

Communication from the Retreatants at Joigny



We arrived by rail – all twenty-three of us - where one or other of the sisters was waiting to bring us to the birth place of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat, foundress of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Here we were to experience the challenge and joy of meeting Elizabeth Hayes once again. The stone house, situated in the thirteenth century French village of Joigny, was as welcoming as the community of nine RSCJ sisters who provided hospitality and support for the next ten days.



From the very entrance into our retreat, we experienced unity of friendship as we set out to reclaim our roots and deepen our personal and communal commitment to our gospel way of life.



As the buds in the various enclosed gardens slowly opened to the warmth of the sun, so did Elizabeth's treasure of gifts and graces reveal to us her unique dimension of our Franciscan charism. The gifts that emerged were immediately recognized as truly identifying us as her spiritual daughters from Latin America, Papua New Guinea, Canada, the United States Rome and Australia.

Among the many highlights of this experience were the celebration of mercy, the renewal of our vows and the reclaiming of our mission as MFIC to God's people. Since we are so energized and enthused by the process and its fruits, we look forward to sharing with you on our return.

With love and appreciation for your prayers

