

English Edition

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EDITORIAL

The Canonization of Marie Eugenie of Jesus

Partage Auteuil #79 recorded for posterity the Canonization event, tracing the path from the Beatification to the Canonization. It highlighted as well the main events of the Triduum of the Canonization through the Homilies of the different Eucharistic Celebrations for the Vigil, the Canonization itself and the Mass of Thanksgiving the day after.

Today we look back and recognize that the time before the Canonization was for us, members of the Assumption family a long period of patient waiting. However it became an important moment to deepen our interior spiritual preparation, walking further with Marie Eugenie in our path of holiness so that we could receive with greater openness the special grace of the Canonization for the Congregation and for our times.

On December 16, Pope Benedict XVI recognized the validity of the miracle attributed to Marie Eugenie. This event started the last stage of preparations and one could sense the ripples of excitement around the globe... a thousand and one things had to be arranged in a short time.

Then **we found ourselves in Rome**, under the sea of colorful umbrellas joyfully celebrating with the Church the holiness of St. Marie Eugenie of Jesus.

It was June 3, 2007.

The bells of St. Peter Basilica resounded before thousands of pilgrims who were able to make it to Rome. However the ringing of the bells did not end there - it continued on and on during the next few months in the different parts of the world. The initial experience in Rome found a fuller expression in the national and local acts of thanksgiving - celebrations that cut across the 4 continents, celebrations colored by a variety of cultures and joyfully expressed in a diversity of languages. These celebrations took place in Cathedrals, local churches, small chapels and even in places where the Assumption is no longer present. The celebration continued wherever the spirit of the Assumption had taken roots.

The Canonization grace continues to be shared.

St. Marie Eugenie is being recognized and honored.

The local Churches recognized her spirituality, her charism, her contribution to today's society.

It is now a year after the Canonization. It is time to gather the experiences of these joyful events of thanksgiving the world over. It is time to share together the joy that has been multiplied many times over and to look in amazement at the work of God in the Assumption.

Partage Auteuil # 80 is thus dedicated to offer you glimpses of the worldwide celebrations. You will find in it a variety and a diversity of celebrations, an

expression of the international character of the Congregation. Amidst this plurality one discovers common experiences, expressions of appreciation, meaningful moments that appear in many of the accounts of the celebration.

♦ The growing involvement and participation of lay partners and friends

“From the very beginnings of the Assumption, M. Marie Eugenie of Jesus saw that collaboration and sharing between Sisters and lay people would be essential accomplishing the work she had undertaken. Some years ago we begun to take this path again... but we never imagined that Assumption Together would grow the way it has. We are deeply grateful for this grace.”

Gen. Chap. 2006, Assumption Together

“In Rome - we had a “mini”-epiphany... of Assumption Together. We saw with our own eyes....6, 000 pilgrims gathered together in Marie Eugenie’s honor.”
(Sr. Diana)

In the local scenes the “mini”-epiphany of Assumption Together was duplicated... lay friends and partners initiated, organized, animated the celebrations and assured a beautiful spiritual experience for all. It is impossible to imagine the Assumption today without the lay partners for “together we reveal the new face of the Church.”

♦ The drawing force of M Marie Eugenie’s spirituality for the lay.

The Canonization event (national and local) confirmed the spiritual path of Marie Eugenie. Friends and partners witnessed to the transformation taking place in their personal lives as they follow the path of holiness of Marie Eugenie and grow in their relationship with her. A growing number of the laity is listening to the invitation to enter into the Way of Life in the Assumption.

♦ The confirmation of our charism of Transformative Education

The confirmation comes primarily from the church authorities, bishops and priests, celebrants of the Thanksgiving Masses. They speak about their appreciation for the apostolic/missionary value of our mission... “the transformation and humanization of situations and persons.” This education flows from faith and is accomplished as community, lay and religious together.

The confirmation also comes from the presence of graduates, members of the parish and social centers who worked extensively for the celebration and witnessed their love for Marie Eugenie.

♦ The Theme for the Canonization

“The earth, a place of glory for God” has been reflected on, shared in community spoken about in public or sung in unison.... “Si, la tierra es ese lugar....” We understand the boldness of this vision and we commit ourselves to continue building up the Kingdom of God.

As you read through the pages of Partage Auteuil #80 may your heart continue to burn and be refreshed with the joy experienced at the

Canonization. May it continue to invite you to holiness and may you continue to make a difference in your small sphere of influence.

Sr Marie Emmanuel

1. ABUNDANT ACTS OF THANKSGIVING

1.1. Africa

In Central Africa: Kinshasa

Dès l'annonce de la nouvelle par le Pape et la Congrégation, nous nous sommes mises à préparer joyeusement cet événement avec la grande famille Assomption présente à Kinshasa: Il s'agit des Augustin de l'Assomption (AA), Les Oblates missionnaires de l'Assomption (O.A), les Petites Sœurs de l'Assomption (P.S.A). Chacune de ces familles considérait l'événement comme son affaire, et s'était engagée pour sa réussite. Ce fut une occasion pour la grande famille de se faire connaître à Kinshasa, à travers les medias, les conférences, les journaux et revues de la ville. Ce fut aussi une occasion de renforcer nos liens en tant que membres de famille. Nous avons vécu et sommes contentes de ce que Sainte Marie Eugénie de Jésus nous a légué comme héritage. Plusieurs rencontres soit à Lemba, soit à Massina dans la communauté des AA ou PSA, nous ont aidées à clarifier de jour en jour ce que nous voulions vivre ensemble et partager de notre Sainte Mère Marie Eugénie de Jésus. Nous nous sommes organisés par commissions pour faciliter la tâche aux uns et aux autres. Dans chacune des commissions, se trouvait au moins un membre de chaque famille Assomption. Ainsi, chaque communauté était informée, au fur et à mesure, du désir de Sainteté et du chemin que nous voulions parcourir ensemble.

La semaine avant le 03 Juin, nous avons organisé un Triduum qui nous a aidées à être en communion avec tous ceux qui ont pu être à Rome pour la circonstance. Ainsi, nous voilà en route :

Le 31 Mai, de 17 h à 18h 30, ce fut l'Adoration du Saint Sacrement à la paroisse Divin Maître de Massina (paroisse dirigée par les A.A), suivi des vêpres.

Le 01 Juin, c'était la table ronde dans notre communauté de Lemba de 16h 30 à 19h, suivi des vêpres. Ce moment de partage et d'échanges mutuels nous a replongés dans nos origines. Nous avons revus le dynamisme qui habitait nos fondateurs et les mettait en route pour la mission. Ce fut un moment d'interpellation pour chacun : aujourd'hui, en face de nos réalités, que devons nous faire en tant qu'héritiers du don de Dieu reçu de nos fondateurs ? Ici, chaque participant a revu en quoi Dieu peut se servir de lui pour la rediffusion de son Evangile.

Le 2 Juin, nous clôturons le Triduum par l'Adoration suivie des vêpres, dans la communauté des AA à Ngaliema. Cette communauté a eu la gentillesse de nous offrir un verre « d'eau d'amitié » à la fin de la prière et comme ouverture de la fête de la canonisation de notre Sainte Mère. Pendant les deux soirées d'Adoration, un texte de M.M. Eugénie et un passage de l'Evangile de St. Jean sur l'Eucharistie étaient lus et commentés par l'Animateur. Pendant ces trois jours, certains laïcs ont manifesté leur soutien par une présence régulière.

Le 03 Juin, un documentaire a été présenté dans plusieurs chaînes de télévision pour faire connaître M.M. Eugénie et la grande famille Assomption. Plusieurs journaux n'ont pas manqué de publier des articles concernant la vie de la Sainte et

la mission actuelle de la Congrégation.

Nous restons très reconnaissantes des efforts des uns et des autres dans la réalisation de cet événement.

Le grand Jour à Lemba

Le 09 Juin à 10 heures, la messe d'action de grâce fut célébrée par le Père Toussaint ILUKU, Missionnaire du Sacre Cœur. C'était une célébration à multiples visages. La grande famille Assomption, les élèves, les professeurs, Les paroissiens de Saint Augustin, les familles des sœurs, les amis, tous étaient contents de cette journée de grâce.

Deux chorales animèrent la Messe, celle des filles du Lycée Mpiko, et celle de la paroisse des AA à Massina. La liturgie fut belle, simple et joyeuse. Les lectures furent celles du 10 Mars.

Pendant l'homélie, le célébrant a expliqué le sens de la Sainteté dans l'Eglise, et pourquoi l'Eglise catholique proclame saints les hommes et les femmes qui ont vécu comme nous. Ceci l'a emmené à expliquer aux chrétiens qu'être saint ne signifie pas être sans péché, mais, la sainteté dans l'Eglise est plutôt un état de communion permanent avec Dieu de par le baptême. Le Père nous a exhortés à travailler davantage à promouvoir le sens de la liberté dans les jeunes que nous éduquons. Il a invité les chrétiens à se dépasser et à se mettre au service des autres comme a fait M.M.E en son temps.

Au moment de l'offertoire, nous avons offert au Seigneur, un globe électrique et des drapeaux des différents pays où l'Assomption est présente. Ces symboles étaient placés devant la photo de M.M.E., au pied de l'autel, signifiant notre œuvre vivante et croissante à travers le monde.

Au début et à la fin de la célébration Eucharistique, Sœur Françoise a pris la parole pour accueillir les invités et dire un mot sur la Sainte. Le mot de la fin était pour remercier chacun de sa présence et de son désir de devenir saint.

Le Père Landu, A.A, était le Moniteur. Les filles de notre Lycée assuraient le service du protocole. Cette célébration eucharistique fut joyeuse, priante, simple et belle. L'Eglise était pleine à craquer.

Après la célébration Eucharistique, nous nous sommes retrouvés au sein du lycée Mpiko Pour les différentes activités culturelles préparées par nos élèves, et pour un verre d'amitié. Entre autres, les filles ont mimé la vie de M.M.E et les débuts de la Congrégation. Ce fut un moment passionnant pour tous.

Notons aussi la participation physique et matérielle de chaque famille Assomption, de l'équipe éducative et de quelques amis de l'Assomption. Avaient été présents les familles de nos sœurs Congolaises et presque toutes celles qui ont été à l'Assomption. L'implication de tous a été à l'origine de la réussite de cette journée de fête. Nous pouvons dire que cette journée d'action de grâce a profondément marquée notre histoire et celle de notre peuple. Désormais, nous pouvons avancer pleines de confiance, vers le chemin de la Sainteté, à l'exemple de la Sainte Marie Eugénie de Jésus.

Que le Seigneur qui nous a appelés à la Sainteté depuis notre baptême, nous accompagne sur ce chemin jour après jour, selon le désir profond de notre cœur.

In Central Africa: Cameroon

L'année dernière a été pour notre région comme pour toute la congrégation une année de grâce. Notre Région comprend deux pays, Cameroun et Congo, mais je ne témoignerais que de la célébration du Cameroun comme participante en ce lieu. En effet la canonisation de notre mère fondatrice Sainte Marie Eugénie a marqué d'une façon particulière les sœurs, amis et jeunes du Cameroun. Elle a été pour nous l'occasion, de partager avec notre entourage le plus proche l'héritage que nous a laissé notre sainte mère. Beaucoup de nos contemporains ont appris à mieux connaître l'Assomption, surtout ils ont compris que l'action des religieuses de l'Assomption sur cette partie du monde qu'est le Cameroun a plus de valeur si elle y associe des laïcs d'où il nous est nécessaire de nous mettre ensemble pour étendre le règne de J-C dans les âmes en nous inspirant d'une spiritualité propre à M-E. Nous sommes convaincus que cette union entre laïcs et sœurs rend notre spiritualité plus efficace pour la transformation d'une société comme la nôtre. Nous espérons que les fruits seront aussi visibles par la grâce de Dieu. Avant même de savoir le résultat du consistoire, nous avons travaillé à composer des chants et à les enregistrer. Ceci a donné un très beau CD que l'on entend chanter dans les chorales tout en appréciant ce talent longtemps caché des religieuses de l'Assomption.

Dès l'annonce de la canonisation, la région a fait imprimer des pagnes et tous; sœurs et laïcs, se sont mobilisés pour la vente. Ceci dans le but d'aider le plus grand nombre de chrétiens à se joindre à nous extérieurement par des souvenirs palpables pour célébrer ce grand évènement. Plusieurs réunions ont été aussi faites dans le but de transmettre cet héritage spirituel de notre mère ME à nos chrétiens à travers les conférences... C'est dans cette idée que chaque communauté a cherché comment sensibiliser leurs amis à la préparation de ce grand évènement.

La communauté de Baham après avoir organisé plusieurs rassemblements des chrétiens de leur paroisse pendant trois mois pour expliquer la vie de M. Eugénie et le sens de la cérémonie à Rome a voulu par une nuit d'adoration le 01 juin nous aider à vivre la canonisation en union avec la grande famille Assomption présente à Rome. La veillée réunissait la communauté de Bafoussam, les novices et les amis de Baham. Le curé, Sr Chantal et Mr Dieudonné ont fait des causeries sur ME. Une sensibilisation a été faite dans deux chaînes de radio ainsi que dans le journal catholique « *L'effort camerounais* ».

Au niveau de Bafoussam, les jeunes Assomption se sont mobilisés pour les activités qui devaient précéder la célébration nationale prévue pour le 16 juin à la cathédrale de Bafoussam. Ils ont voulu vivre cet évènement avec

ceux de Yaoundé qui depuis quelques mois prévoyaient une rencontre entre les deux groupes Jeunes. La célébration a donc commencé dans notre paroisse avec un triduum d'activités qui nous a fait sentir plus que jamais le zèle de nos jeunes amis pour le royaume.

Le mercredi 13 juin, nous avons joué une pièce théâtrale, composée par une novice sur la vie de ME, et ce fut une belle ouverture qui a marqué la vie des jeunes. Nous étions contents de découvrir et d'apprécier leurs talents.

Le jeudi 14 juin, nous avons fait une table ronde sur la spiritualité de mère ME et l'éducation à l'Assomption. L'intervention très riche de recherches des sœurs Astrid et Chantal, puis de monsieur Thaddée (laïc assomption) nous ont instruits sur la vie de ME, de la congrégation et surtout du caractère particulier de l'éducation à l'Assomption. La participation de la foule par des questions intéressantes fut très bénéfique pour l'ensemble. Ce même soir, nous avons accueilli les jeunes de Yaoundé dans la cour de l'Institut Technique Assomption. A leur arrivée, ils ont fait une grande animation qui a favorisé la fraternité et a permis à tous de manifester la joie d'être fils et filles de ME, de l'Assomption.

Le vendredi 15 nous avons eu dans la matinée les conférences prévues pour la rencontre entre les deux groupes. Le thème central intitulé '*le jeune chrétien face à la mondialisation*' fut introduit par sr Beatriz qui a allié d'autres thèmes que nous avons approfondis en atelier.

La sainteté dans l'Eglise à la lumière de la sainteté de ME fut exposée par sr Carmen qui nous a aidées à cerner la différence entre la perfection et la sainteté -don de Dieu-.

L'Assomption ensemble (sœurs, laïcs, amis, jeunes) pour un nouveau visage d'Eglise dans le monde fut exposé par M. Dieudonné Kamdem, responsable régional des amis de l'Assomption qui nous a aidé à comprendre le sens profond de l'Eglise où chacun est membre d'une famille avec des devoirs, rôles et droits.

Le thème central « *le jeune chrétien face à la mondialisation* » a été exposé par l'Abbé Gustave Tanekou curé d'une paroisse voisine. Il a donné des pistes pouvant nous aider à user de ce grand outil qu'est le net sans usurper ses bienfaits ni les dévier. Il y a ensuite encouragé des recherches car son usage est presque incontournable aujourd'hui dans une société où la mondialisation se manifeste dans tous les domaines.

Dans l'après midi, les deux groupes, pétris de l'unité à laquelle a si bien œuvrée ME, ont livré un grand concert de musique religieuse. L'harmonie des pas, l'éclat du sourire comme le rayonnement de leur visage traduisait la joie profonde qu'habitaient les cœurs de ces jeunes célébrant ensemble la joie d'une vie offerte à Dieu, d'une sainte offerte comme modèle par l'Eglise à notre temps.

Après toutes ces préparations locales, ce fut le moment clé ; la grande célébration nationale dans la paroisse saint Albert le grand de Tamdja-Bafoussam. Là nous avons eu une belle eucharistie riche de l'homélie de

l'évêque et du partage des sœurs ayant pris part à la cérémonie du 03 juin à Rome. Nous avons été vraiment touchées par le sens de la responsabilité et de la collaboration entre Assomption ensemble dans l'exécution des tâches qui étaient confiées à chacun de ses membres. La procession de la parole a été faite par les sœurs diocésaines au pas du « Ngu » (danse traditionnelle réservée uniquement au roi) inculturé à l'honneur de notre Seigneur et Roi Jésus-Christ. Dans son homélie, Mgr a exprimé sa reconnaissance à la congrégation pour son don incessant au diocèse à travers son œuvre d'éducation et l'a encouragé à rester fidèle à la spiritualité, au charisme de ME. Avant la bénédiction finale, toutes les sœurs se sont avancées en dansant au pied de l'autel du Seigneur pour chanter sous les acclamations et les cris de joie de la foule leur action de grâce. Après la réception donnée par la Région, la fête s'est terminée à l'institut technique Assomption par une soirée festive de sketches, poèmes et jeux entre les sœurs et les jeunes.

Le dimanche après les échanges entre les deux groupes jeunes, nous avons fini par un match de football et une sortie à la chefferie du lieu. Pendant l'évaluation les jeunes ont exprimé leur désir de se former à la spiritualité assomption et à la parole de Dieu, d'être davantage guidés et conseillés par les sœurs. Ils ont également exprimé profondément leur attachement désormais plus fort à l'Assomption et leur souhait d'aider les autres à en profiter pour nourrir leur Foi par l'effort de chaque membre. Ceci pour que ME soit de plus en plus connue et que les membres de l'Assomption-Ensemble montent davantage comme Marie, attirés vers les réalités d'en haut.

Merci, pour le Cameroun, les religieuses de L'Assomption

In East Africa: Tanzania, Moshi - 1 September 2007

There was great joy as we happily shared a memorable occasion on 1st September 2007 at Moshi Cathedral in Tanzania when we celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the Province as well as rejoiced in the canonization of Mother Marie Eugenie.

The Jubilee Year was officially opened 29th August 2006 and this began the spiritual and material preparations which included retreats, community sharing, and meeting with our students and lay people. Committees of both Sisters and lay friends ensured excellent practical arrangements. It was so providential that the Church recognized the holiness of Mother Marie Eugenie just at this time so that we were able to enjoy this wonderful double celebration - real holiness recognized and such great fidelity over many years! A time to thank God for a Saint of our time, who now belongs not just to the Assumption, but to the whole Church.

The first foundation of our Congregation in East Africa has marked our Province and mission as Assumption Sisters. Mandaka, the place where God first placed us has given dynamism and rooted us in our African reality. Thus,

just like a mustard seed, our Province emerged from this poor village. The name “Mandaka” means a place of rejected youth. Yet, it was this place, which first gave new life and opportunity to our young girls. It was in September 1957, that Sisters Veronica, Martha Mary, Agnes Mary and Rocio from the English Province arrived as pioneers to open Mandaka Middle school in the diocese of Moshi. Later the Sisters opened a Training College and then a Secondary School. The holistic education, so typical of Marie Eugenie, became a life-changing experience for so many young people in our society. It is that Assumption spirit of education that led us to open Assumpta College in 1961, and secondary schools in Kibosho 1970, Sangiti 1990 and Kereita in Kenya in 1971. Today the Province of East Africa counts 7 communities with a number of projects centered on education, so important in our society. On re-reading this history of our 50 years, we are affirmed in the belief that “all is grace” and that our first foundation was truly a stepping stone in our Assumption life. Thus in an attitude of infinite joy, we began the jubilee to thank God for calling the Assumption to be a sign of hope and to give life in our society. Our celebration started with a day’s visit to Mandaka College, on 31st August, thus returning to our roots. There was a thanksgiving mass in the presence of our Superior General Sr Diana, her two councilors Srs Maria Emmanuel and Martine, our Sisters from different Provinces like U.S.A and England, the Provincial from Northern Europe, the Regional Superior of Central Africa, Sisters from Rwanda and many of our lay people from different countries. We also had with us two of the Missionary Sisters of the Assumption from South Africa.

A beautiful vigil held at Singa Chini, now the centre of our Province, continued our celebrations. This was a time of joyful sharing the liturgy of the Church with our Christian friends and neighbors.

The 1st September was a wonderful day for the Church of Moshi, friends, and former students, marking the major thanksgiving celebration for both our jubilee and the canonization of St Marie Eugenie. It was the first time that our local Christians witnessed such a thanksgiving for a new saint in the diocese. There was a great desire of our people to learn more about this saint. We were happy to have with us, Sr Martha Mary, one of the pioneers, who was welcomed lovingly by so many of her former students and teachers. She was happy to greet many of them, even remembering their names!

During the mass, our bishop in his homily expressed his appreciation of our presence in East Africa and all that we have done in the field of education. Talking of the holiness of Mother Marie Eugenie, he said that holiness is attained through the simple living of our daily life. Knowing us well, he said, “In this congregation there is a grain of holiness. You see these Sisters who are everywhere, working everywhere, even in the market places? It’s there where we get the saints”. He urged us to maintain our charism and “go to the deep waters”, as we struggle to accomplish our mission with courage.

Sr Diana addressed our people at the end of Mass. She began by saying a whole-hearted “thank you” for everything! This was a theme that marked the whole day. She urged us to keep the spirit of the Assumption alive in our society as St Marie Eugenie had longed to do in hers. The words of Sr Diana remain a challenge to us in handing over the work of the Lord to a new generation. As Mass ended, the novices sang and danced a Magnificat that expressed what was within the hearts of each one of us. God has done so much for us and thus we “proclaim the greatness of the Lord”.

Later we feasted with dances and sharing of meal with all our people. Of course we also shared our traditional Chagga “cake”, in the form of a whole roasted and decorated goat! The Bishop, as the Chief in older times, fed each guest with a tiny piece of meat.

The following day was a Family Day for the Assumption, including our lay people. Sr Diana was happy in the morning to speak to everyone, so that the joys of this time could be shared. It was clear that many were deeply touched by all they had experienced, especially the internationality of the Congregation and spoke with great appreciation and enthusiasm.

The end of our celebrations was marked by a ceremony at which the Bishop “broke the turf” at Chekereni village outside Moshi, a neglected area, where we hope in the future to carry on our mission of education by beginning a school to be called “St Marie Eugenie Secondary School”. The bishop blessed the land and planted a tree, as did Sr Diana.

All this year has been for us a time when we recognized in a special way God’s hand in our Province, a time when we joyfully recalled our beginnings and felt a new dynamism to allow us to build the future. We felt called as a Province to open another chapter of our lives and be foundresses of today. As at “Mandaka”, God leads us again to a choice of death or life as we remember our original grace of education in the Assumption.

We are so grateful for all your kind words and congratulations. We felt united with all our Sisters at this time; daughters together of our Mother Marie Eugenie. For surely “*It is God who guides everything*”

Your Sisters of the East African Province

Ju Rwanda-Chad: KIGALI

Une journée fort attendue ! Une journée bien ensoleillée, ce dimanche 19 Août ! A partir de 11 heures, la Cathédrale Saint Michel est témoin d’un événement hors du commun !

Qui est cette Sainte qui a mobilisé tout le pays ? Qui est cette Sainte acclamée par les jeunes et les moins jeunes et dont la Radio Maria Rwanda parle depuis plus d’une année !!!

Evêques, Prêtres, Religieux et Religieuses, Laïcs et Amis (es), Anciens et Anciennes de l’Assomption sommes au rendez-vous afin de rendre grâce à

Dieu pour Sainte Marie Eugénie de Jésus. Une ambiance de fête et de joie accueille au rythme des tambours tous ceux qui viennent participer à la célébration.

A 13 heures précises, l'Eucharistie commence par une belle procession ! Les Religieuses de l'Assomption ainsi que des représentants des jeunes et des laïcs Assomption y participent. Chacun d'eux porte à la main un lampion et va le déposer au pied de l'icône de Sainte Marie Eugénie : Jésus - christ a illuminé toute la vie de Sainte Marie Eugénie et aujourd'hui, Il illumine aussi la nôtre et nous conduit à la sainteté.

L'ambiance manifeste que Sainte Marie Eugénie est connue et aimée ! Pourtant, la célébration a quelque chose de plus : non seulement nous admirons la sainte mais nous sommes tous invités à oser la sainteté ! Quel bonheur !!!

Dans son homélie, Monseigneur Thaddée NTIHINYURWA, Archevêque de Kigali trace en quelques lignes la vie de la Sainte. Il montre que si l'on considère l'enfance et l'adolescence d' Anne Eugénie, en se situant uniquement au niveau humain, on a du mal à la voir destinée à être ce qu' elle a été pour Dieu, pour l'Eglise et pour le monde. Cela montre clairement que la sainteté un don de Dieu !

Il souligne aussi le rôle des prêtres dans le cheminement de Sainte Marie Eugénie et invite tous ceux qui ont la responsabilité de guider les âmes à le faire dans l'humilité et le respect, sachant que « C'est Dieu qui conduit tout. » Dans ce travail, dit-il, « il faut accepter d'être de simples instruments de Dieu afin de ne pas se poser en obstacles à son action ».

Dans son allocution faite après la communion, Sœur Césarie Marie, Supérieure Provinciale (Rwanda /Tchad) revient sur le fait que Sainte Marie Eugénie a puisé ses forces en Jésus Christ, afin de se donner totalement et librement : « *Mon regard est tout en Jésus Christ et en l'extension de son règne* » (MME). Elle explicite aussi le thème : la terre, lieu de gloire pour Dieu, en le reliant aux différents aspects de notre charisme. Elle nous appelle tous, à la suite de Sainte Marie Eugénie, à aimer notre temps, notre pays, notre histoire, avec ses bénédictions, ses ombres et ses souffrances.

Ce message est illustré par une danse des jeunes exécutant et mimant un chant composé pour la canonisation.

Quelle joie ensuite de voir les supérieures de nos communautés recevoir de l'Evêque une bougie allumée accompagnée de cette parole : « Reçois cette lumière, qu'elle ne s'éteigne jamais ! » Une responsabilité pour nous toutes ! La journée est clôturée autour d'un verre d'amitié ! Tous les visages rayonnent de joie et on sent fortement la présence de Sainte Marie Eugénie, dont tous disent : "Elle est notre Sainte" ! Le cheminement vers la canonisation et la célébration de cet événement ont mis en relief la force "d'Assomption ensemble", un fruit dont Sainte Marie Eugénie se réjouit certainement au ciel.

Vive Sainte Marie Eugénie de Jésus ! Vive l'Assomption du ciel et de la terre !

In Rwanda-Chad: Gikondo

Ainsi fut-il fait le 8 mars 2008 en la Paroisse de Gikondo, paroisse de la Maison Provinciale !

Une Eucharistie solennelle rassemblait quelques paroissiens et 7 prêtres de la communauté pallottine à qui est confiée cette paroisse. Il faut dire que la maison régionale et une imprimerie célèbre sont logées aussi dans cette paroisse, d'où le nombre impressionnant de prêtres ! Des sœurs de Kabuye, Gikondo, et une délégation de Mukarange, Birambo et Rwaza s'étaient parées pour la fête !

La messe fut préparée et animée par la communauté et un groupe de jeunes qui se constitue en union pieuse tendant vers une congrégation religieuse de spiritualité franciscaine ! Leur nom ? Les disciples de la croix glorieuse ! Ils ont une chorale remarquable qui chante tous les samedis à la paroisse. C'était leur tour ! Messe très bien chantée et célébrée avec dignité et simplicité à la fois !

Homélie très profonde de notre ami, le père Régional, François Harelimana.

L'entrée, bougies en mains, en procession, des Sœurs et des Responsables des communautés ecclésiales de base Marie Eugénie a embelli le début de la messe.

Après la messe, ce fut comme il se doit, un moment de rencontre pour un verre d'amitié où nous avons visionné la canonisation à Rome. Nous avons ainsi goûté à la grande célébration de Rome qui nous a fait vibrer au cœur de l'Eglise. Les différentes manifestations de la nuit de la Jeunesse ont soulevé l'enthousiasme des jeunes.

Parmi les participants, les jeunes de Lubeck en expérience à Rwaza ! Elles ont été impressionnées par la participation et Sr Goretti Emmanuel qui avait la parole ce jour-là, les a présentées comme des « petites filles » de Marie Eugénie !

Les communautés de base qui ont choisi Marie Eugénie de Jésus, comme patronne, s'étaient préparées avec les sœurs pour cette grande fête, la première pour elles : une journée de prière et d'adoration dans notre chapelle + quelques rencontres ensemble pour mieux préparer la fête sans oublier des causeries sur Marie Eugénie afin de mieux la connaître pour mieux l'imiter !

Ces communautés sont différentes : deux de la paroisse dont une est d'origine congolaise. La troisième nous venait de l'Université où des étudiants se groupent aussi en petite communauté de partage et de prière. Toutes les trois ont célébré avec nous. Elles désirent renouveler l'expérience. Ce n'était pas fini ! Il a fallu attendre la fin du Carême pour qu'elles aussi célèbrent : nous avons déjà participé à la première célébration le 6 avril !

Marie Eugénie était à l'honneur : des petits de 7-8 ans ont chanté et dansé Marie Eugénie animée par un jeune adolescent : « Marie Eugénie prie pour nous et conduis-nous à Jésus » C'était beau ! Ils considèrent qu'ils ont reçu de Dieu Seul, Marie Eugénie comme patronne, car ils ne connaissaient rien de l'Assomption ni de Marie Eugénie !

Les Sœurs présentes ont parlé longuement d'elle. Ils étaient très pris et très émerveillés de sa vie. Elle est désormais leur Sainte !

Sainte Marie Eugénie est bien vivante !

Elle nous a ouvert une porte... Le Royaume de Dieu est au milieu de nous !

Sœur Marie Anne Bernard, doyenne de la Province !

1.2. America

Central America-Cuba

The canonization has been Good News which made thousands of pilgrims from all continents travel to the heart of the Assumption family.

In our Province two groups of former students from Nicaragua and El Salvador were organised, and one group of 80 pilgrims among which were students, fathers of families, persons from the administration, teachers, former pupils, religious... in short all those who are part of our Assumption family. We left for the old continent to join the celebration during which Marie Eugenie of Jesus would be proclaimed Saint among the Saints of heaven in Rome on 3rd June.

In our Province there was no place, no region, no person where the canonization of Saint Marie Eugenie of Jesus was not celebrated with joy. Thus, from May 20th until November 10th there were innumerable activities to make the heritage of Marie Eugenie known and in our usual family spirit... to celebrate this great event in the history of our Assumption.

In Guatemala, the Thanksgiving Eucharist was on 9th June in the gymnasium of the Experiential Institute of the Assumption. It was presided over by the Archbishop, the Reverend Rodolfo Quezada Toruno. The community of San Luís Peten celebrated the Eucharist on June 17th with the Mayo's tribe's peoples' great color and joy. The Reverend Oscar Julio Vian who had participated in the canonization in Rome, presided it. And the community of Sayaxché with great enthusiasm put on their festive clothes for the celebration on 8th July. Tactic, from the heart of the Verapaces took part in the joy of all and renewed their commitment in the Assumption.

In El Salvador, the community of Chalatenango joined in the celebration on June 3rd by an all night vigil and San José las Flores summoned all the communities of the parish for the procession and the Eucharist. At the end in the village square everybody watched the purple and white balloons fly up into the sky in honor of Marie Eugenie. The two communities celebrated their

Eucharist on June 16th during which Marie Eugenie was enthroned by the lay people of the Assumption in a niche prepared for her.

On June 9th all the Assumption of El Salvador got together for a solemn Eucharist that the Reverend Fernando Saenz Lacalle, Archbishop of San Salvador, presided. Together with other priest friends, religious, lay people, students and former pupils they celebrated the canonization with overflowing joy. At the end everybody was invited to the Assumption College to continue the feast with delicious refreshments and lunch with music. The community of Santa Ana closed the year with a musical prepared by the primary school children and presented in the town theatre. The community of Los Planes had the Eucharist on 13th October at 3 p.m. followed by a joyful serenade.

In Nicaragua, after three months of intense preparation, we launched the CD on 20th May. "The earth is a place to give glory to God" (La tierra es un lugar de Gloria para Dios)a very beautiful presentation in the Assumption College of Leon with the presence of Grace Kelly. On May 28th we declared open an entire week of celebration in honor of our Saint and after the opening speech given by our Sister Marta Lorena, we continued with a long journeying on Ecology with themes on justice, peace, integrity of creation and solidarity. Together with our students, lay people and Sisters from all the apostolates and communities with one voice we declared MARIE EUGENIE A SAINT. We went through the whole town of Leon, the cradle of the Assumption in America. During the whole week one could hear stories on the radio referring to the canonization and two of the country's most important newspapers joined in this cause. On Friday 1st June there was a very beautiful artistic homage in the municipal theatre of Leon "José de la Cruz Mena" prepared by girls, boys, the youth, lay people and Sisters of all countries. Thus, the culture exceeded with regard to the presentation with its numerous artistic creativities full of color, beauty and love for Marie Eugenie. During Vespers of the great day on June 2nd everything began at 4 p.m. First of all there was Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel of the Assumption College, prepared and animated by each of the Assumption houses. This was a very intense moment of listening to the Word of God and the word of Marie Eugenie. At 8.30 p.m. we began to move towards the four main corners of the town to start the pilgrimage in the form of a cross leading to the Central Square. The number of people taking part in this procession was very impressive. Each group carried the photo of Marie Eugenie and the banner of the Assumption, of Nicaragua and the Church followed by different symbols referring to Jesus, Mary, the Church and the Kingdom. Everybody carried a lighted lantern and the procession was animated by songs and messages of the Assumption and Marie Eugenie with applause, fireworks and slogans. These groups eventually merged into one group to meet us at the central square of the town. Having arrived at the College at 10.30 p.m. and after a beautiful introduction, we began the vigil followed by prayer animated by the youth of all our different apostolates

who presented the entire Assumption in the world. At midnight an explosion of joy, friendship and feast was accompanied by music of the mariachis and philharmonica, the town lit up with fireworks and bulls with fireworks on their horns. After delicious refreshments for everybody we watched the simultaneous transmission of the canonization of our Mother Marie Eugenie on a big screen at 2 o'clock in the morning on 3rd June. Each time when all the pilgrims in Rome under torrential rain acclaimed, applauded and mentioned Marie Eugenie we united ourselves with their applauses and jubilation. And at 3:30 p.m. on the same day, a solemn Eucharist was celebrated in the Cathedral presided by the Reverend Bosco Vivas and our priest friends. After the Eucharist we carried the painting of Marie Eugenie in procession to the Assumption College to the altar prepared for her. There we could enjoy the friendship with families, lay people, the youth and the presence of all the Sisters of the whole country. In August the former students got together and organized a festive Eucharist animated by a joyful spirit in the parish of Jesus of the Divine Mercy. Assumption tarts!! On November 10th in the municipal theatre we had the theatre piece for Saint Marie Eugenie written by Gloria Elena Espinoza (a former student and novelist) and presented by the youth of the College de Leon.

In Cuba, on 27th May, different groups expressed their love, joy and thanksgiving with an artistic festival through poetry, dances and theatre. During the whole week, we were preparing the liturgy, the sounds, transports, refreshments, and meals and making the arrangements for the cathedral. All the commissions were very committed, responsible and did everything with love. On Holy Trinity Sunday at 10 a.m. the Cathedral welcomed all the pilgrims of Cumanayagua, Barajagua, La Parra, Crespo, Codicia, Dolores, Guaos, Pepito Tey, Arimao, the parishes of Cienfuegos and their surrounding religious communities - about 800 people participated in the Eucharist presided by the Reverend Juan de Dios Hernandez, S.J. and with other bishops and priest friends concelebrating. It was a simple but very deep celebration. Afterwards refreshments were served to all participants and lunch to the bishop, priests, religious men and women.

These have been some of the celebrations where the Assumption is walking with its people. The life of Marie Eugenie has really been felt. Girls, boys, young people, lay people have made her their own, have welcomed her and the people who, through publications via different means of social communications, have come to know her have fallen in love with her.

There remains a deep thankfulness in our hearts for Marie Eugenie and the heritage that she left us. We know that this feast does not end. We are being challenged to continuously pass her heritage on to others. Let's continue to sow the seed! Ana Mercedes

Argentina

At the CGP of 2005 we decided in the Province to give priority to local celebrations of the Canonisation rather than to the one in Rome, and this is what we did.

The communities in La Rioja, Puerto Iguazu y Varela celebrated on the 3rd June itself and this was a great opportunity to make our new saint better known and to profit from her legacy. But since Argentina is a very big country and our communities are more than some 1000 km distance from each other, only a delegation was able to get to the Provincial feast and we had to try to include the other places where we no longer have a community but where there are still Friends of the Assumption: the college in Buenos Aires, which we closed in 1969 because, after trying for three years to democratise it, we encountered total refusal on the part of the parents; that of San Miguel, which we gave to the diocese in 1980 and that of Gerli which we left to our Lay Friends of the Assumption in 1999 and which we continue to accompany from a distance. (Gerli is in a workers' suburb in the south of the Capital where we went when we closed the college and where we have been living and sharing the Gospel and our philosophy for the last 30 years).

It was with these Friends of Gerli that we decided to celebrate there, in the College, on July 8th the main Provincial feast. It was "all hands on deck" to make it a great feast with everything that this means in Argentina: a religious celebration with much participation, symbols and singing... a barbeque around a common table and then on to the dance and the music!

To two Friends of the Assumption from the other places, a past student of the Buenos Aires College and the faithful ex-directress of San Miguel, we entrusted the preparation of the people there who wanted to come to the feast, giving them tickets to distribute so that we could know the likely number of mouths to feed...

Very soon we saw we would be submerged by all who wanted to come, so we had to limit the number of tickets to 1300 and to ask for the gymnasium of the club next door, CIDEA, for the Mass. This meant we would have to decorate two huge spaces, close the college galleries so as to accommodate the tables and chairs and use all the class rooms. A friend of the Assumption took responsibility for the meat (nine sides of beef wouldn't be enough for so many!) and the sausages etc. Other friends would prepare the salads, and put up the tables. An artist painted a big picture of Marie Eugenie, another made up a song with her message "All from God for others, all from the others for God", the choir rehearsed... and of course we didn't forget the holy pictures, the medals and a Life of Marie-Eugenie for all.

When the 8th arrived our hearts were well prepared and the festive spirit started early. It was freezing cold and we had to put up with that... the buses were arriving bringing friends from Varela and from San Miguel. Those from Puerto Iguazu and La Rioja had travelled the previous day and were staying with other friends. Those of Gerli - pupils, parents, past pupils,

grandparents and teachers - were all over the place, preparing the food, decorating the tables, welcoming those arriving: they were the hostesses. Bishop Joaquin Pina arrived from Posada, having travelled for 20 hours to come to celebrate the Mass that morning with our local Bishop, Rubén Frassia. Many of our priest friends, all the Sisters of the Province and two from Brazil, the Assumption Fathers, the Little Sisters and the Orantes were all there. It was a real family feast.

At 10 o'clock, Sr Mechita, who was our emcee, invited us to greet each other. Names of people and groups were greeted with cheers. So as to present Marie Eugenie the college students treated us to a little skit and we all sang: "How happy the people who remember..."

The Gloria reminded us of that cloud of witnesses who, with Marie Eugenie, show us God's action in her life and then the Book of the Gospels was brought in with dance by representatives of the communities with whom we have shared life and the Word of God, this Word which penetrates to the heart. On this occasion it was our hearts that were the "tam-tam" which Fr. Louis told us to beat in time with the Alleluia!

During the Offertory we showed the **choices** of Marie Eugenie by what was brought to the altar: **her passion for the Kingdom** symbolized by sandals representing the missionary Sisters from Europe; incense, symbolizing the wisdom and mysticism of the peoples of Asia; the 'joyful' tam-tam, those of Africa; and the poncho of our Latin-American people enfolding their dream of building a great fatherland. And after these, **her commitment to education**: the college students brought posters showing the values that are taught at the Assumption, a woven cloth brought by a woman of the area reminded us of our conviction that it is **women** who can "weave" a new world and two young missionaries leaving their rucksacks with the offerings, showed by this our faith, Marie Eugenie's faith, in the **young...** and the **Mass** and the rejoicing continued to the rhythm of a typical Argentinian hymn: *Toda de Dios, para los demas, Toda de los demas para Dios. Siguiendo a Jesus, el Cristo, camino de Encarnacion, Tus huellas, Maria Eugenia, son huellas de una pasion.*

After Communion, we sat down to watch a film. It was short and showed how we are following the way of Marie Eugenie in Argentina. Each of us resonated to pictures of people and places we had loved: the old college in Buenos Aires, San Miguel... the time when the Province was born: when we made the option for the poor... and then the pictures of La Rioja, of Gerli, of Varela, of Iguazu. It was past 12:30 when we left the gym to go on to sit down round another table to share a wonderful meal and lively time. Beside the past students of the first college were the families coming from San Miguel and those from Villa Pora and Villa Sapito, two of the very poor areas in Gerli. Over the other side were other groups that had come from far away. The owners of the house were in the galleries and the class rooms.

This was a time of meeting again, some after more than 30 years! Questions about the life of each one, about the places where we used to be, trying to remember an elderly lady who said she had known me when I was 9 years old! Asking about her family and her life... And there were testimonies which showed us what God had been doing such as that of Marie France Verger, a past student of the college that we had closed, who said: *“that which you had wanted to do back in 1966-68 in our college of Ocampo, Marie Eugenie has done here today. Because you came here to work with these real people who know what life really is about they have welcomed us here today with their love and all this work (we who were always wanting to be or to have more) and who did not know how to welcome them there.”*

While we carried on with the meal and watching the girls who were serving it, together with the wine, reminiscent of Cana... and the ice creams, we did not cease wondering at this amazing mixture of people, those in rich furs and those in worn-out coats, coloured scarves flying, all together around Marie Eugenie. It was another miracle, a great one that the Lord was giving us through her intercession. The music and the dance in true carnival style said: **Yes, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a great feast to which God, our Father and Mother, invites all his/her sons and daughters to sit down round a big table and know that they are brothers and sisters.**

Some letters that we have received:

Sisters of the Assumption, I want to thank you most sincerely for what we lived on the 8th of July, 2007 for the feast celebrated in honour of our St. Marie Eugenie of Jesus, foundress of your Congregation. Firstly I want you to know that it was an unforgettable day for me as it gave us the chance to get to know people from other places and cultures. It was also the opportunity to know Sisters from the other communities, with whom we can be in touch so as to know that we are not alone. The thought that I want to share is that the video showing our Saint is what touched me most deeply. I don't know if it is really apposite but it made me think of the Parable of the Sower, with the difference that the seeds sown by Marie Eugenie during her life have germinated unbelievably for our good, because they leave us following in her footsteps and we are promising to follow them as well as we can for the rest of our lives. Eva Ayala, de Varela

Celebration, rejoicing and wanting to sing and give thanks for this day which is so important for the Congregation of the Assumption. Bishops, priests, Religious sisters together with college employees, parents, teachers, directors, professors and students, all lovingly invited by the Sisters for a wonderful feast. It was not for nothing: Sister Maria Eugenia, as we call her here, is now Saint Marie Eugenie of Jesus. Without a doubt a great feast day on earth and in heaven. And it set in motion an enormous amount of preparation with Sr Epi in charge and with great energy and willingness the whole college; I repeat, it was to be a great feast. The wonderful barbeque

and all the other delicious things remind all of us who love the College and those who know the wonderful work through out the world of these brave and intelligent women who do it out of love for Jesus. They evangelise not just with words but with the example of their lives. Sisters of the Assumption, followers of her who was, and is, the first in the Congregation, thank you!! And for the Religious Sisters, the Bishops and Priests who give their lives for truth and justice, let there be praise. Today Maria Eugenia embraces the whole world. With the Bible in one hand and in the other a jar full of seeds still waiting to be sown... and this is the greatest miracle. Norma Veme, de Gerli (the lady who works as a cleaner in the college)

When one is an adult and has to send one's own children to school, it becomes very clear what it means to belong to the Assumption and one understands why the Assumption is different from any of the other schools that one could have investigated. The equality of rights, the possibility of choosing to pay over 40 years!!!!, the overall that one could wear and no other uniform, and the nuns who had even more energy than the pupils and lots of things that I must have forgotten, made the Assumption into a school from another planet. Today, after many years, when we think of such ideas as solidarity, struggle, equality and devotedness we think: "Assumption"! For this reason we are proud to have belonged to the Assumption and to have shared in the feast of the 8th July and we hope that this kind of meeting will go on happening for ever!!! Fabian Leroux (former pupil of the college in Gerli)

To all of Assumption-Together: Firstly I want to thank the whole educational community of Gerli for EVERYTHING!!!, for their friendliness, generosity and competence, but above all for the kindness with which they welcomed all the different communities. I can assure them that I felt part of it all. On the Sunday, it was not just a case of remembering, re-living all that experience of the formation I received from the Sisters that has become part of me, but of realising again that a better world is possible. To share that feast, which indeed it was, from the presentation of the life of St. Marie Eugenie, the Eucharist, the path of Marie Eugenie in Argentina and so many things, and then the wonderful barbeque for such a crowd. It was indeed a celebration that was so well prepared, every detail, every moment taken into account. For all of that, thank you. But above all I want to share something more: a feeling and a conviction, that unfortunately is often clouded over by life itself... but which is that the only way is to live and work for justice. That it is not in vain that one works, believes and lives by the Word of God. Thanks be to God and to so many unknown saints that there are times when everything which seemed to be falling apart comes to life, with even greater force. Thanks ... A big kiss to each one, and thank you again. With all my love. Lidia Galarraga (Friend of the Assumption, past student of the college of Ocampo)

The Night of the Canonization in Mexico

Finally the expected news: His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has announced Mother's Marie Eugenie Canonization. A big fuss was made in all the communities, but still they had not formalized the ceremony's date. What are we going to do? How do we get organized? Plans on having a Mexican delegation assisting in Rome started to be organized and then someone thought: How about planning something for those that won't make it to Rome? Let us live the experience together all the way from Mexico! Lots of people participated in the trip's planning and organization, meanwhile, Rocío Cano and Mother Magdalena, planned the ceremony in Mexico, but the date, timing and the hour were much awaited since everything depended of it to be able to give the proper itinerary. We wanted to have the same experience as the Mexican delegation going to Rome. Therefore, we needed a live transmission. Investigation on what could be the best way to get it done started through a daily research made with the Vatican with their Internet website to know the exact official date. As for the live transmission, a lot of people approached me offering their help, sharing their ideas. The computer coordinator from Queretaro and I worked closely together, since they wanted to have the same experience as that in Águilas. We needed something to be within reach of the families and the school's budget. Those were days of excitement, commitment and work! Finally after a long time of waiting, the date and the schedule were given! Really we were running out of time! The hour? Difficult for everyone! Three in the morning! But never mind, it's once in a life time and it's worth it. It is about our foundress and a part of our life! Rocío Cano started the planning - a Vigil! Surveys were made asking families for support and to figure out how many people wanted to participate. At the beginning many mothers of our students approached Rocío offering their help, and it seemed we were going to have a large group collaborating with us. Moreover, we were taking care of the technical entertainment and the live transmission. It was very tiring, but it was made with lots of enthusiasm and the help of a lot of people within the school. We thought of producing a comic strip, based on the one already printed, about the life and labour of Mother M. Eugenie. We scanned the comic strip that had to be integrated into a video, and Professor Cesar Eloza dedicated himself to record the dialogs by the personnel of the school: administrators, teachers, maintenance staff and students, to portray the characters.

It was so gratifying to see how everyone participated so enthusiastically. It took us hours and hours of work to complete. But there were some vital questions: Do we all know why the determination for the canonization of Mother Marie Eugenie was given? Do we all really know who Risa is? For everyone to learn about it, a video recounting her story was prepared,

resulting in something very touching. The narration was by Rocío Cano, the recording by Cesar Elorza and the technicalities and special effects by me.

There existed a presentation of Mother Marie Eugenie of her last days that few of us knew about. I have never really gotten used to seeing her no longer young. What integrity! What strength! What submission! And what absolute dedication until the end! The only things missing in the presentation were music and timing. The outcome was very beautiful; I think that it should be shared with everybody. Our attempts were on-going. Together with Jose Arámbula, lights, wires, bolts, and equipment were prepared. We got the internet connection for the Suma. The decision had been to transmit from the Vatican Site and/or to transmit from a site of Catholic transmissions in Spanish.

Nervousness invaded us, the desire of having everything perfect could be seen at the moment, and it's because when we least expect it technical hitches can give us little surprises. Rocío, Jose Cesar and myself, were alone and exhausted at the end, but we didn't mind it nor the fatigue. The important thing was about sharing the moment and the experience with all the others. "Finally the Canonization night" Two mixed emotions played within us. We wanted the night to last on forever, but at the same time we wanted the ceremony to begin and get over the fright of seeing everything turn out well. The families started to arrive, everything was ready. Our simultaneous translator, Mario, had already arrived. Jose and Cesar were at the technical cabin, with everything set and ready. They were also going to record it live on DVD. Families were coming and going all night long. There were more children than parents, but everyone was very happy. The program of activities was going on as planned. The time to go to the chapel arrived. In the meantime Jose, Cesar, and myself, were preparing everything to receive the transmission. With much joy we could see the image of St. Peter's Basilica on the screen. Dawn was creeping in little by little; the sound of bells started and people began to gather. We wanted at that moment to see someone known to us. Suddenly, we lost the signal. The reaction of those that were in charge was of what are we going to do? It was like receiving a hard blow. What is wrong? Just 5 minutes to go. What are we going to do? Mother Ma. Eugenie's image with flowers was at one side of the Suma's stage. I turned and looked, and got close to her, "Mother Ma. Eugenie, I shall permit myself to ask for my first petitions as a Patron Saint, please, help us have everything well done. A lot of people are staying the whole night long waiting for us to give them the joy of sharing such important moments, and they want to be close to you. Thank you." I was chatting through the computer with Carlos in Queretaro. We were trying to relax. We were testing the Vatican links and the Catholic Site. Families and nuns were already leaving

the chapel; I approached Rocío and told her of what was happening. Suddenly Carlos told me. “We have a signal!” We wished each other luck”.

Everyone was already in their place. The transmission started. An incredible emotion. Mario was explaining to us what was going on, every one was watching attentively and trying to see people we knew not only those from Aquilas or Queretaro. Knowing someone meant Assumption. We felt as if we were in the first row before the Pope (unfortunately, the climate in Rome was not good) we could only see umbrellas and raincoats. Mario suddenly told us, “There it is Mother Magdalena”. We decided to change the connection to the site in Spanish. Each time Mother Ma Eugenie was mentioned we were emotionally united with Rome, Águilas, Queretaro and the Assumption throughout the world. ¡We already had a Saint in the family!

At The end of the transmission, congratulations, balloons, music, joy. Thank God and our Patron Saint, Mother Ma Eugenie, everything came out all right and those that shared the moment with us went home happy. A unique experience.

I gratefully thank those who participated in the preparation, all throughout the night and the opportunity of being a part of it. Alejandra Matienzo, Systems Coordinator.

Ecuador: Quito, 10 June 2007

Reminiscences of the enthronement of Mother Marie Eugenie of Jesus in the Churches of the Parish of St. Anthony Mary Claret of the Argelia in Quito

We of the community of Quito had previously gathered with the priests of the Heart of Jesus and had been surprised by their very positive attitude which was beyond what we could have thought or desired. It was from them that the idea of putting Marie Eugenie in all the Chapels of the parish, even in those of which we have no charge, came. Besides, we agreed to dedicate the whole month of September to prepare the celebration of the canonization here in Oriente Quiteño through vocation sessions, workshops and other activities to promote youth days with the theme: “youth for mission”.

As we had agreed with them, on the 3rd of June, day of the Canonization, even if we were not a majority since many were in the celebration in Guayaquil, the community of Oriente Quiteño introduced Marie Eugenie and feasted her solemnly in union with the ceremony in Rome and in Guayaquil. The logo dominated the wall of the Church and the image of M. M. Eugenie was placed at the main altar. She presided over the assembly.

On Saturday, 9th June, we started the enthronement at the 6 p.m. Mass at Mirador and on Sunday, 10th, the whole community solemnly enthroned a picture of Saint Marie Eugenie in the different chapels of the parish.

Some who represented the communities entered in procession carrying Marie Eugenie while an introduction was read and the whole assembly sang at the top of their voices, “Somos herederas abramos el surco”.

Father José Luís Domínguez was the celebrant in all the Masses and with a lot of affection he included in his homily nuances that were already gestating in him since he met us here in Quito. With a prayerful, festive and fraternal attitude that characterizes him, he put all his effort to give the occasion the glory it merited.

The homily on some of her sayings and the reference to the life of the Sisters was beautiful. Upon listening to him we felt that he knew us well and we could glimpse through what he said how much he has read and interiorized Marie Eugenie and especially how much love he has for her and for the Sisters.

He had the very humble gesture, and for which we are truly grateful, of allowing us to speak so that we ourselves could present the life and work of our foundress. We did this with much love and adapting ourselves to our audience: in Mirador by strengthening the aspects proper to the youth and their search; in Aida Leon we put emphasis on her infancy years and the resonance the education received from her mother had throughout her life since those present were children and parents of those being catechized; in Argelia we stressed the role of faith in her life and how to combine faith and reason and also how to make them know the Assumption in the world today; and in Oriente Quiteño, since the majority were youth and children being catechized, we spoke on what living for Jesus Christ and giving ones youth to Him today means.

The people were very attentive and welcoming wherever we went. It was a very lovely experience of the love they feel for the Sisters.

We had oriented the offertory towards a strengthening of the sense of giving to the Church as a family the gift we had to ourselves up to now. “Saint Marie Eugenie of Jesus is yours. She no longer belongs only to the Sisters. She is also yours and wishes to remain among you.” When asked if they wanted her to remain with them the answer was a resounding yes. We called on the most significant members of the community to come up and receive the image that the Sisters were going to gift them with. The people were happy and welcome her with much applause, tears and emotion. One could feel the special devotion they have for her. When we told them that we were giving her to them and that they were to take care of her and make her enter their hearts, one could feel in their gestures of consent and of joy that they truly welcomed her. It was like having a relative among us. That is how we saw it.

Then the Sisters presented the gifts at the offertory: Alexandra brought the Cross, Anne the Virgin and Ascensión the Breviary, and Rosa brought the World Map as an expression of the three loves of the Assumption and of Saint Marie Eugenie. While the gifts were being offered, Zoila explained the meaning of each of them.

In every place where Mass was celebrated there was a strong family spirit and much closeness. We were not surprised when José Luís mentioned Saint Marie Eugenie at the Eucharistic prayer since he had been doing that for many years now except that in the past he said 'Blessed' whereas now it was 'Saint' which gave us a lot of joy and gratitude.

The songs of the Assumption to the accompaniment of guitars played by a group of youth broke out with much liveliness.

At the end, the most daring, took the image of Marie Eugenie and after the blessing of the image, presented her to be venerated by the people. It was beautiful to see that José Luís himself began by kissing the image. All the others followed. In some places, as in Mirador, one could feel a special tenderness for her. We could see that she was already in the hearts of the needy. The people were already touching her, telling her things and whispering their secrets, those confided only to someone one loves.

Once outside one could feel the immense gratitude for the gift we had given them expressed either through words, embraces, promises that she was in good hands.

We ended up exhausted that Sunday but with the heart full and with much gratitude to God and to our people who had welcomed what was so loved by us. We understood it as a consolidation of our presence in the districts.

At Compline we gave thanks to God for the welcome and for the capacity of Saint Marie Eugenie to enter into the hearts of the people of these areas.

We recalled that at the foundation of Quito, when they were laying the foundations of the house on 30 April 1997, we had gone, one very cold night, in the dark, in procession with the people of Oriente Quiteño to place her relic in one of the pillars of the chapel. The petition of the people at the time was that their dream of being accompanied by the Religious of the Assumption come true. Today we were recalling and rereading the events.

The Community of Quito

Fiesta. So many things could be told of this celebration!!!! And all have gratitude and an outpouring of love as common denominator.

It was a very significant act of communion and of being Church. The only sentiment that remains with us is that of gratitude and of acknowledging that all comes from Him and all returns to Him, that the work is His and that He knows how it works.

For us, the Sisters, it was a moment of welcoming and receiving as gift everything that had been given to us. The people made theirs what we love, made theirs the cause of our joy and accompanied us with joy and generously.

We have read it as gratitude and recognition of the presence of the Sisters in the locale. In this kind of work the significance of the presence of a religious community among them is not always expressed nor visualized. We understood that they were expressing through actions what the Sisters are to them. That is why it was a moment of welcoming all as gift and at the same time a call to continue working in an attitude of detachment and of communion.

It was the 7th of October when we had decided to celebrate this feast. We, the community and the people, had desired it very much and we had sought for the best moment for the parish.

It was a real outpouring of joy and thanksgiving. We started with the “burning to the thatched hut” (a great bonfire in front of our house) an expression of the great feast in some of the zones of the mountain ranges. Then, called by the sound of firecrackers and music from the local band, the people gathered carrying with them a torch to accompany the procession of the Saint from our house until the Church. In the midst of a cold night but with some stars shining and to the sound of music, with a taste of a folk feast, with great joy we went towards the Church where we entered on a road of honor with all the people.

At the end with great joy and to the sound of “Glory to God” our Saint came in procession and carried by the most significant persons because of their commitment to the community. There she took the place prepared for her among countless beautiful roses that had been very lovingly donated by the people. We prayed Vespers, sung the litanies introducing into them the new Saint, we visualized the moment in which Benedict XVI proclaimed her a Saint of the Church and then we had a moment of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament exposed during which we prayed on texts of MME related to the Eucharist. After a long, felt and intense presence in prayer we ended with benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and the blessing of the picture of MME.

After kissing the image, the cultural feast began with dances, music and color. Everything was an expression of the love for and the gratitude to the sisters and to Saint Marie Eugenie that they had already welcomed in the month of June.

Early the following day a lovely, large and beautiful procession of students and parents was starting. As a school this time we went from our house where we had agreed to meet, around the streets of the district carrying our Saint Marie Eugenie and deepening her life. The children, holding onto the hand of a parent and carrying a rose for the floral offering, presented with much excitement the first official act the school was doing as Assumption. It

was, for all, an official demonstration of faith and of our Assumption identity.

In the homes of 5 of our students we presented 5 stages of the life of MME. Once again a big image accompanied us at the head of the procession. The presence of our Mother in these parts was truly beautiful, participative and moving. It was beautiful to see the people vibrate over someone whom they did not know before. At the entrance of the chapel flowers were offered by those who wanted.

The Eucharist was presided by the Archbishop of Quito who truly praised Marie Eugenie's life and the presence of the Sisters in a district like ours.

Perhaps something that was unique in the whole world was the participation of the father of one of the doctors from the USA who had signed the paper saying that actual state of Risa was a miracle. He is a doctor from Ecuador. His parents accompanied us in their own name and in the name of their doctor son. It was a joy and happiness for them to see how their son had been able to collaborate as a believer and as a professional to something so extraordinary as this: the recognition of the holiness of Marie Eugenie.

What surprises us has been the outpouring of generosity and of joy that this feast has elicited in our milieu. We see the collaboration and the participation of the priests of the Herat of Jesus, our parish priests, as a gift. From the very beginning they made this cause theirs.

It is a fact that Saint Marie Eugenie has entered and has won the hearts of our neighbors. Now she just has to watch over what has been sown in this district and in this mission.

Saint Marie Eugenie ('Eugenita' as some call her expressing their affection) pray for us! Sr. Ascensión González

1.2. Asia

India: PALA, 12 August 2007

The local celebration of the canonization of Mother Marie Eugenie. Milleret took place in St.Thomas Parish Church at Arunapuram in Pala on August 12th 2007. The sisters from the three other communities in Kerala were present for the solemn occasion.

We decided to celebrate it in St.Thomas Parish Church, Arunapuram, in order to make M.E known and loved by as many people as possible. The parish priest was extremely enthusiastic about it. In order to ensure greater attendance, the parish priest announced to the parishioners that there would be only one Mass on the 12th instead of two and all were invited to take part in the ceremonial Mass. The preparation for the celebration was done in different stages.

STAGE 1

1. Sisters Stella and Geeta prepared a power point presentation both in Malayalam and in English on St. Marie Eugenie to display it after the Holy Mass on the 12th.
2. Sister Shobha and Mary James met the Bishop and gave Sister Diana's official letter announcing the date and the venue of canonization.
3. A few weeks later sisters Mary James and Therese went to see the Bishop and informed him of our plan to have the celebration in our Parish Church and requested him to be the main celebrant. Being a Sunday the Bishop had already undertaken Parish visit. However, he gave us hope of adjusting it in order to come for the celebration. He was also asked to deliver a sermon during the Mass. The emeritus Bishop Joseph Pallikaparambil also was invited.
4. Bishop was provided with the write ups on St. Marie Eugenie.

STAGE 2

In view of making propagation about St. Marie Eugenie, articles were written in Malayalam by Sr. Therese Koottiyaniyil. Mgr. Mathew Vellanickal and Rev. Dr. Jacob Kattackal also made valuable contributions. These were published in all the popular magazines, periodicals, weeklies, daily news papers etc. and saw to it that they were published on June 3rd 2007. A half an hour talk was given by Sr. Therese in the Shalom T.V. with the help of power point presentation. The T.V. program was released twice - on 2nd night and on the 3rd afternoon of June 2007.

STAGE 3

The detailed planning of the celebration took place in July 2007. The Parish Priest and the Parish Council members also took active role in this planning. The latter, with the help of youth club, took the responsibility of serving food. It was decided to give some significant roles to our lay friends of the Assumption. Their monthly gathering took place on 11th of August and they prepared badges with M.E's photos placed at the centre. Photos and posters were exhibited in the Parish Church on the day. A banner announcing the celebration also was placed at the entrance of the church. The Clarist Sisters of the parish decorated the altar beautifully. There were attractive lights all around the altar. In short, there was a heavenly atmosphere and the church was extremely beautiful and prayerful. The choir rehearsed songs with all the musical instruments. A large photo of St. Marie Eugenie was placed on a high place specially arranged for the occasion. The courtyard was arranged for 'agape'.

STAGE 4

Sr. Shobha, the Provincial, and the Assumption sisters welcomed the Bishop with garland, outside the entrance while the others waited in the church. The ceremony started at 7 a.m. with the Holy Mass. The Church was packed with the parishioners, some of our family members and invitees. Bishop Joseph Kallaranigatt and twelve other priests concelebrated the Eucharist. At the beginning of the Eucharistic celebration Sr. Shobha welcomed the Bishop,

the priests, sisters & all the parishioners and gave an introduction on St. Marie Eugenie. During the sermon the Bishop spoke highly about the Assumption sisters. He said that the sisters are living in tune with the teachings of the Vatican II and it is a grace for the Diocese to have the Assumption religious community. He mentioned that the Assumption sisters are very close to the people and pointed out that M.E. is a Saint for our time. He appreciated our involvement in the local church. At the end of the Mass Sr. Mary James gave vote of thanks to the people for their active participation. She invited everyone for the 'AGAPE'. Special thanks were given to the Bishop and the Parish Priest for their great interest and assistance in all the matters concerning the celebration. The lay friends of the Assumption wearing badges with the pictures of M.M.E were available for any service in the whole function. They distributed St. Marie Eugenie's Pictures and Calendars to all those who participated in the function. About 700 people were served breakfast after the Mass. The Bishop and Priests were served in the Parish Priests dining hall and in the adjacent rooms. Sisters and the Friends of Assumption took care of the guests and the parishioners. The CD of the Canonization in Rome was shown during the 'AGAPE'. The celebration was over by 10.30 a.m.

THE IMPACT OF THE CELEBRATION

It was a spiritual experience for everyone who took part in it. It gave us great desire to be holy to pray more to St. Marie Eugenie. It increased our love for her and felt much closer to her. It was an occasion to make our Congregation known to the people. We hope that it may help to increase vocation. The deepening of the spirituality of St, M.E helped us improved the interpersonal relationship among the sisters.

India: Poona - 17 June 2007

Sunday June 17th 2007. The date chosen to celebrate the joyful event of the canonization in Poona for Shastrinagar and Vithalwadi Community.. The cloudy weather of the monsoon season did not dampen the spirit and enthusiasm of the sisters or friends. The occasional rain was accepted as 'showers of blessings'.

The main event of the day was the Solemn Eucharistic celebration. It was announced in our parish (Sacred Heart Parish animated by Don Bosco priests) on June 3rd and 10th and invitations were given to our friends and well wishers in Poona. The Parish choirs (English& Marathi) took time and practiced songs for the occasion. Parish priests and his team gave us full assistance

On Sunday 17th morning, after the Marathi and English mass, we distributed Saint Marie Eugenie's picture with a short description of her life and the novena prayers to the parishioners.

A banner with Saint Marie Eugenie's photo welcomed all to the church on this Sunday afternoon. Our neighbouring convent sisters (-who are in charge of altar decorations and flower arrangement), did a wonderful job on that day spending extra hours in the church. We placed a well decorated photo of Saint Marie Eugenie, with flowers and illumination on the right side of the altar. "*Our Life must be a constant yes to God*" was written on the right wall behind the altar and the left side wall was adorned by the Logo of the Canonization.

At 6.p.m. Rt. Rev. Dr. Valerian D'Souza, the bishop of Pune accompanied by some 40 priests made their solemn entry to the church. They were preceded by four dancers to add beauty and solemnity to the celebration. Sister Shobha welcomed the Bishop, the concelebrants and the congregation. She introduced the Saint to the congregation. There were about 700 people consisted of many parishioners, the 'Friends of Assumption' from Rajodi, Vithalwadi and Poona. The presence of the non-Christian friends among the congregation added to the spirit of openness and universality of Assumption.. The presence of our sisters from Rajodi, Tilloli and Ambatta too added to our joy

The bishop in his homely quoted Saint Marie Eugenie several times .He explained to the congregation the foundational grace of the first communion and explained the relevance of the devotion to the Eucharistic Adoration as well as making the Eucharist the foundation of one's life of faith in today's world. He concluded his homely with a challenging call to holiness. He spoke both in English and Marathi as the people were of mixed group.

The choir sang in English. Marathi and Hindi so that all could be fully at home in the celebration.

Representative of sisters, friends and neighbours were chosen for the offertory procession. We had the Offertory with:-

a lighted candle symbolizing the love of the Church as daughters of M.E. who prayed that the love of the Church might be the main characteristic of her congregation

a small plant, to emphasize that the "earth , a place of glory for God;

the globe "The world is not big enough for my love;

the Bible the source from which we draw inspiration and nourishment to live all the above.. To make the celebration more Indian there was the Maharati (homage done by 5 persons using flowers, fire & incense) at the time of Elevation. At the conclusion of the Eucharist Sr. Lizzie made a touching vote of thanks to all. This was followed by a 15 minutes power point presentation on Marie Eugenie & Assumption prepared by Sr. Rekha .It was shown in the church itself.

After mass, the holy picture of Marie Eugenie and a piece of cake was given to all

Many of the parishioners and friends expressed their joy and happiness of participating in the celebration. Some felt that it was a unique experience in

their life. Others remarked that this was the first time they had sisters celebrating with people as one and they felt 'included' and it was "Our celebration".

By 8.30.p.m. the special invitees, friends and sisters shared a delicious dinner in the Don Bosco school hall. Since our bishop is known as the singing bishop, he was provided with a guitar so he sang for the occasion to add to our happiness. All the invitees were given a wall calendar with M.E.'s picture to take home.

Japan

In Minoo

On 2nd December 2007 the Bishop of Osaka together with six priests celebrated the Mass in thanksgiving for the Canonisation in our school chapel. Its preparation had been entrusted to a committee of sisters and laity.

Among the three hundred people who had accepted our invitation were representatives of the schools and religious congregations of the diocese, all the staff of our school, our former teachers, among whom were those who had had to leave when the senior department of Minoo school was closed, also the teachers of the kindergarten of Sumoto. There were many past pupils as well as parishioners and friends and those who had been present in Rome on 3rd June. All were there happy to be together again and to celebrate Marie-Eugenie.

The beauty of the celebration was enhanced by the "hand bell" music group while one of our former teachers was at the organ. Our parish priest who, once the date of the Canonisation was known had immediately organised a group of pilgrims for Rome wore, on this occasion, underneath his vestments, the Assumption pilgrimage scarf! One could read on every face how much Marie-Eugenie was both loved and close to each one. And above all, how the liturgy of the day proclaimed that she was truly a daughter of the Church.. Our mission of education also appeared more clearly than ever to be a work of the Church and alive with its dynamism.

The following days brought many testimonies from both Christians and non-Christians, saying how they had been impressed and expressing their gratitude for such a beautiful celebration.

Marie-Eugenie's faith, her "passion", the light and strength emanating from her personality have left something very deep in each one. A new step has been taken, in the Church, on the path of Faith traced by Saint Marie-Eugenie. And with her, we go forward, as witnesses in this world the place of God's glory

Testimony from Ikuro Kono of the school's administrative staff

Since I have been part of "Assumption Together" I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to get to know Marie-Eugenie and to share with others.

I, who am not a Catholic, was deeply moved by her Canonisation. I felt that within me everything that, thanks to Assumption Together, I had learnt was deepened, as though the soil had been worked and the seeds would begin to germinate.

On the 2nd December, at the Thanksgiving Mass, on that beautiful sunny day, I received a new confirmation of the grandeur of the gift that God was giving us. With the other members of Assumption Together I see that the time has come to share ever more deeply the grace of that day, to let it bear fruit and make alive this wonderful page in our history.

To finish, I want to express my gratitude for having been able to share in this Mass and to become a witness.

In Takamatsu

It was in the cathedral church that on 25th November we shared with our friends the joy and thanksgiving for the Canonisation.

Our bishop, Mgr Mizobe, concelebrated with seven priests, among them a Spanish Dominican, Sr Esther's brother, and a Bolivian, Fr Jose- Maria, who stayed at Auteuil in Sr Hélène Marie's time, whom he remembers very well. With our lay friends, the Contemplative and Apostolic Dominicans, the teachers in our kindergarten and parents, we were about 200 people.

In his homily the Bishop commented on an article in the English revue, The Tablet: What, for us, is the significance of the canonisation of St. Marie-Eugenie? It is, he emphasized, her new and magnificent vision of the Church which made her realise the importance, for every Christian to live from a deep Faith in the midst of the world. Marie-Eugenie lived this to the full in the nineteenth century, by founding her congregation in which contemplation informs its vision of education for a decisive action.

During the friendly meeting which followed we all sang the songs composed by the teachers in honour of Marie-Eugenie. There were three, one each for the children, the teachers and for the friends. We looked at the DVD of the 3rd June, which made a great impression on us all, including the non-Christians. It was a day of grace, of joy and of wonder for God's work in our saint, Marie-Eugenie.

In Tokyo

The little group of pilgrims, having lost none of its enthusiasm its return from Rome, quickly set about the day of thanksgiving. The place was to be the church served by our friends, the Assumptionist Fathers, the first parish of our foundation in Tokyo, where we still have some apostolates.

It seemed that the Cathedral would be too big, given that the Congregation has neither an Institution nor a long history in the capitol, one could not really foresee a big crowd. Who would be coming? A question with no answer, while, as to the weather, there was no doubt at all. The day was an excellent

choice, the 27th October, in the midst of a wonderful Japanese autumn, full of sun in a beautiful blue sky.

The reality was completely different! That day a typhoon came in from the Pacific and hit the bay of Tokyo in the afternoon! However, with the humour reminiscent of the 3rd June, every one accepted the wind and the rain without surprise as though it was part of the feast. And little by little the church filled with more than 180 people coming mainly from the four parishes where the community collaborates with the pastoral care but other places as well. The past students of Minoo who live in Tokyo were well represented and they had been very active in all the preparations.

The Eucharist was celebrated by our Archbishop with the Augustinian Fathers and the priests of the four parishes. In the choir, beside the fine stained glass windows of St Augustine and of St Monica you could admire a very beautiful Japanese inscription which proclaimed, very visibly (it was very large) that “The world is the place for the Glory of God”.

In his simple and fraternal homily, the Provincial of the Augustinians clearly showed Marie-Eugenie in the path of the great St Augustine, confirming by his words what each one was feeling in their heart. With the help of the Philippino choir the congregation sang with great conviction “La Gloria de Dios”, or at least the “Si!” for those who hadn’t been at the rehearsals.

At the buffet which followed it was “Assumpta est Maria” and “Monte, monte Assompton” that was sung by past pupils and the sisters. But the group had grown with many very different people who, however, were lead to risk trying these unknown languages.

The joy of meeting again or for the first time could be seen on all faces and one knew that this joy came from above and that it would go much deeper. It was the Church’s feast celebrating the marvels God had accomplished in Marie-Eugenie. Everyone was delighted with “their” foundress, with the Congregation, with each other and, above all, with the Glory of God, which seemed like a “slogan” on the lips and a light in the heart. Then the typhoon blew over and the feast came to an end. But the thanksgiving remains and something new is starting to grow

1.4. Europe

Northern Europe: DENMARK - 10 November

10 November 2007 will remain for all of us a grace-filled time, marked by the immense joy of witnessing MARIE-EUGENIE’s CANONIZATION. As soon as we got the news in March, that the celebration would happen at the beginning of June at St Peter’s, we hurried to spread the information all around. The responses that we got in such a little country which is 95% Lutheran were fantastic: 70 people joined us to go to Rome! Some ten teachers, including

non-catholic, said they would go because they felt “part of the family”, priests friends, families with parents and children together, part of the Third Order, friends of the Assumption...

This “Rome group” deployed all its zeal to prepare the **celebration of the introduction of St Marie Eugenie to the diocese**, since she is now given to the universal Church.

The celebration took place on Saturday 10 November at our Rygaard School. Why Rygaard instead of the cathedral? Simply because our “cathedral” is so small that there would not have been enough room for everybody. And also because Rygaard has been since the thirties “the Assumption place”, visited and inhabited by so many generations of alumnae, parents, teachers and sisters.

We were a little more than 200 people at the celebration. For us the feast already began the evening before when two special guests arrived: Sr Josiane, our provincial of the Northern Europe Province and Sr Erika, a missionary here for many years now delegated by Lithuania.

Before that, we had worked like ants in an ant-hill, coming and going up and down all along Rygaard’s corridors from the church to the kitchen, from the kitchen to the hall and back, helped by all sorts of people who prepared sandwiches to feed all appetites, hang draperies to decorate the hall, laid the tables with plates, drinks etc... We were indeed very moved to see whole families and young people making themselves available to serve in that way.

On the walls of the hall we hung posters presenting the life of Marie Eugenie and of the sisters of the Assumption in Scandinavia, in Northern Europe, in the world. In between, the students of the International Section of the School put up other posters they had prepared during the week devoted to the theme “environment in the School”. Family spirit, joy, zeal, goodness, the taste for beauty, the will to discover the positive side of everyone, freedom, etc. all these values were presented, sometimes in a very humoristic way, using quotes from Marie Eugenie illustrated by pictures and drawings.

And then finally D day came! Convoy after convoy brought all of us from our dear convent “Klostergaard”. We had set up a strategy allowing our seniors, Sr Margrethe (98) and Sr. M.Ona (97) to take part without too much fatigue.

And so here we are, gathered in the church. It is 4 pm. The church is full with people of all ages, Danes and foreigners, all smiling and waiting. Our two bishops (the present one and the former one), our priests friends, preceded by altar boys and girls come up in procession, as we all intone the first song in Danish “Din, din, er aeren”, “Glory to you, Risen One!” . The icon of Marie Eugenie near the altar is surrounded with lilies. At the end of each bench, according to a Scandinavian tradition, we had hung flowers and candles, which added a note of light and beauty.

Symbolical objects illustrated the prayers of intercession and offering: for one of them a whole group of children, among whom those who went to Rome, came up in procession to a map of the world and planted small flags

from all the continents, a sign of the internationality of the School and of the Congregation. At the moment of Communion we were happily surprised by the Spanish speaking families who were part of the pilgrimage to Rome: they sang the famous “¡Si... Gloria de Dios!” we heard in Rome.

After Mass we went straight to the hall. Sr Josiane introduced the evening in English with a presentation of the icon on the theme “Marie Eugenie and her way to holiness” One of our younger students brilliantly played a waltz by Chopin, which situated Marie Eugenie in her historical context. Then came a Power Point on the life of Marie Eugenie and on her influence today both locally and world-wise.

After that quite a large group of people who had gone to Rome shared their experience. Among them there was a teacher, a friend who is a doctor, a member of the Third Order, sr Marianne, a young student who was confirmed this year, a family. The contents of their sharing were different and complementary, but they all expressed their joy to know Marie Eugenie, especially through this event of the universal Church.

To end the program, our community, accompanied by Sr Mary Jo on the guitar, sang a prayer of Marie Eugenie on a music composed by a Filipino sister: “It is for you alone my God that I am here”. After this long program, those who had patiently listened to it could at last enjoy refreshments. A gorgeous buffet with multi colored sandwiches and drinks gracefully served by older students, while other students and mothers were running to and fro to fill up quickly emptying dishes! What a beautiful testimony to this Assumption family spirit we so vividly experienced during that day!

Northern Europe: SWEDEN

While we were at it we celebrated Marie Eugenie the very next day in Sweden, on the other side of this huge 18km long bridge which joins Copenhagen and Malmö. As two of our priest friends had vied with each other in zeal to have the privilege to say a homily on Marie Eugenie, we had the joy of celebrating TWO masses at our parish in her honor! One of the priests was Håkan from the Third Order, the other one used to be close to our community when he was a seminarian. After the celebrations there was a party in the parish hall, with a Power Point our community had prepared for the occasion. It was touching to see so many people coming to tell us how much they appreciate our presence and our spirituality, knowing how little time we have been here (since 2002), and our small number. But God can do great things with a small amount of leaven in the dough! The day ended with a festive meal which gathered our closest friends at our Malmö convent.

Through all these preparations and celebrations we could once more concretely experience that Marie Eugenie is really a contemporary of our society and responds to the thirst of people who are longing for meaning,

people who desire to contribute to a more loving, a more fraternal, daring and challenging world. New paths continue to open up before us; Marie Eugenie continues to awaken the desire to educate children, both in the families and in the school context. The last fruit of this celebration is a new initiative taken by Jeannet, a member of the Third Order: inviting a group of Rygaard parents to meet regularly and reflect how to implement the pedagogy of Marie Eugenie in family life. Thank you, Marie Eugenie!

From the community of Scandinavia

Italy: Quadraro Rome - 8 March 2008

At the ready! Yes, here is Quadraro-Rome: The Assumption celebrates!

It is the 8th March 2008, in our Parish of the Assumption of Mary, and it is 5.30 pm. Everything is ready to welcome our guests who are coming in great number to live this moment of joy and thanksgiving with us.

A big icon of **St Marie-Eugenie** hangs on the wall at the entrance to the church. She will welcome all those who arrive for the feast and, once inside, they will find themselves in front of a lovely picture of her when young, with a **clear, penetrating and thoughtful look**, which, at the same time, attracts to herself and leads on to One who is Greater and more Beautiful than herself. You feel invited to enter into yourself and to let yourself be indwelt by the mystery.

All this meant that for at least two months Sisters and Laity had been preparing the event. A preparation that was both material and spiritual. Several planning meetings; the sharing of responsibilities and making of contacts; nothing was forgotten. Our Lay friends were totally given, not counting their tiredness when it was an evening meeting after a days work and so on. It's the Feast for us all, they said. On the spiritual level, each group prepared in its own way. For the Lay Friends the week before the feast they had their Provincial Congress during which they studied the document on "Transformative Education" at the Assumption with, among other speakers, Sr Cristina Ma. It was the opportunity for them to deepen their knowledge and love for Marie-Eugenie and when they returned their enthusiasm, joy and good spirit were communicative. For the Sisters it was a novena of prayer to which each one brought her own intention and together we prayed for vocations. The climate of silence and recollection during the time of Lent was helpful. And at the centre of everything, the Liturgy. Together Sisters and Laity prepared and spent hours practising the hymns under the direction of Maria one of the Laity, who is a musician.

The reception after the Mass had to be remembered. There were teams foreseen but everyone helped where needed. In the kitchen all showed their talents and all were wanted as there was so much to be done. Then the "pizza" could not be left out of the feast: the experts put their hands to it!

In the parish, where it was to take place, a group of sisters and friends prepared and decorated the rooms and made sure that the church was beautiful. Our Lay friends giving not only of their time and talents but also of their means to ensure that all would be well in every domain.

It is 5.30 pm. Everyone is ready at the entrance of the church to welcome the quests: friends, brothers and sisters of the Assumption families, past students and others To our great joy, among those invited are Mgr. Duthel, all the General Community of the Assumptionist Fathers with Richard Lamoureux at their head, the Oblate Sisters and the Little Sisters (the Orantes are not in Rome).

The celebration begins with a word of welcome from Sr Maria Paola, Provincial, who has come especially for the occasion. The evenings programme was then presented. It was to be in two parts: firstly a meeting with the Saint on her path to holiness and secondly, the Solemn Eucharist.

I. THE MEETING WITH ST. MARIE-EUGENIE

This was a dialogue with her at three important stages in her life: Dawn -Midday - Evening, and between the sections pieces of music performed by a choir.

To begin it was a song by the children of the kindergarten which on our premises. They had been very well prepared and their seriousness and innocence were a joy to all, and most certainly to Marie-Eugenie.

The dialogue: “A philosophy which orientates....A Passion which animates” is between two voices, a woman’s and a man’s, both Assumption Laity. It was a beautiful text which gave room for thought. A little example to give an idea:

- Marie-Eugenie, why are we speaking this evening of a “philosophy”?

M.-Eug. Because our philosophy is the most authentic image of what we are.

-Marie-Eugenie, from where did you draw your philosophy?

M.-Eug. I drew it from the contemplation of the mystery of Christ and of the crying needs of my times and of my world.

-Marie-Eugenie, we, the men and women of to-day are free, but we have lost our way.

M.-Eug.Yes, we have to make room in ourselves for God’s passion for the human race, for this earth, for all creation.

-The suffering in our world challenges us.

M.-Eug. Indeed, it is passion that will drive us to a decisive choice for a specific purpose.

As this was all finished before the time of Mass the Assumption Lay Group used the opportunity to make themselves known by sharing their experience of Marie-Eugenie. They emphasised how much they had learnt from her spirituality and how it had enriched their own lives. Then they spoke of the Formation session that they had just had

The testimonies of the past pupils of Viale Romania touched us also and especially the words of a parishioner, a friend of the community, who expressed his joy that the celebration was being held in the parish. It was a special grace for it to welcome its first Saint. He hoped that one day there would be an altar dedicated to her in the church. You can imagine our joy if that ever comes to pass.

II. THE EUCHARIST

We come to the crowning event of the celebration. While the entry procession advanced solemnly from the back of the church the choir (Sisters and Laity) sang to the “Daughter of Sion” the song of her heavenly wedding to her Beloved, to which all were invited.

Clad in gold and precious stones	Come all of you, make haste,
Most fair of all women	Behold He comes, my Spouse
When my Lord looks on me	Spread you cloaks upon the road,
My heart with love overflows	Open wide the city gates.

At this point the church was full with the parishioners arriving for the Saturday evening Mass. They were quickly caught up in the festal atmosphere with which the community was alive. But they were not taken by surprise as they had been prepared and, indeed, invited to the feast. Fifteen priests surrounded the altar, ten Assumptionists, three from the parish and a deacon and a priest friend of the community.

Mgr. Duthel was principal celebrant. Internationality was very evident, with nine different nationalities among the fifteen concelebrants. Before it started, the Parish Priest said a word of welcome, saying how happy he was that this was happening in the parish. He underlined the important place that the Assumption community has in the area, specially in the parish for it was the Assumption that started the parish and indeed the whole locality, hence its name. When the sisters arrived there was no church and it was our chapel that served as the parish church.

Mgr. Duthel began the celebration by presenting himself as the postulator of the cause of St Marie-Eugenie. He spoke briefly of the miracle and invited confidence in God following the example of Mary and Martha, Lazarus’ sisters and indeed of the parents of the little girl who was cured.

The Mass was that of the 5th Sunday in Lent, so we could not change the texts, but everything else was festal. The Readings and Prayers were shared between sister and laity. The hymns, well chosen and well sung helped us to live in advance Pascal time, specially the Congolese Sanctus and the Magnificat at the end, which made one want to dance and clap hands.

Mgr. Duthel gave a homily that was beautiful and deep, based on the texts of the Mass and at the same time speaking of Marie-Eugenie, as one who knew her from the inside. He emphasised the actuality of the young Eugenie’s life for the young of today. The family and social situation that she experienced was little different from their own. He underlined the importance of Faith

and the necessity to nourish it with the Word of God and the love of the Eucharist, which had sustained Marie-Eugenie on her path of faith.

The internationality of the Congregation was again evident at the Offertory. The gifts were brought by representatives of the four continents where the Assumption is to be found. America was represented by two Peruvian children in national costume who brought the lights, placing them at the foot of the altar. An Indian lady in a beautiful sari carried the flowers, representing Asia, a young Italian daughter of a couple belonging to Assumption Laity represented Europe, she brought the paten with the Host and, finally, Africa was made present by one of our African sister who is in the community and who carried the chalice. This put us in communion with all our sisters throughout the world and made us relive in miniature the unforgettable celebration in the Piazza of St Peter.

At the end of Mass everyone was invited to the rooms prepared for the “verre d’amitié”. The choir changed roles and hurried to welcome the quests. It was a real family atmosphere, with much joy and everyone making sure that people had all that they needed and, at the end, they were there to help tidy up. Assumption Together in its true meaning! To end the day, to let free the joy and the conviction that was in everyone’s heart, before separating, we insisted on singing:

“Si! La tierra es ese lugar, Para dar gloria a Dios,
Si! Dios puede recibir De nuestra volunta Un homenaje único!
Si! Un homenaje de amor, Que non puede encontrar En si mismo”
Gloria! Gloria! Gloria

2. “BORDERLESS” HOMILIES

2.1. Africa

Central Africa - TAMDJJA, 16 JUNE 2007

Gathered around the Sisters of the Assumption, after the Canonization ceremony of Mother Marie Eugenie last June 3rd in Rome by Pope Benedict XVI, it is now our turn to give thanks, to be jubilant. Marie Eugenie, one among us, we can say, has entered God’s glory. Let us give thanks to the Lord and let us bless His Holy Name. We are gathered here this morning, brothers and sisters, to participate in the joy of the Sisters of the Assumption. The joy of the Sisters of the Assumption is also our joy, the faithful of the diocese of Bafoussam who are linked to the Sisters of the Assumption in one way or another. I know that many are here because of these particular links that bind them to the Sisters. I think in particular of all the alumnae/i who have benefited of their education. In fact, the canonization of Mother Marie Eugenie gives joy to the universal Church. Marie Eugenie is from now on a model that each one of us should imitate. What we try to live in obedience to the Commandments and especially the first among them, Marie Eugenie has attained the goal and now enjoys the advantages inherent in her high position. God from now on accomplishes new things in the life and through the life of Marie Eugenie. The miracle of the love of God has changed the life of our Sister and that of her time. Through the Canonization the Church assures us, with all her authority in the Holy Spirit that the work of God, the work of salvation and of grace has produced its effect, has attained fullness, in the new Saints.

We are happy to know that nothing had predisposed Marie Eugenie towards holiness because in her we see the works of God, a mysterious work that remains hidden to the eyes of man. Although the product of a well-to-do family, Marie Eugenie, very early, experienced suffering through the separation of her parents and the deaths of an elder brother and of a younger sister. She herself was of frail health. When at the age of 15 she loses her mother she remains alone in the world: “I am alone, alone in a bitter isolation of soul...” Solitude weighs on her. One could say that she was but solitude. But she continues to work, haunted by the truth of which she still does not know the name. But very quickly Marie Eugenie was touched by the word of God through the preaching of Fr. Lacordaire and of Fr. Combalot. Abbé Combalot finishes by convincing Anne-Eugenie, aged 22, to found a work of education of which he had long dreamt even if she said: “I am incapable of founding anything in the Church of God.” Abbé Combalot is convinced only through education could one evangelize the intelligence, make families truly Christian and also transform the society of his time. The

believed that the regeneration of society would happen through women. He already knew that the Congregation to be founded would be dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption. The Religious of the Assumption are therefore committed to consecrate their whole life and all their strength to the extension of the Kingdom of Christ in themselves and in the world. The Congregation will develop a spirituality centered on Christ and on the Incarnation, at the same time profoundly contemplative and devoted to apostolic activity. It will be a life lived in a search for God and in a strong apostolic action.

I will not burden you with the evolution of the Congregation until this day. I will content myself with saying the essential about the spiritual life of Marie Eugenie and further on of her work of education.

Marie Eugenie discovered in Christ not only Him who draws her out of her misery but also Him who shows us how much refusal to love and sin can destroy man while at the same time that he proclaims the splendor of the vocation to which God calls humankind. It is not only generosity, attentiveness to others, even devotedness that we learn from Christ. We receive the grace to love as He has loved us and thus we enter into the very mystery of God. "If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in His love." (Jn. 15 : 10). The life of Marie Eugenie was characterized by love, this love of God which, we can say, came down, humbled himself by giving Himself completely to them to the point of giving His life « for his friends » as Jesus did. In his first letter John reflects once more: "this is how you will know if you love: it is not we who have first loved God but He has loved us and He has sent His Son, the victim offered for our sins. » It is God who loves first and who loves those who do not deserve His love.

In the course of this Eucharist I would like to speak briefly of an aspect through which the Sisters of the Assumption are best known in our diocese and for which we would like to render them homage through Mother Marie Eugenie - education.

The conviction that "all honor and all glory are given to God by a humanity restored" is the foundation of the educational project of Marie Eugenie. In a very hierarchical world, she understands that in the eyes of God only the person of deep freedom, counted and that all the knowledge gained had meaning only if they contributed to form the interior man, the interior woman, that is, someone capable of accomplishing one's duties, of facing one's existence not only to correspond to the role that society expects, but out of love and finding therein how to share the love that inhabits them.

As can be imagined at the time and even in our own, this vision of things jostled our mores. With Marie Eugenie, the educational project of a promotion of students is inseparable from the discovery of Christ, of the Church, of prayer and of the life of grace in our hearts. Marie Eugenie wished to form free women and men, men and women capable of recognizing what

God expects of them and of doing it, men and women capable of maintaining their freedom - in relation to ignorance, and even more in relation to falsehood; their freedom in relation to the needs, the vicissitudes of this life and especially in relation to desires that should not enslave them.

To the Sisters, to the teachers and to the educators who work in the institutions founded by the Sisters of the Assumption, to the parents, remember that what St. Paul says and to which Saint Marie Eugenie adhered with all the fibers of her soul and of her experience: "No other foundation can be laid than that which already exists, Jesus Christ." It is not only Jesus Christ known as a person of the past, a model of life that one can look at once in a while to gain courage... It is a Jesus Christ to whom we listen at length and patiently. It is Jesus Christ interiorized and imitated. It is Jesus Christ reigning in our hearts. It is Jesus Christ recognized as He who has chosen us to make us His friends. Never forget to remind your students that they are God's field that they are the house God is building.

Marie Eugenie did great things because she accepted to be close to Christ, discovering that a life lived close to the Lord does not distance us from people but quite the contrary. Her gaze on Jesus helped her see the young to whom she wanted to show the trust and the love Christ has for each one. It is the trust that opens the way to intellectual fulfillment. At this time when we rejoice at the thought that Marie Eugenie arrived where she now is thanks to the proximity of the Lord, we should also be inspired by her example and take her as model. In fact, holiness is not possible if one is not close to the Lord. This is a message that must be passed on to all who today, in particular the young, think of finding their happiness outside of or far from Christ. It is a message that today the Sisters of the Assumption should continue to transmit to the young and to all those who profit of their work of education.

Marie Eugenie invites us to allow ourselves to be drawn by Christ, sure that the Lord will not impose impossible demands on us but that He will bring to fulfillment the best in ourselves, that He will make our life succeed as He did for Marie Eugenie. Following Christ throughout the days you will not be deceived. Looking at Jesus you will learn to love and to love yourself. Follow Marie Eugenie. She will show you the way of Christ which she sought for a long time finding it in Him who alone can give true happiness. Marie Eugenie believed in the love of Christ. She accepted the supreme manifestation in the commandment He gave us of loving one another as He has loved us. To be faithful to this commandment is, in fact, the way to collaborate in the work of God and to commune in His joy.

Let us truly believe, like Marie Eugenie, in the love of Christ, a love He shows in striking ways each day. And each day the Spirit will give us the surprising and always new joy of communing of this love and of discovering that of the Father. We then will also know what "God is Love" means and our joy will invite all our brothers to believe in our God.

Dear brothers and sisters gathered around the Sisters of the Assumption and around Christ to give thanks and to rejoice for Marie Eugenie, let us thank the Lord for the Spirit of love that He gave to Marie Eugenie. Let us also pray so that each one of us may love with the same love. May this Eucharistic celebration be a hymn to the joy of God. May all this invite us to enter into the praise of God. Let us ask the Lord that we may be adorers in Spirit and in Truth as Marie Eugenie. Praised be Jesus Christ!

Mgr Joseph ATANGA, Bishop of Bafoussam

***West Africa* - OUAGADOUGOU 18 NOVEMBER 2007**

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in Christ with every kind of spiritual blessing in the heavens.” Eph 1: 3

United to the family of the Religious of the Assumption we give thanks to God for the gift of Sister Marie Eugenie.

She is a gift for the Sisters of the Congregation she founded.

She is a gift for the alumnae and alumni of the Assumption.

She is a gift for each one of us.

She is a gift for the Church and for the world.

In fact, beyond the work that she founded which, through education works for the promotion of the human person, Marie Eugenie is by her holy life a gift God gives to His Church and to the world.

The very brief narration of the story of her life at the start of this celebration depicts the life of a woman which through the vicissitudes of existence wished to conform her life to the will of God by making Jesus Christ known and loved. Saint Marie Eugenie loved to say: **“Abandonment is the most perfect act of love. One entrusts oneself into God’s hand always saying ‘yes’ to Him.”** she lived that in the highest degree. That is why the Church offers her to us today as intercessor and as a model.

On 4 June 2007, aftermath of her canonization, Mgr. Andre Vingt Trois, Archbishop of Paris, said of St. Marie Eugenie: *“Our sister is henceforth presented to the whole Church as a beautiful image of herself (the Church), a model for our life, a soul in whom what God wishes to do in each one of us has been sufficiently fulfilled on this earth so that the light of God may penetrate her (the soul) from all around.”*

Dear brothers and sisters, like Marie Eugenie, we are all called to holiness: *“Be holy as your Father in heaven is holy.”* It is the vocation of all the baptized, the vocation of each and every one of us in different ways, certainly, but we are all called to reveal God’s holiness.

Leaning on two words of Saint Marie Eugenie, I would like to make a brief meditation on the primary source of our vocation to holiness to invite us all to draw the necessary strength from it to be able to respond to our call. This source is Jesus Christ. **“There is only one foundation stone who is Jesus**

Christ. It is on Jesus Christ that we, that everything is built.” And she adds, **“I am more and more convinced that everything happens at the feet of the Blessed Sacrament.”**

Reverend Sisters of the Assumption, daughters of Saint Marie Eugenie, the canonization of Marie Eugenie in Rome on 3 June 2007 and this thanksgiving celebration today are an occasion for you to recall the source of your consecration, precisely there when your foundress spent long hours to draw her strength.

I would like to give this reminder very modestly, convinced that the week-long activities in preparation for today’s liturgy gave you the opportunity to go back to the source. In his apostolic exhortation *Vita Consecrata* of 25 March 1996 on The Consecrated Life, Pope John Paul II said that the following of Christ poor, chaste and obedient finds its source in the radiant face of Christ transfigured on the mountain, the veritable icon of divine glory. Each of you was seduced by the beauty of the transfigured Christ just like the apostles on Mount Tabor. It is in the encounter with the Transfigured Christ in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar that the consecrated person expresses and renews her love for Christ and the world.

- **Start off from Christ as the source of the summit of the consecrated life.**
- **Start off from Christ as the source and summit of apostolic involvement.**
- **Start off from Christ as the ultimate goal of our journey on earth.**

“You will find our Lord Jesus Christ first and foremost at the Blessed Sacrament and that must be our principal devotion”. St. Marie Eugenie Pope John Paul confirms this on February 2, 2001, the day dedicated to the consecrated life. ***“Encounter and contemplate Jesus in a particular manner in the Eucharist, celebrated and adored each day, as the source and the summit of existence and of apostolic activity.”*** It is in the Eucharist, moreover that the fundamental demands of the consecrated life find their model and their achievement. ***“We all have need of the daily viaticum, the encounter with the Lord, to integrate each day in the time of God.”*** *Vita Consecrata* 95

What should one find in the heart of a Religious of the Assumption? Marie Eugenie replies: **These three loves: Jesus Christ, the Blessed Virgin, the Church.** In the heart of the Religious of the Assumption one finds Jesus, loved and served as Spouse. In the heart of the Religious of the Assumption one finds Mary, loved as Mother and Model of the consecrated person for ***“in Mary, all was adoration”*** and service.

In the heart of the Religious of the Assumption, one finds the Church loved and served as the Mystical Body of Christ. Marie Eugenie said: ***“We must have the same love for the Church as we have for our Lord. He has established a perfect unity between Him and the Church.”***

Dear Sisters of the Assumption, your passion for Christ, for the Church and for the world is expressed, articulated and actualized through your charism of education as witnessed by the number of schools that you have in Burkina and elsewhere. I particularly mention the Primary school, St. Marie Eugenie that you have just opened in Ouagadougou.

Through education Marie Eugenie and the Sisters of the Assumption seek to form the intelligence in such a way that it animates and directs the will, an enlightened intelligence that loves and seeks the truth.

The philosophy of education of the Sisters of the Assumption can be summarized in these words of St. Marie Eugenie: ***“I do not give much value to all this teaching about pure knowledge. Rather, I esteem what elevates the understanding, what gives it a character of superiority in intellectual and Christian feelings. What makes one mind superior to another is rather the turn of mind, its particular stamp or character given to a person. What is needful is that the children should have serious ideas and be purposeful about them...when emotion awakens, it should not be suppressed but guided.”***

Education according to St. Marie Eugenie should be above all to Christianize the intelligence, to render it capable of renunciations and sacrifices.

Fortunately this is not just theory. The alumnae/i of the Assumption are there as witnesses to tell us that the education they have received from the Sisters of the Assumption formed their intelligence in the search for the truth, therefore, of God because ***“he who searches for the truth finds God, because God is Truth.”*** St. Edith Stein

Dear alumnae/i of the Assumption, I would like to ask for some testimonies but let us leave that for after the celebration. Allow me, however, in the name of the Sisters of the Assumption to congratulate you for this large mobilization. You wanted this thanksgiving; you have made it possible at the cost of sacrifices and of personal and communitarian commitments. It is the concrete proof that the spirit of the Assumption has marked your life forever and that you are truly daughters and sons of Marie Eugenie. This is a call not to a one-time commitment like today's whose just value we acknowledge, but a daily commitment to propagate the spirit and the values proposed by the Assumption.

Alumnae/i of the Assumption and all of you who discover and who discover and who seek to deepen the spirituality and the charism of the Assumption, you are the leaven in the human dough, you are the light of the world, you are the salt of the earth. I urge you to lift high the torch of the Assumption by working for the transformation of your different milieus of life and socio-professional reality in which you find yourselves. That is what it is to be a witness, that is, a martyr. Very often you will have to go against the current of the ideas of this world.

Yes! Each time that in a difficult situation on the socio-professional, familial, social, political level, each time that in a difficult situation, you choose to do

the will of God, you are martyrs. It is by your perseverance that you will obtain life.

Dear brothers and sisters, you all who participate in this celebration, this thanksgiving for the canonization of Marie Eugenie, foundress of the Religious of the Assumption, the Word of God on this 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time culminates in the Gospel with a call to witness: *“They will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name. It will lead to your giving testimony.”*

For a better understanding on this passage we must read it in connection with what Christ says in his choice of the 12 in Luke 5: 1-9, 26. There Christ describes the identity of the disciples. Meditating on these texts one can draw the following conclusions:

Show that you are a disciple of Christ by your actions. Christ teaches us that discipleship depends on what one does. If one acts well one is his disciple. Christ wants action not discourses. He wants witnesses not demagogues. He wants saints and not orators.

Words and discourses have their importance, certainly, but they are efficacious and make the proclamation of the Gospel credible only in the measure that they are transformed into good works.

The defense of truth that is not changed into life is like a flower that withers and falls without bearing fruit. It is in following Jesus day after day, bearing with misunderstanding, discrimination, rejection and persecutions that we can manifest the credibility of the Christian doctrine.

Saint Marie Eugenie is given to us today as intercessor and model, she who loved to say: *“To love is to give oneself, to love in truth. It is the secret of all joy... It is in suffering that the great works are founded...It is God who guides us and no more loving and wiser hand could guide our destinies.”*

Dear brothers and sisters, in our mission of witnessing, we are assured of the presence of the Spirit. Jesus tells us *“Do not prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute.”* Amen

His Excellency Mgr Joachim Ouédraogo, Bishop of Dori

West Africa – NIGER: COLLEGE MARIAMA

In a book entitled: **“Education in the Assumption”**, I read this sentence which called my attention. **“Today Marie Eugenie would invite us to believe in the utopia of the Kingdom”**. Believe - utopia - Kingdom. There you have very abstract notions which would butt the best students of philosophy. Jesus who speaks to the little ones, asks himself, to what shall I compare it, to what is the Kingdom of God comparable? What does this invitation of Marie

Eugenie to believe in the utopia of the Kingdom mean? Jesus gives two images in response because no definition could limit the Kingdom.

First of all Jesus invites us not to make of the Kingdom a thing. It is impossible to exactly represent it because it is alive, it is changing, it grows every moment in the heart of those who welcome it.

To compare the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed means that it is minuscule, almost invisible to the naked eye. To become aware of its presence we need to open the eyes of faith.

Marie Eugenie opened wide the eyes of faith to discover what the others have difficulty discovering.

- ✓ She sees the Father dwell in the heart of each one.
- ✓ She sees that the word of God is an impassioned liberator.
- ✓ She sees that the world is not a place of exile but a place where the glory of God is rendered possible.
- ✓ She sees that each one of us has a mission.
- ✓ She sees that this mission demands courage and faith.
- ✓ She sees with the eyes of faith because as she says in a letter addressed to Fr. Lacordaire: my gaze is fixed on Jesus Christ and on the extension of His Kingdom.

I invite you to see as she sees. It is a look of faith that sees the invisible of the Kingdom (the utopia of heaven).

The Kingdom of God is not only comparable to a mustard seed but to a mustard seed that a man sows in his garden. The seed is nothing without the man who sows it in the soil. For it to be established, the Kingdom of God needs man's collaboration. He chose to depend on him from the beginning. The eyes of faith allow us to see that God can do nothing alone, that He needs us, not for the form, but truly. Marie Eugenie made of collaboration a strategy in education. Work as a community appears as a backdrop of all educational work in the Assumption says a document. Work as a community promotes the encounter of persons as well as dialogue. It requires team work, develops co-responsibility between the members and favors partnership relationships.

Jesus also compares the Kingdom to yeast that a woman puts in three measures of flour. The daily work of a woman in her kneading reveals that the Kingdom is present in our daily life and that it has an unimaginable strength. This woman makes bread, bread that God offers us every day. God gives us his bread by inviting us to be bread bakers.

Through her sisters and through all those who are inspired by her spirituality, Marie Eugenie continues to knead the flour of love so that the yeast of the Kingdom becomes an eternal meal for the life of humanity.

In the course of this celebration, I pray that this College be a place of education such as Marie Eugenie wanted but also a place of passion and of contemplation for the Kingdom now and for eternity. Amen!

2.2. America

U.S.A.: Worcester - 11 November 2007

The celebration of a new saint testifies to the enduring power of the Gospel to elevate and sanctify the human person. One of the really beautiful things about Marie Eugenie's canonization is that it reinforces and universalizes the Assumption way as an assured path to holiness. In this respect we would be remiss if we did not this morning hear the echo of Marie Eugenie's insistent voice encouraging her sisters and us.... DARE TO BE HOLY...

To borrow a phrase from one of our more illustrious Massachusetts politicians who maintained that "all politics is local:" it's also the case that this gift to the Church - which we call a charism - is never simply an abstraction, but is lived out in particular times and places, in particular communities, and is embodied in the lives of particular women and men. That's the reason it's so good that the joy which accompanies the celebration of Marie Eugenie's sanctity, centered as it was on the mystery of the Incarnation, should not be restricted to Rome, but should resound in every corner of the world where that charism has borne fruit.

And so it's Worcester's turn. The sisters have been with us here now for more than twenty years - long enough for us to have difficulty imagining what life was like without them. The Assumption charism, reflected in the lives of religious women from several continents, united in their love for Marie Eugenie and her great desire to make Jesus Christ known and loved through education and prayer, has borne fruit here at Assumption College, at St. Peter's and Our Lady of Vilna in the city, and now at the Assumption Center at 16 Vineyard St. Marie Eugenie's capacity for friendship is present in them as well: our appreciation for them always involves the particular human face and the personal name.... Monica and Feli; Sheila, Christina and Clare; Chi-Chi, Anne Françoise and Laetitia; and the present band: Therese and Francis and Nuala and Mary Ann and Nha-Trang, to name only some. So many of us have been touched by the humanity of these women, whose addresses have been Otsego and Old English Roads, but who have opened us widely to the world.

St. Marie Eugenie's gift to her sisters, to the Church, and to the world that she loved has been so fruitful, I believe, because her life and vision was so closely tied to the very heart of the Gospel. So many of the elements are there: first of all, a mission focused on the essentials: extending God's kingdom, making Jesus Christ known and loved - a call and a mission that came to her directly from God and which captured her heart and strengthened her resolve. And then all of the experiences of her life which she succeeded, with God's grace, in incorporating into that mission: her suffering, to begin with - growing up in a house without faith, the divorce of her parents, the loss of her mother, the separation from a dear brother all at

a young and impressionable age and all the loneliness attendant upon these events; the influence of a charismatic, but authoritarian and overbearing director and later the unfair opposition of other ecclesiastical authorities; the failure of the first missionary endeavor of the community, the travail of watching over the deaths, many of them premature, of so many of her sisters. In each instance, Marie Eugenie allowed these sufferings to pierce her heart and to accomplish in her the work that God desired. So too for the poverty, the austerity of her early communities.... She accepted these harsh conditions not only with serenity; she saw these, too, as an opportunity to draw closer to the One to whom she had given her life. If the mission of the new community was to make God known and loved, how could that happen if each of the sisters did not allow the concrete circumstances of her life to instill in her a greater knowledge and love, to transfigure her from within. For the same reason, if I were so bold as to identify the key to this way of life that Marie Eugenie proposed for her community, it would be the struggle she waged to preserve the contemplative dimension of her active community. In the face of considerable ecclesiastical opposition, she insisted upon the necessity for her sisters to pray the full prayer of the Church and to spend time in adoration each day. It's not going too far, I think, to say that so many of her personal qualities can be linked to the preservation of this aspect of her life: her apostolic energy, her courage, her capacity for discernment and for friendship, her warm-hearted generosity, her love for the Church, even her sense of humor - and perhaps above all, her freedom of spirit. Like the noble figures in today's first reading, she knew, from some deep divine instinct within her, that a deep attachment to God would free her sisters to an ever deeper surrender to the work of love that had been entrusted to them.

In this particular place of teaching and learning, I am struck, finally, by Marie-Eugenie's insistence that those involved in an educational mission needed especially to pray. Was it because of the awesome responsibility that such a mission entailed? Was it based on her understanding that intelligence needed to be illuminated by faith in order to reach its proper end? I'm not sure that she spelled out the reason behind this conviction, but here again, the truth is verified by its fruits: a pedagogy that, in the end, invites students to listen to God's loving call and to spend themselves in service to others. Such has been the gift of Marie-Eugenie to our educational mission here at Assumption College and to the pastoral ministry in the city.

And so, there's so much for us to celebrate in this woman who has become, at one and the same time, our very own saint and a saint of the entire Church. How wonderful it is that she is ready to intercede for us, so that our own efforts to make Jesus Christ better known and loved may be encouraged and strengthened. May all that we are be Glory to God.

Dennis Gallagher, A.A

2.3. Asia

Philippines-Thailand: San Fernando, PAMPANGA

There is an old French song entitled ‘*A la claire fontaine*’, which historians date back to the French revolution. If this song is indeed as old as people think it is, then Marie Eugenie must have sung it when she was a little girl. It says,

‘A la claire fontaine m’ent allant promener, J’ai trouvé l’eau si belle que je m’y suis baigné

Il’y a longtemps que je t’aime j’amais je ne t’oublierai’. (Taking a walk at the clear fountain I found such beautiful water that I bathed in it. I have loved you for a long time, I will never forget you.)

I think this song summarizes the story of the life of Marie Eugenie.

Marie Eugenie could have turned into a neurotic, or perhaps even a psychotic, given the circumstances of her life. She came from a kind of background that would have made any religious congregation cautious about accepting her into the religious life. Her life was the perfect formula for a dysfunctional personality—having been a victim of one trauma after another. First she lost an elder brother, then a baby sister; then her father who was a banker and a politician went bankrupt and left her mother. They lived in poverty after her parents separated; then her mother died of cholera when she was just fifteen. I can only imagine the kind of emotional damage that each one of those tragic events could have created in the psyche of Marie Eugenie. And yet, she turned up differently. Perhaps if the formula were automatic that pain times pain equals trauma, and trauma times trauma equals a damaged personality, we would have to regard the person that Marie Eugenie turned out to be into a miracle by itself—a perfect example of grace against all odds.

But then we really do not have to resort immediately to the supernatural to explain how Marie Eugenie lived a full life, despite all the emotional injuries that she had had to endure in her youth. After all, she had a strong woman for a mother who made sure that her children were brought up well and given good education. It was also the strength of will and character that she had imbibed from her mother that seems to have made her capable of bouncing back from every tragic experience. Her mother had succeeded in stirring in her an “intellectual curiosity and a romantic spirit”, which are the same characteristics that the later Marie Eugenie seems to have consciously promoted as qualities of young women raised in the “Assumption” style of formation and education—smart but not arrogant, confident and articulate but always disposed to learn.

What Marie Eugenie developed was a kind of disposition that remained open, formable, shapeable, malleable like clay in the potter’s hand. She was the type who never hardened after a hard experience. Not a single moment did

she clamp up; she remained a gentle soul, a free spirit, a mind so gifted with a healthy sense of wonder—one that was always disposed for the many lessons of life.

If there is one thing one could say for sure about Marie Eugenie, it was that she was never insecure. Perhaps because she really felt loved, and never once doubted it. Very early in her life, she had this profound religious experience that opened her soul to the absoluteness of God's love. The occasion was her first communion. About this experience, she wrote, "...at my first communion which I made alone and without the normal preparations, I felt so deeply, as I have never before been able to do, a silent separation from everything connected to me... it was as if everything that I had ever seen on this earth, my mother included, seemed to be a passing shadow... my eyes closed on everything that I had seen up to now in order to open to the one who alone was dear to me."

Marie Eugenie reminds me so much of that popular song sung by Don McLean in the early 80's, entitled "Blackbird". The song goes,
Blackbird singing in the dead of night, take these broken wings and learn to fly. All your life, you were only waiting for this moment to arrive.
Blackbird singing in the dead of night, take these sunken eyes and learn to see. All your life, you were only waiting for this moment to be free.
Blackbird fly, blackbird fly.

How did Marie Eugenie fly if she had broken wings? She learned to ride on the Great Eagle's wings. And with her sunken eyes, how did she learn to see? She opened the inner eyes of her soul, and her faith made her see the light of divine grace in the midst of adversities and tragedies.

She took all the pain and the breaking as mere pruning in the hand of the vinedresser. She just made sure she "remained in the love of Christ" like a branch to the vine. Like Ignatius, she must have sung, "Give me only your love and your grace, that's enough for me." And like Paul says in Romans chapter 8, "If God is for us, who can be against us; who can separate us from the love of Christ?" "*Sino nga ba ang makapaghihiwalay sa atin sa pag-ibig ng Diyos? Paghihirap ba, kapighatian, pag-uusig o gutom, o tabak? Kahit na kamatayan, walang makapaghihiwalay sa atin sa pag-ibig ng Diyos.*"

The love that does not give up; the love that endures all things, hopes all things; the love that is eternal—this is what Marie Eugenie discovered very early in her life. It is all that it really takes to achieve sainthood.

They say the first proven miracle wrought through the intercession of St. Marie Eugenie was experienced by a Filipino couple on their child. Perhaps I should say there is another couple that experienced a similar miracle through the intercession of Marie Eugenie—my niece and her husband Sonny. Their one year old child was about to die of a total liver failure. With a very slim chance for success, they went to Singapore for a partial liver transplant, with my niece Ria as donor. She had 1/3 of her liver sliced so as to extend her

life's daughter. But knowing that it is God, not the doctor, who extends our lives, Ria and Sonny prayed hard through Marie Eugenie's special intercession. Their daughter Erin was saved; she has been discharged from the hospital and is coming home soon. Now she has a chance to grow up as a normal girl.

Where is the miracle there, if much of it had to do with a medical intervention? I think the miracle was in the strength of faith and will that sustained Sonny and Ria all throughout. They never gave up even when everything almost seemed so hopeless. Like Marie Eugenie, they learned to fly with broken wings, and with sunken eyes they learned to see.

Sainte Marie Eugenie, bien-aimée de Dieu, priez pour nous ! Saint Mary Eugenie, beloved of God, pray for us! AMEN.

Monseigneur Pablo David

Philippines-Thailand: Manila - 25 August 2007

To the question "will only a few be saved", the Lord Jesus replied "try your hardest to enter the narrow door, because I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed." (Luke 13: 23-24) Using the vocabulary of religion one may ask, will there be few saints? The implication is that there are more than some who will fail to become saints.

It is only God who can make saints. In fact the very call of God that puts human beings in existence is in itself a call to holiness. Human life is itself a call to be holy --- to live on earth as image and likeness of God. (Genesis 1:26). As an image of God the human person (man or woman) needs to repeat the goodness and love of God among humans.

It is so easy to conclude that it is God who makes the saints. But then we ask why there are not many saints? The truth is that God cannot make saints of unwilling subjects. If people insist on living only for themselves, the consequence will be proud and selfish human individuals, competing with themselves and seeking only their super self-esteem.

Thus a mysterious combination of God's love, the people around, the environment and the challenges presented by the present situation and the person's response to the challenges and needs of people will indicate the making of a saint.

The first element of holiness in the saint is a faithful and trustworthy God. God's faithful love is at the heart of holiness. The young Marie Eugenie writing to his spiritual director revealed that "God had always made Himself strongly present to me in them (the Sacraments), though I rarely sought Him there...God in His goodness had left me a link of love". Saints always discover that theirs is a faithful God. Wishing to assure the Israelites that God is always faithful, Moses wrote to remind the people, "From this you can see that Yahweh your God who, though he is the true God, the faithful God who,

though he is true to his covenant and his faithful love for a thousand generations as regard those who love him and keep his commandments (still) punishes in their own persons those that hate him”. (Deuteronomy 7:9)

There is nothing unfair in the dealings of a loving God. Saints ever find God as faithful and so unconditionally compassionate.

Secondly, God has placed people as milestones in the life history of every person who is called to life and to holiness of life. People come into our lives as friends, and at times they departed as rivals or foes. Wonder of wonders, sometimes they are the same persons who turn unfriendly after many years of endearment. And yet each one plays a role in making every person the faithful and holy person one is called to be. Marie Eugenie by her own comparing suffered from looking at others and then reflecting on her lack of learning in her early childhood. “I was incredibly ignorant of the doctrine and teaching of the Church, yet I had been instructed for my first Holy Communion like other children”. The creative beauty of a saintly soul is precisely the ability to see the best in even the slightest hint of good. Marie Eugenie could have disagreed with some from her early non-believing clan, but she saw strength and encouragement in her mother who, despite the not-too-religious atmosphere and spirit of their times, was decided to bring her up as a Christian and to make of her a woman of strong character espousing very high deals.

Indeed there are many persons God allowed us to encounter in life. And unmistakably everyone has a task or role to play in shaping our minds, determining our values and building the character of a lifetime. The young saint knew where and how to begin while the rest of us mortals waited almost unendingly for the most opportune chance, and remaining ever without having taken any step to self improvement. For the saint every moment is a chance filled with God’s gift to change for the better!

Thirdly, it must be recalled that the poverty that enveloped France, particularly the city of Paris, was the impoverishment of the weak and some from even the better off families together with the attendant irreligiousness of France immediately after the great revolution. Not much introspection is needed to notice the needs brought about by the post revolution challenges of poverty and neglect.

Great stirrings were then brewing in the heart of the faithful soul of this young woman. She continued to write to her spiritual director (Abbe Gros) revealing her own slowly developing desire to commit herself and others to do something for the poor and for the Church. She even mentioned that anyone who has a love for the Church and is aware of the profoundly irreligious outlook of the majority of the rich among the families of Paris must feel compelled to try every means to bring Christ into their lives”.

At this juncture of the reflection, perhaps the question may again be asked in the manner of today’s Gospel, “Will there be a few who would be saved?”

“Try your hardest, your best, the Lord counseled.”

In the end it will be the saintly person's response that will provide the answer to either salvation, holiness or saintliness. In the generosity of saints, love is measured, if at all, with the love they give back to God who loved them. How much love there was to give was never asked of saints. In St. Marie Eugenie it was everything. It is God. "God was everything to me and all that was not of Him was foreign to my soul".

May Marie Eugenie teach us how to love God and in Him to have compassion for others, especially the poor. St. Marie Eugenie, Pray for us.

+ Gaudencio B. Cardinal Rosales

2.4. Europe

England: LONDON - 13 October 2007

Your Eminence, my dear Sisters whom I have known so long, brothers and friends, if I might be permitted a personal apologia as we turn to reflect and share thoughts about the prophetic voice of Saint Marie Eugénie, may I say this has been one of the most difficult sermons to put together. Not because of Marie Eugénie, far from it, her voice has been strongly heard in my thoughts these past few days. Sister Maureen so graciously gave me many pieces of detail, autobiographies, writings, articles about Marie Eugénie, but strangely they kept on disappearing, books got mislaid, papers kept going missing and on one occasion one of my students was given one page of this sermon in the middle of an essay, I wonder what they thought? This puzzled me, until I began to make connections, to link it with what was going to happen today. I had to listen not to the voice of others but the voice of Marie Eugénie in my heart, she was telling me that in this ministry of preaching, looking to the past was all very well, but it is the future that matters. She was trying to say to me. Look ahead; find what I can give for the future because each age must interpret the voice of Christ in the Gospel so that new Disciples of Jesus may hear his call through us, through Marie Eugénie!

1. Dare to be Holy!

One of the greatest gifts our new saint has given to the Church is a vision of informed and intelligent faith that seeks to dialogue with the world and its culture, rather than hide from it!

It is her own sense of vocation that challenges us to be good Christians, to take up Saint Paul's reminder; that through Baptism and Confirmation we, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, are called to holiness. (Romans 5:5) She challenges us to, 'dare to be holy', and in another phrase of hers, to live lives, 'fully lived and changed in Christ'. In fact when reading that wonderful document of the Second Vatican Council, *Lumen Gentium*, with its sense of the Church as the 'People of God' on Pilgrimage, where each one of us (in that Pauline theology of the Mystical Body of Christ) contributes to the

growth of the whole, and to the Kingdom of God, finds echoes in the voice of Marie Eugénie. This we can discover in her writings, to Sisters, friends and confidants a hundred years before the Council. But it is my contention that in this sense she is one of the Prophets of the Second Vatican Council, and it is timely for her to be canonised in this century, as we continue to forge ahead with the work of renewal in the vision of that Council. This is true '*aggiornamento*'. She is important to us because she challenges us to renew ourselves in that vision of the Holy Spirit, 'blowing through the open windows of the Church'. (Blessed John XXIII)

2. Gift.

What then can we learn from Marie Eugénie? What gift does she give us as we celebrate her canonisation?

A canonisation can in one sense be problematic. Not everybody loves a saint! The communities that take their inspiration from her teaching and charisma will long have been used to talking about Marie Eugénie the woman, the religious, the friend, Mother Foundress, (with all that this entails), 'la Dame formidable' and so on! There is a family connection and an intimacy, part of this is wonderfully represented by the family of our saint with us today! Does canonisation break this bond? Does it place the new saint on a pedestal? True catholic tradition says 'No!'. Despite the pious hagiography of particular times, the saints remain part of us, they are still human, but canonisation extends the relationship a saint has with others. It places them as part of that great cloud of witnesses before God but also right at the heart of the Church! They belong to its mission and ministry, now and in the future. Their heavenly birthday is now our 'feast day', their lives now known throughout the world. As one of your Sisters put it so well, it makes 'universally relevant the joy, the connection each one may feel personally towards the new saint'. In other words it enables you, my very dear Sisters, friends, past pupils of the Assumption, Staff and past students of Maria Assumpta and all the connections linking back to her, to give her as YOUR GIFT to a hungry world as a sign, prophet and pointer to the work of God revealed in her life. In a very real way she becomes your gift. You have known her, loved her, taken inspiration from her. Now as she takes her place in the calendar of saints, take her torch for Christ and light up other lives with the love she had for the Church and the world.

Her real insight was to challenge pre-conceived norms. The trials and difficulties of her experience were essential for her eventual success, as it is for all of us. If we are to follow and learn from her gift, it is surely '*pour encourager les autres*', that is, to enable all members of the Church to work towards freeing the world from oppression and transform society through education, using the Gospel as THE foundation for learning!

3. Liberté, Fraternité, Égalité!

There are many strands in the vision and gifts of Saint Marie Eugénie, but in praying with her and thinking of her, one cry emerges in startling clarity! As

with some of you, I share in a Gallic background of which I am quite unashamedly proud. Whatever we may think of *the French Republic* the motto, *Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité* stands out clearly! Somehow in these words our saint inspires us to rescue them and transform them into Gospel virtues.

Let me try to shape what I think is her gift in this way:

- a. *Liberté*, liberty is the freedom to be truly the children of God. This is a vision based deep in our tradition, where in Christ there is no male nor female, neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, only one people equal in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3.27-28) That is part of her gift too, seen in the huge variety of people in her life, a reminder that the disciple of Jesus cannot discriminate. As Archbishop Vingt-Trois said in his homily on her canonisation: *'She reminds us that true liberty...the kind of liberty that no one or nothing can take away...is that of the person, of the heart which only Christ really touches and liberates. There it is the freedom of Christ in the Spirit'* (Rome, June 6th 2007).
- b. *Égalité*, equality. Marie Eugenie, living in a torn, fragmented and dysfunctional society, felt deeply many of the problems which beset our own families and society. In her life she recognises family breakdown, the inequality between rich and poor, the inadequacies of the State and its provision, she lives through a concerted attack on religion and personal faith. Her vision comes through all this accepting and facing head on the trials and challenges. As a woman in 19th century France and as a faithful daughter of the Church she knew the constraints of a male, hierarchical model. She fought for women (and men) so that the importance of the person became clear. Like Therese of Lisieux, she envisions a time when perhaps women may take a stronger role in the ordained ministry, this is yet to come! She was no dualist, for her, all the Earth **'is a place for the glory of God'**. This passion for knowledge and the desire to educate is the means to equality and empowerment. Again this is the vision of the Church. Contrary to our contemporary stress on individuality, Marie Eugénie places the person in this context, as a member of the Body of Christ, where the individuals well being is also dependent on their full participant membership of Christ's community!
- c. And *fraternité*? Her religious community and the associated communities and people bear ample witness to this part of her vision. In her own life she was unafraid of love, of Christ's love, expressed in deep friendship for men and women. We can witness to this in the procession of different people to the convent parlours and the many letters she wrote to different people. This love extended beyond people to embrace her work, her culture and her time. She was in the real sense of the word a 'liberal Catholic' open to the promptings of the Spirit, embracing that command of Jesus to love God and neighbour as oneself. She was as many lovers of God are, 'a breaker of moulds'!

4.To Love.

It is no accident that the Rule of St. Augustine was her choice for the Assumption community, and it is with him I end.

Marie Eugénie echoes in her life and witness the greatest of Augustine's visions, that the foundation of mission, life, community, family must be rooted in the encounter with God. For her that was private prayer, the Liturgy of the Hours, the Churches' prayer and for us as Catholics in that 'fons *et origo*', the Eucharist. In her devotion she turned to an ancient understanding of the Virgin Mary as *Theotokos*, a theology of Mary that comes from the Eastern Church, which sees her **always** connected to Christ.

If Augustine's great sigh, '**Too late have I loved thee, O beauty at once so ancient and yet so new**', was his comment on his own search for God, yet even he knew enough to realise that. '**You were within me, and I out of myself, and there I searched for you**'. (Confessions 10:27). With him Marie Eugénie points us back to God as our source, but running ahead of Augustine she tells us that we can find God NOW. It is today, here, where we are that God can find us and love us. '**Thou hast made us for thyself, and our hearts are restless until they find rest in Thee**'. (Confessions. 1:1) For both of these great saints it all comes back to what the human family must learn, that it is in love we are fashioned and made.

Augustine wrote, '*diliget et quot vis fac*', mistranslated as '**love and do what you will**'. But there is a better translation which sums up Marie Eugénie so well; '**love and then what you will, DO!**'

' May the example of Saint Marie Eugénie invite men and women of today to transmit to the young the values that will help them become strong adults... May young people not be afraid to welcome these moral and spiritual values, to love with patience and fidelity'. (Benedict XVI, Canonisation Homily)

Father Robert Philip Gibbons, Kensington, religieux de l'Eglise Grecque Catholique Melchite

Spain: San Sébastian - 16 June 2007

The Eucharist which we are celebrating is that which *throbs with the saving heart of the Church*; it is a joyful echo of the succession of movements when Mother Marie Eugenie was canonized. The diocese of Guipuzkoa which has the privilege of having implanted in her a *share* of the charism of the Assumption, celebrates with the Religious of the Assumption this ecclesial event.

The Word of God, heard from the lips of Jesus and Paul, offers us the spirit of the celebration. The Lord reminds that it is not we who choose Him; it is He who chooses us. He chooses us, not to be His slaves but His friends and therefore, free. He chooses us to send us to bear fruit. Mother Marie

understood these words marvelously. “Jesus Christ liberated us from the past through His sacrifice so that we can freely work for the fulfillment of the Word He has announced to us”.

Paul, the apostle of the Lord Jesus, in his controversy with those who did not recognize his legitimate apostolate, affirms that the one sent to plant, is not the author of salvation. God alone is the source. It is He who plants the faith, makes it take root and grow. The apostles are merely the instruments of God’s work. St. Marie Eugenie who saw the vigorous growth of the Congregation she had planted, was keenly aware of this key affirmation of our faith. In a letter to Fr. Lacordaire she said: “We must seek to know how God wishes to make use of us for the spread and realization of the Good News.”

I know that among my listeners here many persons know better the Foundress of the Religious of the Assumption. But I cannot afford not to speak of the impression left on me after reading the life and the texts of M.M.E. I was impressed by her relevance. That young lady who suffers much from the impact of the separation of her parents, from the tragic death of her mother, lives and experiences a painful crisis in her search for the meaning of life. She is a woman two centuries ahead of her time. Today, in a climate, dominated by religious indifference and loss of faith, many non-believers seek reasons and meaning to live. The words liberty, freedom and passion which resound in her writings have themselves an unquestionable echo in our times frequently bringing us into the spirituality of the epoch in which she lived.

The 2nd characteristics, which I admire in the Foundress of the Religious of the Assumption is a life strongly centered on Jesus Christ. In her words, M.M. Eugenie is a woman filled with Jesus Christ as Lord of our life, of the Church and of history. “My gaze is fixed on Jesus Christ and the extension of His kingdom.” Her life and writings served her passion for Jesus Christ and His Lordship over persons, communities and the universe. She belongs to Jesus Christ for the coming of His Kingdom. “In the Assumption, all belongs to Jesus Christ, all must be for Jesus Christ. It is folly not to be what one really is.” These words vibrate with those of Bonhoeffer: “There is no greater impiety than to offer the world something less than Christ.”

From that reality, a third characteristic emerges in her spirituality: intrepidity (daring). At age 22, she founds the Congregation of the Religious of the Assumption destined for an education which is oriented to the formation of the intellect, a culture of freedom and wholeness of a transforming faith. She animates the growth of the Congregation in Europe, Asia, America and embarks on trips, works, studies and necessary decision-making. She courageously lives the detachment so proper to the works of God, and which she felt as a necessary purification. She says, “God wills that everything around me falls off”. She has come to see in a new light, the words she had written on her 19th year where she was converted by the

preaching of Fr. Lacordaire at Notre Dame de Paris: "I desired to surrender all my strength, rather all my weakness to the Church."

The expanding forces (waves) that the Spirit raised up in the Church through M.M. Eugenie has reached the 4 great continents, 34 countries. 170 communities of the Religious of the Assumption are present, rooted in them. From them there has sprung worldwide, a laity which comprises about a 100 lay persons involved, associated with them and about a 1.000 friends attached to their mission. All of them like M.M. Eugenie draw their dynamism from contemplation and fraternal living. They all identify themselves with her words: "It costs me to hear the earth called a place of exile; I consider it a place of glory for God."

May M.M. Eugenie of Jesus continue to intercede for us, especially for the Religious of the Assumption so that their efforts will contribute to the coming of the Kingdom of God in our world.

Northern Europe – TOURNAI - 10 March 2008

The readings that we have just heard invite us to go deeper into that which constitutes the grace of our baptism and the joy of being Christian. Saint Marie Eugénie's personal convictions were deeply rooted in the Word of God, convictions which she tried to transmit to her sisters, the Religious of the Assumption.

Assembled in this church, we give thanks for having encountered the Religious of the Assumption, who continue to transmit the intuitions of their Foundress. I like to say that religious life is a gift which Christ gives his Church, an invitation to put our steps in the steps of the Lord Jesus in order to live the Gospel.

"You are the house that God builds, you are the temple of God".

The apostle Paul reminds us of our dignity as sons and daughters of God, but also invites us to recognize that God alone gives life and growth to our existence. Marie Eugenie had an acute sense of human dignity. Because we are created in the image and likeness of God, we are the privileged ground where God deploys his Kingdom of love.

Christ is the one foundation of each of our lives and that of the entire Church: no one can lay another. Marie Eugenie's life was anchored in Christ, the source of her joy and of her hope. The Religious of the Assumption's consecrated life proclaims, in the heart of the Church, that Christ is able to enlighten a person's life, to dilate her heart, to reconcile, to pacify. Christ opens the doors of our existence by maintaining it in the Father's abiding love.

"As the Father loves me, so also I love you. Abide in my love". This word of Christ, in the Gospel according to John, reveals the secret of his life. The

Father's love for him and his love for the Father is transmitted to us and we are invited to remain in this love.

By this love, we discover the depth of the new relationship which Christ offers us: «I no longer call you slaves...now I call you friends because I have told you everything that I have learned from my Father»

Prayer, which plays an important part of the life of Religious of the Assumption, is a privileged zone in which to discover this life-giving secret «abide in my love». It irrigates and fertilizes the earth that we are.

For Christ has promised us: a life inhabited by God's grace, by the love given by God, is a life that bears fruit and a fruit that lasts.

When you are in frequent contact with the Religious of the Assumption - as those of us who are lucky enough to live in here in the Seminary of Tournai, you realize this.

Thank you for your presence in our midst, for your simple straightforward witness, for your faithful, confident prayer. Thank you for your love of the men and women of our time, for your sharing their passion and their questions.

Thank you for love of the young, for wanting the guidelines worthy of trust for them, firmly anchored in faith in Christ.

Thank you for having put your steps on the steps of St Marie Eugenie in order to live out the beauty of Christian baptism, great dive into the mystery of the death and the resurrection of Christ Jesus which transforms the entire human adventure;

Thanks be given to Saint Marie Eugenie for having welcomed God's holiness in her life and for having founded your beautiful family. Amen.

+ Daniel Procureur, Vicaire épiscopal

France: PARIS - 13 October 2007

Brothers and sisters, dear friends, just now you heard a question being asked: What is freedom? How can we attain the true freedom which opens the ways of happiness and joy? Perhaps, if we want to recall, right now, one of the lessons of the life of Saint Marie Eugenie of Jesus, it would be in looking at how she learnt to become free and how she used her freedom. Freedom vis-à-vis her family and social environment; freedom with regard to the culture she was brought up in; freedom with regard to the worldly setting in which she grew up; freedom in her attitude to those men and women who had been her advisors and who, at certain moments of her life wanted to make her do things she did not recognise as the will of God; freedom towards her friends; freedom towards God himself, to tell him what she was bearing, what she desired, what she was looking for. But above all freedom about herself. How did this young woman of the 19th century whom we can so easily imagine, from the pictures of Épinal in our history books, bogged down in a collection

of imposed constraints, how did she succeed, little by little in discovering, exercising and defending her freedom?

What was the powerful force which enabled her to surmount these successive difficulties? Not so that she could attain her own ends, achieve her own ambitions, but simply to be able to make her life an offering to God, for the service of his Kingdom, for the extension of his Kingdom? What freedom of mind she needed not only to listen here in this cathedral to Father Lacordaire but to understand what he was talking about and to dare to follow up what she had heard! What audacity she needed to group around her a few young women and to settle in such a precarious way in a Paris side street! What freedom she had to begin to accept young people and educate them!

Yes, Marie Eugenie is the embodiment of a free woman, because she does not fight for herself. Her freedom is not a conquest of others, to impose on them what she is. It is the conquest of herself to accept what God wants to do in her. That is why, despite the difficulties, the spiritual trials, the hostilities sometimes, and the misunderstandings she often met, nevertheless it seems to us that the path of Marie Eugenie was always a path of joy. For what she was striving for was not her own work; what she wanted to achieve, was not something she had decided on herself; it was something she submitted - continually - to the will of God, to the judgement of the Church and to her own judgement. There was no question for her of self-fulfilment, but of becoming herself in accomplishing the will of the Father. This free woman knew difficulties, sufferings, obstacles; she assumed them and bore them in faith and offered them for the extension of the Kingdom. She transformed them into motives for thanksgiving in Eucharistic adoration. Yes, those whom the Lord chooses, those whom He wants to choose to make them his friends, He promises them joy and He gives them joy. He gives them the joy of those who walk in security because they know that they are in the hands of the Father. He gives them the serenity of those who live in confidence in the one whom they love. He gives them strength by answering their prayers. He gives them fecundity not in multiplying their success in the eyes of the world, but by producing the fruit of the Spirit which is peace and charity. He enables them to live in the Church not as in a foreign institution, but as in their family. He enables them to live in community, not as in a society of mutual interest, but as in a family. He enables them to live in adoration, in the Eucharist, in the Word - received, welcomed and put into practice. He enables them to live in the joy of helping the young, both boys and girls, to find their way to human and Christian maturity. Yes, it is a path of joy, serenity, peace and fecundity to which the Lord calls those whom He invites to follow Marie Eugenie. Just as she knew how to break out of conformity to the society which surrounded her, we will only be free today if we learn how to break out of the conformity surrounding us. Just as he permitted her to undertake, to innovate and to plan for the future of a foundation, He is calling us today to undertake, to innovate and to plan for the future of the

family that she founded. Just as yesterday He called her to lead her sisters to a greater sisterly charity within their communities, today He is inviting us to give in our world the sign of a family living from the charity of God, practising forgiveness. Just as it was given to her to live by faith in the One who is the sole foundation of all, today He is inviting us to recognise that the Christ is the sole foundation of our life.

You who are Religious of the Assumption, you who are teachers or pupils in the Assumption Schools, you who are parents, old girls of the Assumption, today Marie Eugenie of Jesus is offered to us as a model of freedom, of charity, of peace and of love. With her, we are invited to work for the extension of the Kingdom in this 21st century. With her, we are invited to develop the human capabilities of the young people in your schools. With her, we are invited to witness to Christ living in the Eucharist, to the revealed Word of God, to the Church whence we receive the faith and in which we live it. Today we give thanks that God has placed this light on our route and we pray to Him. May the gift of his love bear fruit in each of our lives, in each of your communities, in each of your schools. May love grow truly so that we may attain the plenitude of the human dimension to which Christ is calling us, so that we may know the fullness of the joy of those whom Christ has chosen, so that we may be in this world true witnesses of the joy of God. Amen. *Mgr André Vingt-Trois, archevêque de Paris*

France: BORDEAUX - 10 March 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In discovering the life of Saint Marie Eugenie MILLERET, Foundress of the Religious of the Assumption, I have become convinced of three things that I would like to share with you this evening.

Not born but become Christian.

When she came into this world in Metz in 1817, Anne Eugenie MILLERET was born into a family whose Catholicism was more conventional than fervent. Her father - like many of the 19th century upper middle classes - was a follower of Voltaire. He thought that the philosophy of the Enlightenment would replace a Catholicism which seemed to him to be somewhat obscurantist. For, had not Victor Hugo said: "The press and the school will make the Church disappear.?" Religion was the domain of women. Anne Eugenie's mother watched over her education but on the religious plane she remained quite formalist. She wanted her daughter to make her first communion, but she was to die in 1832 when her daughter was only 15. Anne Eugenie could have become a young woman preoccupied with marrying well, having children, keeping her place in society, keeping from her religious education only a few ideas and attendance at certain rites. In 1841 she would write to Father Lacordaire: "*My ignorance of the teaching of the Church was*

inconceivable and yet I had received the usual catechetical instruction.” But something was going to happen in the life of Marie Eugenie: first of all a particularly strong spiritual experience at the time of her first communion, of which she would say: *“I have never forgotten it.”*, then, some years later, a real conversion to Christ, listening to the preaching of Father Lacordaire, in the context of the Lenten Conferences of 1836 in Notre Dame. Later she would assert: *“My vocation dates from Notre Dame.”* She experienced a profound meeting with Christ. She started to listen to him, wanted to follow him, to consecrate her life to him. She was concerned also for her own formation, to nourish her faith better, enlighten it, defend it in a century where it was being called into question, by the evolution of mindsets, the rapid development of technology and the naïve belief in the incontestable answers of science to all the questions of life.

Marie Eugenie comes to remind us that one is not born Christian, but becomes Christian. You can be baptised without necessarily being a Christian. The Christian is a disciple of Christ, someone who has entered into a personal relationship with Christ, who lives in his presence, who listens to his Word, who puts their footsteps into those of the Lord and seeks the will of God every day. She who was going to become in religion “Marie Eugenie” chose to live the total gift of herself to Christ in the religious life. Although she chose this particular form of consecration, she is reminding all the baptised, that with Christ, they have to make of their lives a real offering to the Father. She is reminding us also that we must nourish our faith, enlighten it by a real work of formation so as to acquire what is a real necessity today: an understanding of our faith that is adult and responsible.

We must love this world that God loves and to which He is sending us

Marie Eugenie could have imagined a religious life far from the world, consisting above all in intimacy with the Lord. But although she lives a real intimacy with the Lord, although contemplation and adoration have a big place in her life of prayer, nevertheless she chooses to live them at the heart of the world. She knows that the reign of the love of God is today at work in the world, that we must help it and serve it. This reign is the reign of love, of the transformative power of the love of the Father, revealed by Christ and communicated by the Spirit. Jesus says to each one: you are loved, let yourself be loved by the Lord, let this love free you, make you grow, heal you, give you a new lease of life and courage. It was in the field of the education of girls that she wanted to commit herself so as to serve this love of God, to give him a face, a look and hands. She knew how much she must love each of the girls who were entrusted to her; how she must look at them with a hope and trust like that of Christ. Such an educative attitude enables human growth and makes possible a whole progression in deepening of faith. Marie Eugenie invites us to be always renewing the way we look at the world, at others in the light of the look of love of Christ.

Base your lives on trust

Marie Eugenie was a strong woman. She founded a religious congregation. This congregation was going to grow and quickly become international. She had to open houses, obtain permissions, look for assistance, find money for all of this. And it wasn't all straightforward. She was not spared cares, opposition, difficulties of every sort. Certainly, Marie Eugenie found in Father d'Alzon, that fiery character who was going to found, among others, the Congregation of the Fathers of the Assumption, the support and inspiration that she needed. In her turn she would give him her advice and help. But, it was above all in God that she put her trust. She knew that God does not abandon us. She placed herself and her Congregation into his hands. She did not keep her religious family jealously for herself as if it were her own property. She detached herself from all this for the Lord. At the moment when she had to pass responsibility for the Congregation to others, when she was in a physical state "*where nothing remains but love*", she would say: "*I have nothing more to do except to be good.*"

Marie Eugenie calls us to enter into the pedagogy of Christ who calls his disciples to live in trust, to enter into his own trust towards the Father: "*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*" (Lk 23:46)

Brothers and Sisters, to celebrate the feast of Saint Marie Eugenie, is not to contemplate a saint in a stained-glass window, it is rather to hear her call to set out with her on the path of holiness; to receive the love of God in our hearts and let Him bear fruit in our everyday lives. With the grace of God, we can all become saints. Saint Marie Eugenie said this very simply and I leave you with a last word from her: "*It is madness not to be what one is as fully as possible.*" Amen.

Jean-Pierre Cardinal RICARD

Italy: PIETRASANTA - 7 November 2007

We are gathered together around this altar to celebrate a new saint, Marie Eugenie, the Foundress of the Sisters of the Assumption and we are here above all to show our gratitude to the community working in Pietrasanta in the house "la Rocca".

The Sisters of the Assumption have been here for many years now and their presence continues to manifest both pastoral significance and efficiency. Their action isn't limited to the parish but is open to the needs of this environment, with all that that implies.

The house "la Rocca" has slowly but surely become a reference for many people who want to grow in the spirit of service to the city, on many levels. The community of the Assumption is in touch with the cultural, social and religious problems of this city, which like all cities, needs to be evangelized, to be re-centered in Jesus Christ; The Sisters of the Assumption work here in this region, in this city according to the charisma of their Foundress, whom

we celebrate this evening. A lot could be said about this woman canonized by the Pope in the Church.

I would like to underline three facets, which seem important to me, of this woman, who, in a certain manner was ahead of her times, for she perceived certain needs, certain urgent situations in her society and in the Church, of which she felt very much a member.

Firstly, her continuous reference to God's Lordship in the life of each person. All of Marie Eugenie's educational, pastoral and developmental activity was rooted in her desire to build and spread the Kingdom of God in the society of her times. Today the Sisters of the Assumption continue to work according to their Foundress' intuition for the spreading, the construction of God's kingdom not according to the world's logic, but in the world. The Second Vatican Council teachings were, in a certain way, prepared, prophetically thought out by this saint. Not a Church parallel to the world, entrenched in its theological positions but a Church serving the world in order to bring the seeds of the Gospel.

Perhaps this great intuition did not fully mature in her day, but Marie Eugenie always wanted her sisters to be attentive to the realities in which they lived, to be ferment, sign, symbol and thus to be apt to build a society inspired by Gospel values. It is a matter of the vocation, according to St Augustine's theology, to build the city of God inside the city of men. Not two opposing cities, scowling at each other, but one unified city, like the heavenly Jerusalem of the Apocalypse: a holy city where earthly heavenly and eternal efforts are combined; build the Kingdom of God in the framework of history in order to render this presence significant today. Marie Eugenie wanted to unite the contemplative vocation with the apostolic vocation. This also was a great intuition, ahead of her times, not contemplation excluding the trials of life but an incarnated vocation: prayer which renders service as the Word of God for this liturgy indicates and suggests. This facet seems fundamental to me. With great spiritual finesse Marie Eugenie faced the challenges of her society, especially the challenges that the French society posed the Church, a Church which often lived in a triumphalistic way, far removed from the dramatic situations of the city of Paris

Marie Eugenie experienced this ordeal, this crucible, called to incarnate her prayer in history, sign of the Kingdom which passes through human history towards eschatological plenitude.

Another important subject that Marie Eugenie invites us to reflect upon is the condition of women. One could talk for a long time about the condition of women belonging to the bourgeoisie of her times: superficiality, worldliness, frivolity, social conditioning...

M.E wanted to found schools for girls of that social class, in order to educate them to assume their responsibilities that they might participate in the building of the Kingdom. Marie Eugenie wanted to educate them to be

protagonists, to develop an intense spiritual life but also culturally and intellectually.

Given the considerable distance between the privileged and the underprivileged classes at the time, Marie Eugenie opted for an education that would promote the kind of women who could work to construct another kind of society, more just and more open to the needs of her time

Marie Eugenie's intuition, in some ways ahead of her times, rendered great service. According to her perspective, women were invited to assume a role of transformation, service and sharing, a far cry from the vacuity of Parisian high life and salons. In the Kingdom of God, each person has a role to play. Not for nothing had she chosen as a motto for the congregation "May your Kingdom come".

There is another aspect I would like to develop: this woman in her religious community. She wanted her sisters to have an intense community life, but not in isolation, but in gathering around the community people who could share the intuition behind the foundation. In my eyes, it is beautiful to see here in Pietrasanta a number of people gathered around the Sisters, who consider themselves an integral part of the community. Their roles are different but they are united to and for the sisters.

The experience isn't hedged in by the charism of religious life but is open to the social and cultural problems of the locality. The community is a reference, a light house, a reminder to live fraternity in another way. This is very important in our society where we run the risk of becoming strangers to one another, or worse, enemies and rivals. Indifference and hostility often reign in our towns and cities. The presence of a religious community, who doesn't only look after its own works but labors in a perspective of service: many lay folk can find in this spirituality their own vocation and discover their baptism.

I would like to insist on the importance of the community as a place where different experiences can be evaluated, re-read in the light of the charism which doesn't close in on itself or fossilize, but remains open to the world.

Wherever the Sisters of the Assumption are present in the world, they bring this note of hospitality, sharing, true fraternity. We hope that these qualities will continue to grow here in Pietrasanta and that more people still may have access to this place, and find answers to their questions.

All these things seem important to me; I could mention many others. But I would like to invite the Sisters of the Assumption who are in Pietrasanta to continue their path, to incarnate their charism more and more, ready to be of service to all. As you may have noticed, we are in the process of restoring La Rocca, where there will be rooms for families and also for people who want to spend a few days in silence.

"La Rocca" can really become a center where our local church finds a place of rest: the unconditional availability of the community to welcome, accompany, dialogue.

May Marie Eugenie's charism continue to develop here in the perspective of love - a world which resumes all we heard in the Gospel. It is love that Marie Eugenie, impassioned by Jesus Christ wanted to develop in her educational and pastoral action. May this same love remain the common denominator which guides our live and integrates the community of the sisters more and more into the life of the diocese.

MONS. A. PLOTTI, BISHOP OF PISA

3. FAMILY CHRONICLES

Visits of the General Council in 2008 and 2009

Visits and other activities

30 April to 4 May	Northern Europe	<i>Diana</i> : PPC
19 to 24 May	Rome Seminar 2008 Missionary Church in a Globalizing World	<i>Diana</i> : SEDOS
1 June to 10 July	South Atlantic	<i>Diana</i> and <i>Brigitte</i> : visit
25 June to 12 July	East Africa	<i>Martine</i> : Retreat
13 to 18 August	USA Meeting Association Assumption Alumnae Abroad (Filipinos in the US)	<i>Diana</i> and <i>M. Emmanuel</i> :
18 to 26 August	HOLIDAYS of the General Community	
27 August to 18 September	USA Formation, home visit, Assembly US Province	<i>Diana</i> : Leadership,
27 August to 18 September	USA	<i>Martine</i> and <i>Katrin</i> : visit
27 August to 6 September	Mexico	<i>Brigitte</i>
7 to 23 September	C America - Cuba	<i>Brigitte</i> : sessions, assembly
1 October to 5 November	France	<i>General Council</i> : visit
17 November to 16 December	Ecuador-Chile	<i>Brigitte</i> and <i>Martine</i> : visit
22 December to 3 January	India	<i>Marie Emmanuel</i> : retreat
4 to 31 January	India	<i>Diana</i> , <i>M. Emmanuel</i> : visit and <i>Katrin</i>
15 February to 8 March	Central Africa	<i>Diana</i> and <i>Katrin</i> : visit

🌀 Session in preparation for Perpetual Vows 2008

Central Africa:

Marie Josée Koyenyi Okula	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Mélanie Biéto-Mafuta	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Delphine Barmi	Cameroon

West Africa:

Irmine Eliane Toffoun	Bénin
Rufine Pascale Meda	Burkina-Faso

East Africa:

Aurelia Maria Mtui	Tanzania
Hildegarda Theresa Mushi	Tanzania

Rwanda-Chad:

Eugénie Uwanyiligira	Rwanda
Marie Florence Mukantabana	Rwanda

Central America-Cuba:

Ana Mercedes Jarquín	Nicaragua
América Caal	Guatemala

Ecuador-Chile:

Carmen Elena Carillo Leon	Ecuador
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USA:

Teresa Nha Trang Nguyen	Vietnam
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Philippines-Thailand:

María Charlita Puerto	Philippines
Lourdes Eugenia Roquiño	Philippines
Paula Victoria Libutaque	Philippines

India:

Suzan Varghese	India
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France:

🌀 **Publications of the Assumption Family**

1. Augustins de l'Assomption

Collection « Recherches Assomption », Editions Bayard

L'aventure missionnaire Assomptionniste. Actes du Colloque d'Histoire du 150^{ème} anniversaire de la Congrégation des Augustins de l'Assomption. Lyon-Valpré, 22-26 novembre 2000

Les Assomptionnistes et la Russie, 1903-2003. Actes du Colloque d'Histoire. Rome, 20-22 novembre 2003

Les origines de la famille de l'Assomption. Actes du Colloque Inter-Assomption. Paris, 6-10 janvier 2004

Collection « Vienne ton Règne », Editions Bayard

Emmanuel d'Alzon, Fondateur des Augustins de l'Assomption et des Oblates de l'Assomption, 2006

Découvrir la spiritualité des Augustins de l'Assomption, novembre 2006

Cahiers du Bicentenaire d'Alzon (1810-2010), Jean Paul Perier-Muzet

N° 1. Tour du monde assomptionniste en 41 pays, 2007

N° 2. Il y a 200 ans. Année 1810, septembre 2007

N° 3. Emmanuel d'Alzon, bibliographie commentée et référenciée, décembre 2007

Jean-Paul Perier-Muzet, Petit manuel. Histoire de l'Assomption, ART, 2003

Jean-Paul Perier-Muzet, Le Père Emmanuel d'Alzon par lui-même. Anthologie Alzonienne, Tome I, Rome 2003 ; Tome II, Rome 2007

Jean-Paul Perier-Muzet, Prier 15 jours avec Emmanuel d'Alzon, Fondateur des Assomptionnistes, Coll Nouvelle Cité, 2003

Jean-Paul Perier-Muzet, Pequeño manual de Historia de la Asunción, ART, 2003

Jean-Paul Perier-Muzet, El Padre d'Alzon día a día, 2007

La mission d'Orient, l'autre poumon de l'Assomption? Editions du Signe, 2007

Pierre Touveneraud, La humilde grandezza de la muerte del Padre d'Alzon, 2007

2. Petites sœurs de l'Assomption

Elisabeth J. Lacelle, Au pays de la mémoire, la foi, Elisabeth Barbe, sr Marie Sainte Elisabeth, psa 1890-1979. Paris 2005

Marie Noëlle de la Bassetière, A l'écoute d'un désir. Etienne Pernet, Fondateur des Petites Sœurs de l'Assomption. Paris, 2005

Marie Noëlle de la Bassetière, L'aurore d'un jour nouveau. Antoinette Fage, Mère Marie de Jésus, Co-fondatrice des Petites Sœurs de l'Assomption. Paris 2007

3. Orantes de l'Assomption

Jacqueline Decoux, François Picard, l'engagement d'un homme pour 'faire en toute chose la volonté de Dieu'. Editions du Signe, 2003

4. PARTAGE AUTEUIL N° 81 AND N° 82

We need you!



The work would be greatly lessened if you could translate your articles into at least one other language!
THANK YOU!

PA n° 81:

Transmission of the formators' session and presentation of the African Continent.

Each Province in this Continent prepares a presentation of a few pages, with photos and maps, the Provincial Project, the challenges...everything you would like to say about your Province so that the Sisters of the other Provinces and Continents may know you better... and if possible translate them into the two other languages.

→ *These articles must be sent to us by September 2008*

PA n° 82:

Presentation of the American Continent.

See below!

→ *These articles must be sent to us by March 2009*

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

The Editing Team

5. THE WORD FROM MARIE EUGENIE OF JESUS

“Imitating the Holy Spirit”

“It seems to me that nothing will help us more than this thought: I can always be an apostle, even by a gesture, by a fold of my veil. I can always help, console, gladden others with God. St. Ignatius says: “The work of the Holy Spirit is to rejoice the soul, to enlarge it, to console it, to incline it towards Our Lord Jesus Christ”. Why should we not always be “good spirits”, why should not our mission be to enlarge, to arouse souls, to awaken in them the desire for sanctity? Why should we not always have the zeal? What great work equals this? What can we say that is of more value? What is the little business, the small satisfaction, the insignificant tale, that brings to us (if we seek ourselves) a similar benefit, a consolation equal to that of being always in peace and joy, of being like an angel of light, a saint like those who walked among men, another “Holy Spirit”?

“If people were attracted to the saints, loving to see them, to listen to them, it is because their conduct, their words had something (hard to explain) that I would call the outpouring of the good spirit that draws to God, uplifts, consoles and gladdens. And nothing gives more happiness to good souls than to be brought close to God. Try it yourselves and you will surely experience it. »

Instruction de Marie Eugénie, 22 août 1875