



Joyful Apostolate

Fall 2013

WITH OUR LADY IN THE YEAR OF FAITH

In the beginning of the Year of Faith and in the time of the new Evangelization, a loving generous family offered the gift of a community pilgrimage. Sister Jane wisely designated it to be a Marian pilgrimage. Mary is our radiant example of faith and of all mankind's first new evangelization.

It was a joyful privilege for our Sisters coming from Taiwan, Hungary, St. Louis and California to visit three shrines where Our Lady appeared: Knock, Lourdes and the Miraculous Medal Shrine on Rue de Bac in Paris. In Notre Dame Cathedral our generous friends welcomed us for a special guided tour. We prayed in the Basilica of Sacré Cœur.

At the tomb of St. Thomas Aquinas in Toulouse we prayed in thanksgiving for his inspiration to Sister Ida as she was writing her illustrated explanations on the truths of our faith.

In every holy place we prayerfully presented to Mary all of you, our friends and families.



During the pilgrimage, as in life, there were many heartwarming "hellos" and greetings to kind people who helped us at airports, trains, inns, churches and shrines.

“Pilgrims are constantly aware

FROM THE HEART OF SISTER IDA

Our Blessed Mother has a place in our life which we do not have to make for her. All we have to do is discover what her role is, and who she really is in our life.



God chose Mary from all eternity for a very special role. She had real freedom to say “Yes” or “No” to accept or not accept this role. In His mercy and integrity God does not force us or take away our freedom.

Why did God choose Mary? This is a mystery of love, and God is Love. God chose Mary and Mary accepted His love. Before Mary became the Mother of God, she was already the “bride” of God. Why? Because God chose her from all eternity to be the Mother of the Son of God through the power of the Holy Spirit. Through her, we have God-made-man in a visible form.

When the twelve year old Jesus was lost in Jerusalem and Mary and Joseph were looking for him, people might have asked “What does the boy look like?” Joseph could answer, “He looks like his mother”. Jesus resembled Mary in his features.

Jesus spent 30 years with Mary and only 3 years with his apostles. Imagine the tremendous amount of communication between Jesus and Mary!

What does God the Father look like? Look at Jesus. He said that He came to show what the Father is like. What does the tender love of God look like in human form? Look at Mary.

Our Blessed Mother actually portrays everything God wants the Church to be, and everything we need to be. Look at Mary, see her unity with Our Lord, see her total unity with the will of God. She stood at the foot of the cross. She held her Son, and she is holding the Church.

of where they are going. Every step

OUR LADY OF KNOCK, IRELAND

In 1879 Mary appeared to 15 people who lived in Knock. Mary brought her family: St. Joseph (left), and St. John the Apostle to whom Jesus entrusted her from the Cross; her Son the Lamb of God, in front of a cross, surrounded by angels. Here we especially prayed for families, asking for the protection of the Holy Family.



In Ireland we prayerfully followed in the footsteps of St. Patrick, had Mass in Ballintubber Abbey, climbed the mountain of Croagh Patrick, and saw the Book of Kells in Dublin.



Every evening we gathered to pray the breviary and the rosary, for you and for all the intentions closest to your heart.

is part of the pilgrimage.”

Sister Ida

OUR LADY OF LOURDES



During an early morning Mass at the grotto where Our Lady appeared, we brought before her our community and all our loved ones. It was a blessing that Father Edward Richard, M.S. traveled with us as our chaplain.



Joining the candle light procession on the second night was a joyful and prayerful privilege. The night we arrived to Lourdes, tired and late, it was pouring rain which we saw as Our Blessed Mother's kind providential arrangement! Instead of going out, all had a good night sleep.

JOYFUL TEAM WORK

Everywhere we traveled on planes, buses and train, we lived our charism of simplicity and team work. Sisters were assigned to lead prayer, load and unload the luggage, buy sandwiches for lunch, push the four wheelchairs, carry the home-made banners, and be available for more little and big tasks. As Sister Ida would say, “Love does such things!”



Above: Banner bearers are ready to lead our procession to the Shrine in Knock.

Below: Sister Hermine and Sister Yolanda on the bus on the way to a shrine. It was a joy that Sister Hermine could come to the pilgrimage.



Sandwiches were lovingly prepared by our Sisters for lunch in parks, or near shrines that we were visiting.