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PRESENT OF GOD OFFERED FOR SHARING

These words from the hymn of a Sunday morning prayer provided the inspiration for this article of E-Current. At this time of Christmas 2017, the presence of seventeen postulants in our Congregation seemed to me to be "present of God".

In the picture, the crèches of Peru, Africa and Haiti show God "offered for sharing" in Jesus. Father Moreau, our Founder, shares with the Church the present of Holy Cross: women and men who dedicate their lives to God in the following of Jesus and in service to the world. And the branch of the Sisters of Holy Cross, in this image, shows seventeen young women from **Haiti**, **Africa**, and **Peru** (color of the

frame indicates place of origin of each) who bring as their "shared gifts" their own desire to live Consecrated Life, a life consecrated to God, for the world and in Holy Cross.

In a spirit of gift exchange and sharing, Holy Cross offers them - with its warm "welcome", the present of its support and prayer, the gift of its own life, a life consecrated to God... in the following of Jesus... and for the service of the world.

Merry Christmas!

Thérèse Martin, CSC

A WORD OF THANKS FROM THE FIRST-YEAR POSTULANTS FROM AFRICA



On November 22, 2017, in the Holy Cross chapel of Sikasso (Mali), a celebration took place on the theme: "The spirit of the Beatitudes". Three first-year postulants were officially welcomed into our Holy Cross family. They were accompanied by a couple serving as

witnesses, by some of the young people from the "Foyer", our residence for girls, and by a candidate of the Missionaries of Africa (aka White Fathers). The presiding priest, too, was a Missionary of Africa.

A word from the postulants:

"My soul magnifies the Lord; my spirit exults in God my savior."

Lk: 1-45

Great is the joy within us at the end of this day rich in grace. That is why we borrow our Mother Mary's words to give thanks to the Lord and to express our gratitude. In gladness, we made our entrance as Holy Cross postulants.

This time of grace had begun with a retreat centering on the theme of the Beatitudes (Mt 5,1-12) Then, in a celebration adapted to the circumstance, we were accompanied and supported by people who are significant for us.

Happy to have lived this experience, our thanks are addressed to Sister Raymonde Maisonneuve and her council who sent us a message of welcome, to Sister Thérèse Martin who wrote us a very profound letter, and to all the sisters who sent their greetings and carried us in prayer. And finally, we thank the local community of Sikasso that welcomes us with open arms.

Yours truly,

The first-year postulants from West Africa: Natacha, Alphonsine, and Diane



SISTER NORMA McDONALD: THE SUCCESS OF A MULTI-FAITH APPROACH

SPIRITUAL SERVICES

There has been little talk of faith and beliefs in recent years. Yet there is an extremely active Spiritual Animation Service at the *Université de Saint-Boniface*. And one could detail at length the exceptional contribution of Sister Norma McDonald, freshly retired, to the general harmony reigning on the campus.

Sister Norma McDonald, who has been a pastoral coordinator at the University for twenty-four years, has inspired hundreds of young people to deepen their spirituality, whether they be of the Catholic religion, of another religion or without religious faith. Everyone has always had a place with Sister Norma. Everyone has always been accepted as he or she was.

[Read more...](#)

THE LAUNCHING OF L'ESPÉRANCE HOSPITAL'S 50TH-ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On Friday, November 24, 2017, Sister Louisa Bélanger, CSC, Executive Director of *l'Espérance* Hospital of Pilate, officially launched the celebration of the 50th year of this institution in the presence of religious of Holy Cross, the Mayor of Pilate, and employees. Nearly one hundred thirty people participated in this event. For everyone, it was a moment of sharing, of joy and of memories...

All of us wore our green jersey with the theme referring to the fifty years of excellence of the hospital and the importance of continuing to have an impact on the Haitian health system. The entire compound of the hospital was green and, as such, full of hope. Just as it has done in the past, it will continue to give hope to the most vulnerable.

After the words of Sister Louisa Bélanger, CSC, there followed a prayer. And in unison, we then sang our anthem "For great ills we need the great

remedies..." while hoisting the flag bearing the logo of the hospital.

A beautiful Mass was sung by Father Cicero Kesner, CSC. We took advantage of this opening celebration to pray for our patients. Those among them who could attend the ceremony did so.

The story of the hospital was told by Sisters Louisa Bélanger, CSC and Dadelaine Jean, CSC, Our founders: the Marianites of Holy Cross, Lucie Laquerre, CSC, Madeleine Giroux, CSC, Fathers Duschene Joffre, CSC and Polux Byas, CSC, were honored on this great day for their contribution in this prestigious work.

At the closing, we all enjoyed a snack together.

The next event will be the concert with Rictrude Pierre which will take place on Saturday, December 23rd, 2017 at Pilate's Sainte-Rose de Lima Church. All the sisters of Holy Cross around Pilate are invited.

January 7, 2018 is the day we are all waiting for you in Pilate.

Dadelaine Jean, CSC





MERRY
CHRISTMAS

U.S. Sector



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