

1817 – 2017 Celebrations

Mary, Jeanne-Marie and each of us

The angel spoke to the women,...



I know you are looking for Jesus,... He is not here.

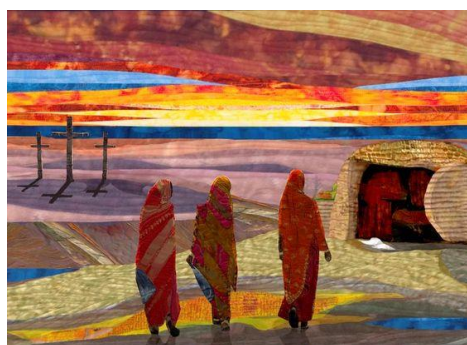
Filled with **awe and great joy** the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. And suddenly, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings,' he said. And the women came up to him and, clasping his feet, they did him homage. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; there they will see me.' Mt 28:5-10

The sisters were working unceasingly to build up the institute when suddenly Jeanne Marie Chavoïn was stricken with a serious illness which brought her to the brink of the grave. The doctors, after using all the resources of their learning to no avail, gave her up, except by a miracle; every breath seemed to be her last and at any moment we expected to hear the bell toll for her death. But her hour had not yet come. **He, who leads to the gate of death and brings back again wishing on this occasion to try the faith of his devout servant, was touched by the prayers and tears of her faithful companions** who were plunged in deepest desolation, lifting up their hands unceasingly to heaven like Moses to beg the Lord not to take from them one who was to be a source of happiness for so great a number of young women.

RMJ 162, 14

If you only knew all our worries as they really are, you would see that nothing could be worse, except death or illness. You can imagine that, with such worries in addition to the foundation of a house, which as you know is always difficult; we have great need of God's grace. I assure you, I need to **think of the past and remember the graces He gave us**, in order to be patient and submissive to the will of God. It is not for myself that I worry so much, but I shall always do all I can for the good of our Congregation. If God did not inspire me with this feeling, I would long ago have abandoned everything, because it is too difficult a road to follow for a person of my age. CMJ 85, 2

- ❖ What “angels” send us on our way to bring new life, inviting us to leave the empty tomb behind?
- ❖ Where is our Galilee ?
- ❖ Take a moment with Jeanne Marie Chavoïn... what has she to say to us today?



Our beginning here (Jarnosse 1856) is very hard, but what consoles us is the thought that God wills it. ... If we took only a human view of things in this new foundation, we would be very unfortunate. No! We must **rise to the source which is Divine Providence...** CMJ 79, 3

Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.

Eph 2, 7-10 (MSG)