

Prayer where « all is linked ».

On writing these lines on the approach to Pentecost, I call to mind a title given to the Spirit Breath: The “Go-Between God “ he who is always in movement between two poles, but also he who like the eternal Wisdom holds together all the reality created in his material and spiritual dimensions. We believe that all authentic prayer , no matter which tradition, is inspired by the Spirit. It is this unfolding of the unique prayer of the inner Host who lives in our Poor Clare community, at Ronchamp, each day for the last 10 years. By being rooted in the concrete of this high spiritual place of a very particular architectural value, our small community can embrace the universal: Christic mystery of the Incarnate Word, the one that theology regards as the concrete universal. The eternal word which has been abbreviated in its incarnation. Word and breath, universal and particular ,material and spiritual, horizontal and vertical: these words express something of the simple contemplative life lived in the shadow of this white chapel. A Life of prayer always in communion with you, friends near and far, known or unknown, with whom we form a big family either as Christians, or as people engaged on a spiritual path, or as sharing the common destiny of «dust of ‘stars». Prayer as study and internalised reading of the Word of God, a sacred text, which we continue to sing during community services, where you sometimes join us. Prayer par excellence of the Eucharist in which the mystery of our redemption and the mystery of the filial gift of Jesus to the Father in the Spirit are celebrated. Prayer of the Word burrows in the silence of the deep heart. The Word penetrating beyond all words. Word made flesh. Prayer that also welcomes your joys and your hopes, sorrows and anguishes, births and deaths, your despairs and strengthens the steps on the path of everyday life. Contemplative prayer of which we can affirm is not a simple affair of the specialists, that any situation of life can become a path of awakening to oneself, to God, a place where we live the kingdom already there. Ronchamp, this place



encrusted in a green setting that allows its inhabitants as well as its guests to live the conscious prayer of the body that we are. Walking silently, meditation whilst sitting, sometimes the practice of Qi Gong allow us to pray in nature, to the rhythm of the breath. Ronchamp, a place where and from where the prayer of the Poor Clare sisters will continue to accompany you beyond these first years spent on the hill of Notre-Dame du Haut.

sr Marie-Claire-Denys

Fire and breathe of the future



• « With all creatures , praise the Lord

From Friday May 21st at 7pm to Sunday May 23rd at 5pm (by Sr Maggy Léonard) .

• Interfaith gathering

Sunday June 6th at 2.30pm at Notre-Dame du Haut : Song and space.

• Music to the 4 horizons

From 2nd to 9th August (www.musique aux 4 horizons.com).

• Saint Clare

Tuesday 10th August at 8pm, Vigil in monastery oratory

Wednesday 11th August 2021 11am Mass in La Chapelle.

• Assumption of Our Lady Sunday 15th August

10.30am Mass ; 2.30pm Marial prayers ; 5.30pm Vespers.

• To contemplate the beauty of Creation

Exhibition of photos of F. Bresson and R. Claudel on the encyclical Laudato Si and the Canticle of St Francis. In the oratory of the monastery from 1st September until 4th October.

• Birthday of Our lady Wednesday 8th September

10.30am Mass ; 2.30pm Marial prayers ; 5.30pm Vespers .

• The ten years of the monastery in the presence of Renzo Piano : Saturday 11th September

At 11am : Mass presided by Monseigneur Bouilleret.

At 3pm “Mr Le Corbusier and the monastery today “ by Jean Winiger.

• Saint Francis

Sunday 3rd October at 8.15pm vigil of prayer in the oratory.

Monday 4th October at 11am Mass in La Chapelle.

Pour devenir amis du monastère Sainte-Claire

à Notre-Dame du Haut - Ronchamp (Franche Comté)

remplissez le bulletin ci-joint



Les clarisses à Ronchamp

Spring - Summer 2021



Hoping against all hope, this is what led us yesterday, which leads us today and will lead us tomorrow. Yes, we are building on our ten years lived in joy in this new monastery inhabited and dressed in light thanks to Renzo Piano to look resolutely towards the future, that which the Lord will offer us, open on the horizon, with clouds full of fertile water, green trees bearing fruit, friendships with the people of Ronchamp and further afield, of unfailing fidelity, and all that our friends, pilgrims, visitors, hosts offer us.

How can we not thank the Lord and all those, near and far, who have accompanied us for so many years. For this reason we have decided to share our joy with all on Saturday 11th September (exactly 10 years of our community life in this “extraordinary” monastery) by a festive Mass, a theatrical text, and meeting of friends. Our community, in 10 years, has changed its appearance : Sr Marie-Celine has gone to the Lord, Sr Jean-Marie is in a Home ; four sisters have arrived : Sisters Maggy, Marie-Claire-Denys, Marie-Thérèse and Marie-Laetitia. Come and celebrate with us and praise the Lord.

sister Brigitte, abbess



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The Piano Site and the Poor Clares

One day in 2006, in the Rue des Archives in Paris, the «we have» decided of Renzo Piano rang out and everything remained to be done ! A complex site where everything was discussed, scrutinized by the various actors, project director, works director, many and varied trades. An exciting experience to see this difficult and beautiful work being carried out by motivated and very competent men: masons, electricians, heating engineers, landscapers, glaziers, architects and Renzo Piano. We saw the hill excavated, the walls rise, the glass facades and roofs installed, trees planted and the large oak trees protected.

2011

An admiring silence was heard, when the fencing around the site was taken down, for this beautiful work so discreet, sober and luminous, so well-integrated into nature. Space of prayer, of welcome, and fraternity that would be universal, firmly anchored in the earth and widely open to the horizon.

2021, ten years later

The community has grown with sisters from other countries of Europe (Belgium - Hungary - Great Britain) has had visits from sisters from Africa, Madagascar, Taiwan: obligatory mutual inter-culturation which fits well with the internationality of this place of pilgrimage.

The increasing number of visitors to the site are driven by curiosity, at first, but largely by the « unique » attraction of this place which unites horizons, insertion in Creation, sacred architecture (le Corbusier, Prouvé, Renzo Piano) fresh air, silence and beauty. A lot of architects and students are surprised and interested by this connection between modern architecture and spirituality. More and more men and women of all ages come to recharge their batteries in a space of calm, of deep peace and serene conviviality. The times of prayer and the Masses at Notre Dame du Haut during the warmer seasons of the year are very strong moments of spiritual life.

One of the beautiful times : the week of *music for four horizons* at the beginning of August : A dozen young musicians under the bow of Marianne Piketty, work hard on a program specially designed for them.

A new event since 2017 an inter-religious meeting to deepen the treasures of each religion on various themes: Creation, Mary, Breathe and sacred music...



sr Marie-Claire

« Rooted to receive the light from above »

This architectural project reaches particularly well the “Haut-Saônois”, (those who originate from Haute Saône), people passionate about their territory, attached to the places, to the natural spaces, local hikers, guardians of the memory of a past very rich in spirituality. A lot of «regional» fidelity and hope, and little by little relations are forged.

« Everything is interconnected, and that genuine care for our own lives and our relationships with nature is inseparable from fraternity, justice and faithfulness to others. » Encyclical Laudato Si of Pope Francis , paragraph 70.

Near the white chapel, seen for miles around, where one remembers coming as a child, a house of prayer houses sisters in an intercultural fraternity, which is being built each day. This monastery of Saint Clare is part of the common house to be safeguarded. Collapsologists of all kinds can herald a world that is on the verge of collapse, the aptitude for resilience remains here based on an unfailing faith. Does not an adage say, « Comtois rends-toi Nenni ma foi » (« Comtois, surrender. Not my faith ! ») ?



From this troglodyte monastery contemplating the 4 horizons, how can we not praise the Lord with all his creatures, with everything ? How can we not call with all our wishes for peace in the world, and in all hearts ? The love that awaits us at the end of history already envelopes our hill. In silence, recollection and listening to his Word, the love of God dresses our personal stories with fervour. It becomes possible to prepare a future, certainly unpredictable, but sure, for the coming decades. We know that we can count on our friends from Ronchamp and elsewhere. We are filled with gratitude for their friendly accompaniment, faith, and also service, day in and day out.

Yes, we no longer live in a land that is strange but in a land which is hospitable, one that the Lord himself envelopes in the light of the resurrection.

sr Maggy

Ronchamp : Creativity in movement

It seems that the hill of Notre Dame du Haut has a very special grace to awaken creativity and call it to unfold. It was so for a great talent like Le Corbusier. It is said that he was initially reluctant towards this architectural project. But once one site, he was seduced and discerned there a splendid green setting for a chapel in dialogue between heaven and earth, and open to the four horizons.

We are privileged witnesses of a constantly renewed creativity. Musicians, choirs, painters, poets, architects, artists of all kinds... drawing from this place, an inspiration flowing like a spring. And this grace extends to all. When we take a little time (a few hours, a few days ...) to let ourselves be permeated by all our senses of body and mind, we discover ourselves in harmony with its sober and transcendent beauty. So our creativity emerges. the guestbook of our hospitality bears witness to this abundantly... and our guests leave renewed in their desire to be more creative in their lives.

The actors of the hill of Notre Dame du Haut are themselves at the forefront of this creativity. We are happy to collaborate in the organization of events such as inter-religious meetings, the week «Music to the 4 horizons» ...

And then there is daily creativity: liturgy animation, meal preparation, embroidery and sewing work, maintenance of green spaces and the garden, articles for magazines, etc. It's amazing how this creativity can be expressed through each



sister in our diversity, in the little things in life ... not to mention the community projects that we carry out together. It seems that the chapel and its green space between earth and sky, with all its inhabitants (birds and other animals) are a constant call and spontaneously lead us into the great work of creation. During the closure of the site, it was nature that ensured the permanence, even through the storms and the snow. In its wake, we can cross the constraints by leaning on them as so many roots and springboards for a creativity that emerges. Thus the paschal vigil was transformed into a «paschal dawn» which amazed us even more...

sr Marie-Laetitia

Le Sultan , Francis of Assisi and us

In September of 1219, in Damietta, Egypt, Francis of Assisi left the security of the crusader camp to walk un-armed across to the camp of the Sultan. Various motivations have been accorded to this audacious act, but the only thing of certainty is that he was acting under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He asked permission from the spiritual leader of the crusade, who had just announced a startling change in the declared aim of the conflict, now the conversion of the enemy to the Christian faith. Despite any fear he may have had, Francis stayed several days with the Sultan, as his guest and was even allowed to address the Sultan's troops with the condition that he did not insult the Prophet Mohammed. When the Holy Spirit directed him to return to the crusader camp the sultan provided an armed escort to ensure his safety.

Was he transformed by this encounter ? He had met a man of deep faith, who considered Jesus to be a great prophet, born of a virgin mother, and who punctuated his day with times of prayer. Francis' "press statement " on his return was short – The Sultan had asked that Francis “pray to God that He might reveal to the Sultan which faith was most pleasing to Him”.

What is the connection with our lives here on the hill of Bourlémont, as much to Notre-Dame du Haut as to the monastery. We are encamped/rooted in the monastery adjacent to La Chapelle built by Le Corbusier, that thousands of visitors from all over the world visit each year, each with their own motivations. A surprising Chapel, a little out of the ordinary, in which each person can feel at home. Poor Clares, we offer hospitality to those who wish to prolong their visit, to take time to reflect, to meditate, to absorb the beauty. Here people are free to participate in our periods of prayer, to allow the Holy Spirit to speak in the depths of their being. By reading the testimonies written in our “livre d’or” (visitor's book) in the last ten years we share in what happens in the secret of hearts. It invites us daily to praise and to give thanks.

sr Marie Thérèse

