

**“Go and tell my brothers (and the whole world...)”
Sharing the Good News from a Monastery of Nuns**

The Monastery of Notre-Dame de la Clarté is located in Taulignan, in the south of France. There are 16 sisters between 30 and 90 years old. Our links with Africa are close, since the founding of the monastery of Rweza in Burundi, which has now been autonomous since 1988.

Three years ago, we were approached by the magazine “PANORAMA”, to write a little commentary on the Gospel of the day, to appear each month, in addition to the magazine itself, in the form of a booklet entitled “Biblical Meditations.”

We are happy to share some thoughts about this silent preaching that is new to us. It has been a real source of spiritual enrichment, with the joy of increasing our prayer to the dimensions of the suffering world. Indeed, these meditations have brought us a great deal of correspondence. Reactions to our texts have been generally benevolent and show a real communion. However, most importantly, this experience has entrusted to our prayer a flood of intentions, full of both distress and trust, all very moving. We kept all the letters that we received until the following *Maundy Thursday* (Holy Thursday) where they were presented on the altar, then burnt in the fire of Easter! Receiving so many requests of all kinds could only increase our desire to respond in the Church, to our mission of prayer and compassion.

In addition to this opening of human misery, another enrichment came from the work itself. We divided the work between eight Sisters. First, we had to meditate and deeply ponder the Word personally. Second, we had to find its meaning and the words that would speak best to the heart of the readers. Finally, to write them down as best as possible and accept any corrections from the journalist in charge of editing. From the beginning, we made it a duty to edit each other’s texts and critique them before sending them to the magazine. It was an experience of great fraternal cooperation, but also sometimes a beneficial asceticism, because all of the Gospel pericopes are not so easy to understand, especially if we are to extract the depth to share it with others!

Preaching on the Internet

Another collaboration was requested of us by the Dominican Friars of *Lille* who wanted to involve the nuns in their beautiful realization of the “Retreat in the city.” It is an opportunity to spread the Word of God through the Internet during Lent, a sort of retreat in the heart of everyday life. It is a preparation for Easter, a meditation or theme of reflection for everyday ... along with suggestions for prayer and dialogue. The number of Internet users interested in this new mode of preaching has never stopped growing. At present there are more than 50,000 users. The Friars have asked us to make our reflections available for the

third week of Lent, the Sunday of the Samaritan woman, and the following week. This time, it was not just writing a text, but also reading it. Hence, a fairly close collaboration with our Dominican brothers ... The whole process was much work, but the benefit was similar to that of the meditations we did for Panorama: a broadening of our horizon of prayer, the source of friendly contacts, plus the joy of working with young brothers whom we admired for their dedication, competence and apostolic zeal. They neglected nothing to make everything possible in order to fulfill the goal they pursued together: to proclaim Christ to the world!