

gives some news from the Sector Council, and Father Bernard on the development (still to be improved) of the national meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Along with this information, some other questions appear; for instance: "Was Mary granted special favour from God to suffer the Passion with her son?"

The sun is still shining through the windows but we must leave to have a time of adoration. That takes place in a small chapel where the Blessed Sacrament is there permanently. The place is simple, nice, mild, and accessible by car. Marie-Thérèse found it. We thank her.

Time flies and we take our pilgrim staff and go back home **to contemplate, live and announce the Word**, our eyes fixed on Mary's and Jesus's eyes. See you soon, very soon, on April 14<sup>th</sup> 2018, in Rennes for our third meeting.

François Aymer de la Chevalerie

### EVENTS TO COME

**FRENCH NATIONAL WEEK END.** 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2018, in the land of our Founders: in Poitiers and its surroundings.

**WEEK END IN GERMANY.** Elfi and Annegret, faithful every year to our weekends, no matter the distance, invite us from Friday November 30<sup>th</sup> to Sunday December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, in Werne. French is spoken.

**SESSION IN PARAY-LE-MONIAL.** From Friday 7<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018, to celebrate the Immaculate Conception and commit youth to Mary and to her Son's Heart

### PRAYER FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE GENERAL CHAPTERS (September 2018)

*God of mercy,*

*We give you thanks for your loving gaze on our religious family  
for our vocation to follow Jesus  
and for the charism which you have given us in our Founders.*

*At this time, in which we sisters and brothers are preparing  
for our General Chapters,*

*We ask that you send us your Holy Spirit.*

*That he may help us to savour you on the journey of life  
and inspire us to recreate our mission within the Church,  
as one congregational body.*

*In this moment of our history, united as one family,  
with one vocation and mission,  
we want to respond to your dreams in an ever-new way.*

*May Mary Queen of Peace,  
be our companion on the journey.*

*We ask you this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.*



## BULLETIN OF THE SS.CC. SECULAR BRANCH IN FRANCE

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### EDITORIAL

It is once again Easter time, those happy days dedicated to our resuscitated Saviour Jesus Christ. After Lent this period is favourable to thinking, meditating and, rediscovering oneself, and often questioning as spring and sunny days come again.

Though like a burning sun, our heart is always not large enough to receive the infinite amount of Love that the gift of self and the Resurrection represent. Still today, faced with the empty tomb, we do not know where to find Him. However the Angel did say: "He is no longer here"!

By the victory of life over death, Jesus grants us this gift because He doesn't resurrect for Himself but for all of us. After these 40 days of slowly journeying, we are carried along by this dynamic of rebirth, like waking up after a long sleep; on Easter morning, we are resurrected with Christ; we are its witnesses. By our baptism, we must work alongside with our neighbor so as not to remain lethargic and so that our life as resurrected ones be our strength to announce this Good News.

In this bulletin you will find news about a few groups in the Fraternity as well as fundamental articles. There are events and dates to remember, especially the national week end that is going to take place this year in Poitiers, the land of our founders, from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2018.

Live in peace and may the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary give you the zeal needed to live our resurrection in all five continents.

Christophe PAVARD,  
Coordinator

**PARIS GROUP.** The idea of taking the time to allow everyone to express something very personal with the intention of creating a greater fraternity in the group might have terrified some people when it was suggested at our meeting after the holidays. However, henceforth during every meeting the sharing takes place during our meal. We learn to better listen to each other.

In December, the words of our “Hail Mary” led us to read Luke 1, 26-28, the gospel of the Annunciation and Luke 1, 40-42, that of the Visitation. It is amazing how these passages became a teaching when we explained to each other our understanding of them. Then arose the question: “what is Mary’s importance in my prayer?” and that led us to the discovery of different and precious tonalities in our ways of praying going from a familiarity with her (she is one of us) to an almost exclusive invocation of the Holy Spirit

In January, before the Christ child’s crib, while reading Luke 2, 4-20 there came forth our heartfelt cries towards Mary: for her solitude and for her precarious giving birth.

- Later, after Joseph and Mary, the shepherds will be the first to adore Jesus, they who are rejected, turned away, are able to welcome that Light more than the learned or well settled people

- This text allows us to perceive love in its many different forms.

- Mary’s “Yes: our “Yes” change our lives a lot; Mary evolved step by step with confidence and abandon.

In February, we thought of Ségolène who was with her dying father. With the Gospel of Cana, Jn 2, 1-11, Father Bernard showed us Mary’s indispensability: “Jesus ‘mother was there. Mary said Yes; that is why Jesus is there; she encourages the manifestation of Jesus, she intercedes for us, she takes care of us. Mary sympathizes with the hosts who have prepared the meal; she is rebuked but keeps faith: “Whatever he says to you, do it”. For Jesus it is a key time when he becomes aware. Meeting someone else makes you grow, advance. Another key time for Jesus is Gethsemane when Jesus accepts his death.”

Gabrielle Thomas

**MONTGERON GROUP.** Why, in the beginning, were we in Paris, first place of the secular branch? After several years, the Paris group became more and more numerous. Then, with the Sector Council, it was decided to separate the group into two. Montgeron was chosen because several people lived in the southeast of Paris. That’s why we created a new group with Father André Mark as religious accompanist and Marie-Agnès Roussiale as animator.

In the beginning, we were not many but, by writing up a flyer and by personal invitations, we managed to raise a group of eight people.

We are still eight, but with a small change because of the election of our leader as the national secretary of the secular branch for the different groups: Paris, Montgeron, Meaux, Poitiers, Brittany, Paray-le-Monial. In September, I, Charles, was elected to replace Marie-Agnès.

As leader, I didn’t change anything in the process of our meetings. First we have a study time on the themes of the year and then we share the meal either cooked or things brought by each member (the list having been established at the previous meeting). Then we have a time of prayer to end the day. The prayer is prepared by each in turn.

This is what we do in Montgeron where meet at the Picpus Fathers’ house.

Charles Roucayrols

**RENNES-NANTES (=BRITTANY) GROUP.** On February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018, on a chilly winter day with magnificent sun, that of Christ Transfigured, the Brittany team of the fraternity, according to its Picpus Founders, was to meet at Brigitte and François’ home. Our indispensable Father Bernard Couronne is there having bravely started out before dawn and driven in the dark to Rennes. We thank him doubly.

Everyone is there except Solange whose husband has just come home from hospital. We pray for him.

Our unwavering ladies from Nantes have bravely travelled the 62 miles to reach us in Rennes; bravo!

Of course, we miss Solange a lot but to our great surprise Claudie from the Poitiers group joined us. Brigitte and François were the friends in on the secret. Everybody welcomes her with great joy. She is a good example of faithfulness to our spirituality: she only wanted to hear one of father Bernard’s teaching that she previously missed in Poitou.

At 10am, warmly inside, the usual cup of coffee is welcome. Then Father proposes the morning prayer of the day in link with the day’s theme: **Compassionate Mary**. We share and offer to the Lord our request for graces or our deep gratitude. After that, as the sun fills the room, Father overshadows this light by his clear message. It is so powerful, clear and simply given that it is already an intercessory prayer. With him we like to imbue ourselves in Compassionate Mary, almost alone at the bottom of the cross, her **eyes** turned up to **her crucified Son**. Let’s be called forth by this intense and deep glances exchanged between the Mother and her Son, Mary’s flesh of her flesh; **their look is beyond words** and in some way is part of the crucifixion, part of God’s redemptory mission and love for humanity

Those powerful exchanged glances, those still, and magnetized eyes, that, inseparable look towards one another expressing the Mother’s and Son’s redemptory suffering! It leaves us speechless, thankful and must lead us, train us to adore as our founders taught and lived: Good Mother Henriette and Good Father Pierre Coudrin.

Time flies in spite of us and we must go to mass at the Dominican Friars where Father Bernard concelebrates after a warm welcome from the Prior.

Then we go back for lunch, our brother stomachs demanding more or less vigorously. This time shared creates a greater friendship between the members.

In the afternoon, we receive various information: the group in Rennes has planned three meetings of 90 minutes on St Peter’s first epistle, chap. 1 and 2, linked with **requirements of the New Life and Regeneration by the Word** (dec 8<sup>th</sup>, January 19<sup>th</sup>, March 23<sup>rd</sup>). Benoît