

Renzo Piano : « To stay as close to the ground as possible and receive the light from above. This place is a space made of the interior and the exterior, it has a soul made up of these two elements: silence and joy. Joy is provided by the light, and by this continuous reverberation which penetrates from the forest. Colour has also played a very important role: grey, red, orange. Joy is present and can be seen in this relationship between the forest, the light and these colours within the monastery. the beautiful is the good ! »

Anne et Louis Piccon (Assistant Project Manager) : « Thank you for this invitation to celebrate with you the 10 years - already - of this adventure. The reunions and meetings were full of emotions and memories for the craftsmen of the place, warmed by the sun. On the top of the hill, we felt an authentic communion between spirituality and architectural beauty. It seems to us, on our return this beautiful day, that this «creative utopia» has become reality.. » (September 2021)

Florian Bolle (architect) : « We are very moved by this weekend with the Poor Clares. Many beautiful memories relate to this project. Nature and the monastery are now a pretty entity. Bravo to all those who take great care of this magnificent site » (13 september 2021)

Association des Amis de Sainte Colette



Since the fall of 2019, a dozen volunteers have met every three months or so for a working day at the monastery of Saint Clare in order to ensure the maintenance of its surroundings. After the placing of topsoil and the planting of periwinkles and grass to the right of the flowerbeds in front of the bay windows and on either side of the alleys, the work consists mainly of controlling the growth of vegetation and weeding... Our momentum had been slowed by the pandemic, but started again at the beginning of the year so that the surroundings were worthy of our birthday feast: ten years of the monastery on the hill. Thus, at the end

of August, our action focused on the cleaning of the narthex and the cleaning of the slopes bordering on the rooms to the south side. A big thank-you to all the volunteers and to the sisters who took part in these days !

Patrick Gillmann, président

Agenda :

Christmas and New Year :

24 December at 22.30 in the Chapelle Notre Dame du Haut
25 December at 11am in the monastery oratory
31 December : Vigil at 22.30 in the oratory
1 January 2022: 11am Mass in the oratory

Feast of Saint Colette :

Friday 4 March: Vigil at 20.15
Saturday 5 March: Mass at 11am in the oratory

Holy Week :

Palm Sunday 10 April: 11am in the oratory
Maundy Thursday 14 April: The Lord's Supper at 6.30 pm in the oratory

Good Friday 15 April: The Lord's Passion at 6.30 pm in the oratory
Holy Saturday 16 April: vigil at 9.30 pm in the Chapelle of Notre Dame du Haut
Easter Sunday 17 April: Mass at 11am in the Chapelle of Notre Dame du Haut

Week-ends at the monastery :

- From 23 December 2021 (5 pm) to 26 December (2pm) . The crib scene depicted in paintings by A Isabey.
- From 26 February 2022 (noon) to Ash Wednesday 2 March (4pm) Lent: To hope against all odds by A Isabey
- From 11 March (noon) to 13 March (2pm) Mary and Elizabeth at the Visitation (Sophrology and the Bible with Ghislaine Hawrosz and Sr Marie Laetitia,
- From 8 April (5pm) to 10 April (4pm) Passion and Resurrection according to Arcabas by A Isabey



Les clarisses à Ronchamp

Autumn 2021 - Winter 2022



Everything is linked !

Yes, all is linked, since the foundation of our monastery in 1250 in Besancon up until this anniversary of 10 years of arrival next to Notre-Dame du Haut at Ronchamp, by way of the different locations in Besancon, the dispersal at the French Revolution and the re-foundation in 1879. The links and the steps follow naturally. We wanted this anniversary to be not so much a memorial, but an opening to the coming years and a thanking of all our close and distant friends who have accompanied us during this creative utopian adventure which is still continuing, and we hope that it continues for a long time, because it is not the end of the adventure, just the opposite it is the mere beginning. As we already wrote in our last letter, we are in the category, *hoping against all hope*, which means that we are ready for all that the Lord will propose, such as in carrying out the mission entrusted to us by Monseigneur Bouilleret, in welcoming guests coming to recharge their batteries, in the international/ intercultural expansion of our community, without forgetting the ecumenical dimension of prayer. Everything is connected, Thankyou Lord for this unity! A happy and good new year to all!

sister Brigitte, abbess

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Mission Letter

While the CIASE report fills French Christians with dread and urges them to an institutional reform, Pope Francis commits all the people of God to a synodal process.

Are we able to participate in this reform? The Letter of Mission received from our archbishop invites us to do so. A few main points emerge for our community in its future :

- If the visitors to our hill belong to various cultures and religions, our small community is included. With ten sisters of four nationalities and having been initiated into the life of Poor Clares in six different monasteries, it becomes a small laboratory of interculturality. A synodal process involves praying a lot and listening to one another in order to irrigate our community life with the joy of the Gospel.
- To make present on the hill ,our permanent prayer, to punctuate daily life with the Liturgies of the Hours and the singing of the Psalms, to nourish by music, and to awaken to dialogue with God. Prayer and silence alone permeate the place with a spirituality that opens the door to all visitors and guests, whatever their life, their faith, or their convictions.
- The ecological emergency, advocated by the encyclical “Laudato Si” leads us to implement an integral human monastic ecology: To cultivate wonder and to give praise for the beauty of creation throughout the seasons, to love our earth where God took flesh and to take care of all living beings through a sober way of life, based on a universal cosmic and human brotherhood.

What life and what hope are we able to transmit? The response is found, perhaps, in the underground, mysterious and paschal fruitfulness created by the rootedness of the monastery, open and underground at the same time.

Sister Maggy



Atmosphere

In the morning the hill was covered with a cloak of mist. The four horizons blocked ! Without thinning ! A dark cloud forcing us, like the people of the bible, to stop after 10 years of pilgrimage.

At the end of the Mass, the fog lifted and the sun awaited us. Amazing to live the day in the great outdoors, given the modesty of our reception « structures » ! There I had a moment of hesitation, of discomfort. The community had invited a number of people who participated in the construction and relocation of the monastery. Not being here ten years ago, how do I feel involved in this flashback ? How to get through my shyness to welcome so many unknown people ?

I walked towards to the meal tent, trying to figure out where to go... and a group invited me to their table. From a host-welcoming, I became the welcomed host! Exactly what I needed !... I was then able to enter lightened and alert in the atmosphere of fraternity.

I was amazed by the active and efficient presence of a good number of volunteer friends who ensured the organization, and the hands on, the welcome. A beautiful testimony, like so many others throughout the days, expressing friendship and attachment to our community. A good sign that the adventure of our monastery does not belong to us. It is a collective project in which everyone plays their part.

Sister Marie-Laetitia

Actualisation

During the last five years, many have watched the DVD “Ronchamp, Le Corbusier, Renzo Piano and the Poor Clares”, which follows the history of the move of the sisters from Besançon to the hill of Bourlémont. The question that invariably arises is: “and the new arrivals? They are not in the DVD!”. After ten years of being in the new monastery on the hill it



was time to bring things up to date. Not always easy to be in front of a camera, especially when the questions posed are not rehearsed and in a language other than your maternal one. The result : four short videos, which bring together the past and the present and look towards the future. This made me think of a tree : the roots of the community will always be in Franche-Comté but now four branches have been grafted in to produce good fruit for the future. The videos are available via YouTube.

Sister Marie Thérèse



Pentatonic notes

From time to time, during the musical events of the hill we hear allusions to the “pentatonic” music, or we hear such music or songs, played or sung for us. This brings to mind those musical traditions, often oriental, which mainly use five notes. The question before us is that of complementarity the balancing between two poles, between the West and the East. These trips back and forth between two poles are obviously close to my heart, coming from Hungary.

1. First of all, the very real trip, which allowed me to go to Hungary. Thus, we have re-experienced joy and the difficulty of crossing borders in a context of pandemic.
2. Then the Music of the four horizons, a week of reunions and the joy of listening to the work of Lili Boulanger “Of a sad evening” and “Of a spring morning”, Madame Piketty and the musicians plunged us into a seriously joyful reality.
3. By coincidence, the celebrations of 10 years of the Monastery took place at the same time as the closure of the International Eucharistic congress and the visit of the Pope Francis to Budapest. The prayer and reception by the community of what is near and far are part of the contemplative mission of the Poor Clares of Ronchamp. The presence of Franco-Hungarian friendship associations, and that of two honorary Hungarian consuls, strengthened the links between the West and the East.
4. It was also the occasion to meet Buddhist friends The exchanges during the visit of the monastery reaffirmed how much the simple beauty and also the functionality of our houses are important to offer a place conducive to spiritual practice. The exterior «decluttering», the path to unencumbered interior poverty in order that spiritual awakening can take place, so that God can act in our lives.
5. From interior poverty to the place of body, soul and spirit (mini session given by Brother Bernard Durel) we found ourselves on a spiritual path, a path of humanization towards Christ. We must not forget that East and West are anthropological places for the search for the “inner Orient”.

Sister Marie-Claire-Denys

Architectural thoughts, foundresses of our monastery, our life, our future

From the Gospel : « *I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built.* » (Luke 6, 47-48 RSV)

Le Corbusier : « *The outside is always an inside.. Anyone who has a sense of harmony has a sense of the sacred. The Gospels! They describe in a language so full of light the life of Christ, raising us to the peak of thought and love.*



Then, those few frightful pages of the Passion ! Those eight gigantic and atrocious days of misdeeds and greatness of the human being. This sacrifice, this nothingness, this end which is salvation, which is the immense hope of possible happiness which is the fruit of it !

To Build, is the meeting of the dream and reality ... Architecture and light ?

When a work is at its peak of intensity, of proportion, of quality of execution of perfection, a phenomenon of indescribable space occurs: places begin to shine. They determine what I call the unspeakable space, in other words, that is to say an encounter that does not depend on the dimensions, but on the quality of perfection. it is in the domain of the inexpressible ! »