

MISSION ...

To be on mission... AT THE HOSPITAL AND IN RETIREMENT HOMES (Loudéac - France)



As a retired teacher, I left behind the world of childhood, its innocence and fragility, to find in Brittany a world of little difference : that of wisdom, of old age and also of fragility.

The Chaplain asked me to join the team, « Fraternal Presence » which visits people who are no longer mobile in order to lighten the weight of their solitude. Talking a while with them helps them not to lose their ability to speak. If they wish, we pray with them and in song we invoke « Our Lady of Perpetual Help », and we bring Communion to them. To suggest receiving communion to a person who is old and tired, obliges us to listen attentively, to be fully aware of their experience so as to enable them to enter into a time of recollection and peace, and to find the Word of God which nourishes them.

This service strengthens my faith, it is a source of thanksgiving for the example these people give me for life and I ask in prayer that they will find comfort in the Bread of Life and the Word of God.



Sr Madeleine

To be on mission... 'IS TO SOW ALL ALONG THE PATHWAYS' ... (Tréguier - France)

Before Mass, I was in the Cathedral looking for a place. I saw one beside a young person of 13 or 14 years old, rather obese, playing with his mobile phone, not knowing how to behave... I approached him and started a conversation: « *what a lovely mobile you have ! It is three times bigger than mine! You are so lucky ! if you wish we could try to pray with all these Christians here in the Cathedral... »* ».

During the Mass, I prompt him with a few words... to listen... to offer.... above all at the moment of Consecration « *Jesus is present... we bow our head to tell Him that we welcome Him »* At another time I invite him to pray for Pope Francis ... for all Christians, for the dead, « *Perhaps you know of some ? »* - « Yes » he answers... » *Let us ask them to help us... to help all of your family so that our lives may be good... At Communion*

time he went to Communion and then he came back to the same place. After a few moments in silence I said, « *You have received Jesus and so have I.. Let us pray... « would you like to pray for me and I will pray for you?»* » « Yes » he said. « *What is your name ? »* « J » « *I am Marie-Clotilde »...*

At the end of Mass a lady came up and said to J «You were so well behaved during Mass, I congratulate you ! » I asked him, « who was that lady ? » « My catechist », he answered. I said, « So you will see her again this afternoon... listen to her and ask her some questions. » He answered « Yes ».

A little before five o'clock, I met the catechist and she said to me, « J. asked me two deep and intelligent questions. His class mates said to him, « J. that was really good... bravo. » »

At the end of course assessments the catechist commented on how well he had prepared for his Confirmation.

From this little example, I understand better the words of Jesus : « *Go spread the Good News, without a change of tunic, sandals on your feet or a staff in your hand. »*

Sr Marie Clotilde

MISSION ...

To be on mission... IS TO BE 'ON THE WAY' ... (Tréguier - France)



On the way... towards elderly people from our area, towards dozens of residents of Residential Homes and towards the sick in the Hospital St Michel. They all wait for a visit, those moments when they can talk, remember and feel connected with life « outside ». Some wish to receive communion and I have the joy of sharing the Scripture reading with them before giving them the « Bread of Life » to fortify them on their journey...

On the way... each week to the premises of the Catholic Social Services which meets a variety of need : a little advice, some listening, some material help and also a time of conviviality when I can share the little « skills » which I have acquired myself with people who want to learn to knit, to make little objects ... to sell at the annual sale of work.

On the way also... towards the Cathedral to dust, to decorate with flowers.... Around the Isle there are several little side Chapels... to be taken care of ! The « venerable Lady » who is almost six centuries old ! seeks attention and a whole team works regularly to care for her.



And this *path* ... is a source of joy as I join the parish choir each Friday.. an activity which is an agreeable way of expressing in song what we live and of exercising our lungs !

Sr Germaine

