



Journeying with Claudine
1818-2018

JM Day

November 13, 2017

Orientations:

On November 13, 2017, the entire Jesus – Mary unite to celebrate JM Day to deepen in the Charism of Claudine.

We would like this to be a day on which everyone who is connected with "Jesus and Mary", in our many and different, apostolic - missionary activities, can celebrate the joy of belonging to the great Jesus and Mary family and renew the legacy left to us by Claudine.

The 13 of November has been chosen as it was on this day in 1842, the Congregation of Jesus and Mary began its mission in India. Thus it is an occasion on which its missionary work began and the Sisters set forth with generosity and courage to spread the Gospel and take the charism of Claudine to this part of the world.

Since then the Congregation has taken many new paths in different continents and is now present in 28 countries:

ASIA: India, Pakistan, Lebanon, Syria, Philipians, East Timor.

EUROPE: France, Spain, England, Italy, Ireland, Germany.

AMERICA: Canada, USA, Mexico, Argentina, Cuba, Uruguay, Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, Haiti, Ecuador.

AFRICA: Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Cameroon, Nigeria, Morocco.

On November 13, 2017, we will unite in the joy of being part of ONE UNIQUE BODY. We are united by the charism of Claudine that we live and experience within the richness of diversity: different places, contrasting geographical climatic conditions, multicultural environments, multiple languages, different ways of worship, a variety of ethnicities, and international time-zones - we are all part of "Jesus and Mary".

In order to prepare for this day we are sending you guidelines and materials that may help with the organization of your activities. Each province can adapt them according to its needs and circumstances. In concrete terms, we also suggest that you may wish to look for an occasion in the story of your own province, which refers to our theme of Faith, Forgiveness and Communion.

You are already aware of the amount of re-source material that is available to help with this: audio-visuals, conferences and written materials, practical activities, films, songs, and Web resources. You may also wish to share the material and ideas that you plan to use, with other groups. Sharing enhances and develops our creativity and the variety of languages need not be a problem.

In preparation for this day, it would be good idea to prepare an "outline" / plan of how you will reach your objective and help you to slowly enter into the spirit of the JM Day.

The responses of the various Provinces in answer to the questions that appear at the end of these guidelines could be sent to share in the symposium that will take place in Lyon in October 2018.

We wish to thank the Commission of the Bicentenary for the preparation of this material.

Email: symposiumjm@gmail.com Please, send your response before January 1, 2018. Thank you.

Courage and go ahead !!!

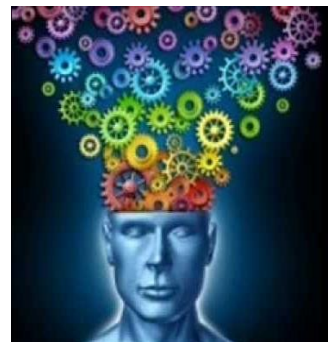
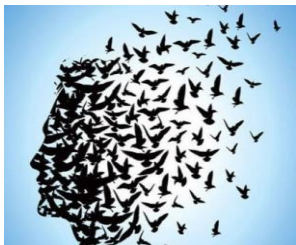
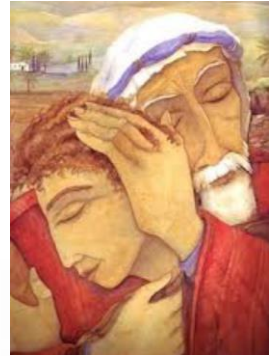


**A Journey with
Claudine...**

A woman of Faith, Forgiveness and Communion

1. Introductory session

- Prepare a display of different pictures. Ask the group to express, using only one word, what is suggested by each of these pictures.
- Alternatively, ask the group to choose from among these images those that best expresses Faith, Forgiveness and communion.



- Invite them to "brain-storm" with the ideas and the words: Faith, Pardon, and Communion.



Write the responses on 'post-its, or posters and display them in a prominent position.

- **Prayer moment.**

- ♥ In silence and with a quiet music, reflect on what has been shared.
- ♥ Offer to God the desires and feelings aroused.
- ♥ Ask Him to fill our hearts with His Light and help to live according to these values.

2. Reflection on Faith.



2.1 - *“For Claudine the greatest misfortune was to live and die without knowing God.”*

“For Claudine Thevenet, the greatest misfortune was to live and die without knowing God. The lot of those thousands of poor little children, deprived of the goods of this world, who were destined to grow up perhaps without ever hearing the name of God, made her shudder.

If when she was out, she met one of these poor children in tatters on the streets, she was moved to tears. Together with some of her friends, she sought a solution to remedy this great misfortune.

Assembled in Committee, they planned the means to be employed to rescue from their ignorance at least some of these young girls and to train them to lead Christian lives.” (Positio p. 540).

➤ **For Reflection:**

- What is the meaning of this quote? Does it speak to you?
- Do you feel the need of God in your life? Why?
- How does one meet God today?

2.2 **Scenes of Suffering**

Revolution of 1834.



“At that time Claudine and the Sisters were all in the chapel chanting Vespers, one of our Sisters suddenly noticed soldiers in the grounds and she informed Claudine who immediately warned the others.

The sisters went quickly to open the doors of the Providence, which the Soldiers were smashing, with the blows of an axe convinced they would find rebels in the convent. As soon as the door were opened, the soldiers rushed upstairs, but the rebels in

the square, having seen them, began to fire on them. A cannon ball passed through the window of the first floor corridor of the convent and wounded a soldier.

Soon the windows overlooking the hill of Fourviere were filled with soldiers who fired ceaselessly on the rebels. The rebels turned their canons on the house. All the windows were shattered to pieces. Soldiers were placed in different parts of the convent and the grounds. The grounds were left free for the troops. The children withdrew to the third floor and were forbidden to go around the house. The food prepared for the community was served to the soldiers". (Positio 473).

➤ **For Reflection:**

- What feelings and emotions does this story evoke in you?
- What do you notice about the conduct of the sisters?
- What similarity does this story have to today?
- What would be your response?
- How do you think the Sisters coped with this?

2.3 – *Claudine brings forth Life from Suffering*

The Little Deschaux.



"The petite Deschaux girl was 12 when she came to us and up until then she had spent most of her time on the streets of Villefranche fighting with other children. One day, one of them hit her face so violently that it became covered in blood.

When she first came here, her behavior was in keeping with her earlier upbringing. She has changed a great deal since then, although there is still a lot to be done..... I hope that with God's help we will be able to help her. Everything is yet to be done. One day she is good, the next bad. If she could only make up

her mind to do right then I think she would turn out well. She is an attractive child and works well for her age but only when she wants to which is by no means always..."
(Positio 359-360).

➤ **For Reflection:**

- What do you think were the circumstances of this child's life?
- What could have happened to her in 19th century France?
- What hopes has Claudine for her?
- Do you know of similar circumstances today for children?
- Is there any way you could help these children?

3. Reflection on forgiveness

3.1 - *She teaches us to forgive*

"Forgive Gladly as we forgive".

"Louis Thevenet had not lost sight of any of his sister's movements. When she and her servant had come nearer, Louis spoke to the faithful servant and said to him in a low voice: "Bend down as if to pick something up, and take a letter for our mother from my shoe." And, as the servant was upset and wanted to show some sign of sympathy to his young masters, one of them said to him with lively affection; "Keep quiet you wretched man, you will betray yourself."

Then turning towards his sister, and indicating by a glance the letter, which the weeping old messenger was handing to her, he said: "Gladly, forgive as we forgive."

Weeping, and more dead than alive, Claudine still found the strength to follow the cortege as far as the Brotteaux, the ordinary place for executions. There, she witnessed the fusillade, uniting herself with all the energy of her sisterly love to the souls of her dear brothers who were passing so abruptly from life to death. At that moment of supreme anguish, the thought of Our Lord dying on the Cross with words of forgiveness on his lips was a light and support for her broken heart.

The last prayer and only desire of her dear brothers at that solemn hour, "Courage, Gladly, forgive as we forgive" was like an echo of the words of her sweet Saviour . . . The poor girl joined her hands and tried to stammer in her turn, "My God, forgive these murderers, they know not what they do!"

When the last shots had died away, and while people were sadly withdrawing from the scene of carnage, some unsteady shapes slipped furtively among the bodies to recognize the faces of their dear ones and respectfully kiss their mutilated remains.

Claudine was one of those who were searching. Alas! She did not have to look for long... A sinister noise made her look up, but she quickly turned her eyes away as she



suppressed a cry of horror. They were killing off the survivors with the butts of their rifles, and among those, she had recognized her brothers!

All her life a nervous trembling of the head remained with her, and a painful sensation of suffocation, which was thus a continual reminder of the dreadful scene, she had witnessed". (Positio 537-538).

➤ **For Reflection:**

- What do you think that experience was like for Claudine?
- How would you feel if members of your family were treated in the same way?
- Why did her brother ask her to forgive their betrayal and execution?
- What does it mean to forgive?
- Do you find it easy or difficult to forgive? Why?
- What can help us to forgive?

3.2 *A Continuous Yes.*

"How good God is!"

"On Sunday, the 29th January, she entered into her agony. She did not come out of it until the following Friday, at three o'clock in the afternoon, when she breathed her last sigh!

*During this period, the good Mother had only one brief flash of consciousness when she spoke clearly and distinctly these words: "**How good God is!**"*

She said these words with such conviction in her voice and such an expression of heavenly joy on her face as she pronounced them, that the person reporting them, after an interval of fifty years still believes she can hear them and is quite overcome by emotion.



She had been a faithful imitator of the Divine Model during the whole of her religious life and He granted her a last trait of resemblance with Him, that of rendering her soul to God on a Friday at three o'clock." (Positio 623).

➤ **For Reflection:**

- When did Claudine utter this prayer?
- What did she mean to convey by these words?
- Was it easy for her to say this?

3.3. The style of Claudine

“Be ready to bear any suffering from others but make every effort to avoid causing pain to others.”



*It was usual for Claudine to address in these words: "Daughter, if you wish to become one of us, remember that you must be ready **to bear everything that your sisters may inflict upon you, but never give anyone anything to suffer from yourself.** You must make every effort to avoid causing others pain."*

Her exhortations often returned to the precept of our Saviour. "We must not do to others what we would not like them to do to us". (Positio 631)

➤ For Reflection:

- How do you react to this statement?
- What do you think Claudine meant by this statement?
- How could you put this into practice in your own life?
- What would be the result of living this way?
- What could help you to live this way?

4. Reflection on Communion

4.1. Team work

“... When several go together, they walk with assurance, courage and fresh support....”



“A person who undertakes a long and difficult journey alone soon grows weary and finds only ordinary and commonplace means to encourage him. On the other hand, those who travel together do so with confidence, courage and the benefit of mutual support.”. (Positio 54)

➤ For Reflection:

- What is the meaning of this quote?
- Does it speak to you?
- Have you ever felt the importance of team work? Why?

4.2. Unity.

“Union, among ourselves, a love that binds us in one heart and one soul”. (Positio 114)



➤ For Reflection:

- What does it mean for you to be « in union »?
- How can you explain the quote « a love that binds us together »?
- In our world today, can we imagine that « the idea of one heart and one soul » is a reality?

4.3. The Favorites .

She insisted that they abstain from preferences...

"She insisted that we should avoid all partiality and preferences; "The only preferences that I allow you to have" she said, "are for the poorest, the most miserable children, for those who have the most failings, the least good qualities; these children you must really love very much; pay great attention to them, make a great effort to do l l i e m good. Good mothers do this." (Positio 628).



➤ **For Reflection:**

- Do you agree with the fact that today we must take care of the most needy people? Yes?, No?, Why?
- Can you give some examples of what you do in your daily life to help those in need?

CONCLUSION:

- What do you think Jesus and Mary can bring to our world today?
- What would Claudine do today?

