

*"Notre Dame, our dear cathedral, witness to so many major events in our country, was destroyed by a frightening fire after having resisted the adventures of its history for so long. France is crying and with it, all its friends from all over the world," admits the Archbishop of Paris. "It touches the heart because its stones are the testimony of an invincible hope which, through the talent, courage, genius and faith of the builders, has raised this luminous lace of stones, wood and glass".*



Chères sœurs,

These words of the Archbishop of Paris, Monsignor Aupetit, spoken the day after the fire, make us enter into a gaze of faith and hope... The Chrism Mass that should have taken place in the Cathedral will take place in Saint Sulpice on Wednesday 17 April. Many people will be there as a sign of unity and trust in the future. Bishop Aupetit invites all people of good will to put a candle at their window on Easter night, symbolizing "the light that illuminates darkness" and "the life that triumphs over death".

God is able to draw the good from evil. It is a sign that calls us to the heart of Holy Week and makes us enter into silence. In his homily on Holy Wednesday, a Spiritan Father shared with us a testimony he received: *"Notre Dame of Fire: what an immense burning bush has been given to us! Will we be able to listen to God say "I Am!" and "I send you to free my people!" » ? To which New Easter are we sent? »*

God visits us in many different ways!

We give you news of our first visits. In the attached document, you will find photos of communities.



**The visit to the Province of Ecuador** took place earlier, from February 1 to 16. You can read about it on the website. A very nice visit!

[https://www.assumpta.org/-1-15Febrero2019\\_VisitaEcuador-](https://www.assumpta.org/-1-15Febrero2019_VisitaEcuador-)

The sisters of the province of Ecuador, during our assembly in Zumbahuaco.

**The visit of the Province of the United States from March 21 to April 15.**

It was a very rich experience, with a very fraternal welcome in each community and the presence of lay people with whom we had good sharing. Like a mustard seed, the



Assumption gives and receives life in this reality that God has entrusted to us. We give thanks to God and are on the way with our sisters to celebrate the centenary of our presence in the United States.

Rekha and Sandra returned on Tuesday April 16 from the visit and will later share more details on what they experienced together on the site.

**Visit to the Province of France Notre Dame (April 1-14, 2019)**

If the visit came earlier than planned, it was in order to accompany more closely the provinces of France Notre Dame and Madagascar, as requested by the General Chapter. Marthe, Isabelle and Irène visited the 7



communities: Abbeville, Arras-Béthanie, Arras-Accueil, Lyon-Croix Rouse, Etampes, Paris-Sainte Geneviève and Paris-Accueil.

The visit was well prepared. It has yet to end with a CPP and the meeting with the Provincial Council in Arras in the presence of Rekha and Marthe on 26 and 27 April 2019. The provincial project highlights the themes of the General Chapter: Source, Life and Communion. Each local project had its own dynamism, built around a metaphor or an image: the door, the table of encounter, discernment as a way of being...

The "going out", the apostolate of prayer, community services as a mission in its own, listening to the end, attention to the other and to the little voices are all concrete examples of the Chapter's orientations. Fragility becomes a place of apostolate and complementarity in mutual aid. And for each place, hospitality as a "special grace" is a sign of recognition in a neighbourhood.

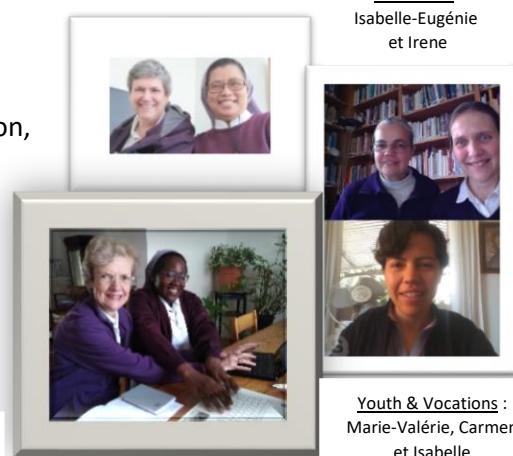
We had moments of grace when each one gave the best of herself. In each community, we heard a strong desire to welcome sisters from the European continent and from the whole congregation - short and long stays! - for a better mutual knowledge and deepening of the charism. Let's hear the call!

### Starting the work of the commissions and the Secretariats

Les commission Assumption Together and the Secretariats for Education, Youth and Vocations begin connecting with the referents (sisters and lay) for each province. It is *together* that we will give dynamism to the calls of the Congregation.

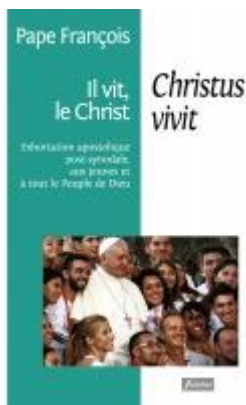
The other commissions are in the process organizing themselves. You will have news soon. Thank you for the commitment of everyone!

Assumption Together:  
Catherine Marie et Marthe



Education :  
Isabelle-Eugénie  
et Irene

Youth & Vocations :  
Marie-Valérie, Carmen  
et Isabelle



Pope Francis' exhortation to young people, **Christus vivit**, published on Tuesday, April 2, is the fruit of the work of the Synod of October 2018 on young people ("Youth, faith and vocational discernment"). It is addressed to young people all over the world, inviting them to commit themselves to following Christ, to make this loving encounter with Christ: "He lives and wants you alive", standing up and committed! With a whole biblical journey and the history of the Church in which the Pope shows how God has always needed the grace of youth to reveal his presence (Gedeon, Ruth, David... the rich young man, Jaïre...). It also evokes the youth of Jesus and Mary. It invites us to discover ourselves as collaborators of God and friends of Christ in the Church and in the world, with new pastoral axes. An exhortation for 7 to 77 year olds, with a nice intergenerational balance between elders and young people !

### The departure of Françoise Fabre, Director of the Eugénie Milleret Reception Centre (Auteuil)



The celebration began with a liturgical moment in the chapel where after reading the blessing of the Book of Numbers, "*May the Lord bless you and keep you...*", we thanked Françoise Fabre for her commitment, her know-how, her love of the Mother House and for this period of transition which she had carefully prepared. On the same occasion, we asked for God's blessing for Dominique Poupardin, the new directress and Ria Ehrlich her assistant.





**"A crane threatens to collapse in Paris 16th arrondissement - April 12, 2019" - Le Parisien**

A crack in the retaining wall of the work, at 19 rue de l'Assomption, caused a landslide. This collapsing destabilized a



crane that was in danger of falling on the house and neighbouring buildings! The sisters of Auteuil were informed on Friday morning, at the time of the prayer and forced to evacuate the house. When the guests were notified and relocated in Paris, the community found refuge Rue des Plantes where they were generously received. The community was able to return to Auteuil on Sunday evening at the same time as Martha, Isabelle and Irene from their last visit to the Accueil de la Rue des Plantes community. This week, huge trucks follow one another through the rear gate of the garden to fill the pit in order to seal the crack in the ground and stabilize the crane. We thank God and Marie Eugénie for the happy outcome ! Special thanks too, to Manuel who kept the house.



Let us entrust to Sainte Marie-Eugénie the rest of the work! In a chapter of April 21, 1878, she wrote, "The Assumption is in a way a Resurrection. This teaches us that our life must always have a hint of joy, even in the sacrifice and effort we have to make on ourselves. Sometimes we are broken, but the way we have to try to overcome everything must be more from heaven than from earth. I would therefore say that the last two fruits of the love of Jesus Christ in our souls must be charity and the spirit of sacrifice. »

**The Third Year** begins Wednesday of Easter, April 24 and ends Sunday, July 14. Its theme is that of the General Chapter: "Let us risk ourselves at the frontiers, in the service of life. "Love never says enough"". The 30-day retreat (June 4 evening to July 4 morning) will be facilitated by Fr Noël, Jesuit from the Philippines. There are 22 sisters of 11 different nationalities. We send you the program and the list of participants and entrust to your prayer the good progress of this time of renewal.

Rekha will participate in the **UISG plenary assembly** from 6 to 10 May 2019 in Rome. The theme of the meeting is: "Sowers of prophetic hope". "For I know the projects I have formed for you, says the Lord, to give you a future and hope. " (Jer 29:11)



Thank you for your affection and prayers.

Let us enter the Triduum with attention and fervour, to be close to our Lord and receive our salvation from Him.

Happy Easter Day! Christ is risen, He is truly risen, Alleluia, Alleluia!

With all our affection,

Rekha, Sandra, Isabelle, Marthe and Irene

[3 attached documents:](#)

-photos of the communities of the provinces that were visited;

-list of sisters participating in the 3rd Year

-planning for the 3rd Year.

