria without forgetting her motherly heart. Throughout this one year, we tried our best to learn from her in order to grow and reach where we are today. She generously shared her gifts, talents and time with us and taught us as women how to use our hands.

As a sign of our gratitude, we would like to say "Thank You" very much to Sr. Victoria for her availability in the mission of the Congregation and more especially in our lives. Finally, we appreciate and love the joy of being together with her.

Through the intercession of St. Louis Marie de Montfort and Blessed Marie Louise of Jesus, may God bless her with a fruitful life ahead.

*The Pre-Novices  
International Formation, 2019,  
Philippines*



## PASSING ON THE FLAME



At the request of the Leadership team, Sr. Evelyne Cétoute, from the Province of Haiti, was the initiator of the International French language Novitiate in Clamart, France in 2011. She embarked in a new adventure with courage and kept at heart the concern for a good formation for the novices. From the beginning, Sr. Evelyne implemented an adapted environment allowing each novice to experience an encounter with Christ Wisdom in a multicultural community, rich in sharing and in challenges.

During her 9 years of service, she was fully dedicated to the mission of formator, getting up early and going to bed late. She was considerate and watchful, wisely steering the vessel of formation with the shepherd's staff in her hand to tend the flock under her care and organize the community. She passed on to the novices her passion for Christ Wisdom through frequent reading of the Word of God in Lectio Divina.

Sr. Evelyne carried with her a bag filled with precious documents: Breviary, Bible, Complete works of Montfort, notebook for Lectio Divina, CDs...etc. Rooted in Wisdom Culture, Sr. Evelyne is deeply attached to Montfort, Marie Louise and Wisdom spirituality. Her zeal brought her creativity to invent skits and games to help novices make the transition to the culture of the Congregation.

It was mission accomplished for Sr. Evelyne when she returned to her Province of origin at the end of her term as Formator of the novices. From 2011 to 2020, 74 novices passed by her from many entities: United States, France, Haiti, Madagascar, Maria Luisa and D.R. of Congo.

The community of the International French-language Novitiate expresses its deep appreciation to Sr. Evelyne for her life given at the service of formation. Dear Sr. Evelyne, many thanks for being a living witness for the novices you formed.

*Sisters Claire Pierrel, Jeannelle Daigle,  
Marie Clélie Louis and Patience Bolunda,  
France*