



## “Auteuil News” – En direct du chapitre – 26 juillet 2012

### Speeding up...

*Even if the heat makes everything feel heavy, the sisters are speeding up. The final documents are being approved, one after another. The end of the chapter is approaching, though it isn't here yet. The liturgical team is still hard at work: there are two more major events on the horizon: Sister Diana's jubilee Saturday at noon and the celebration of the end of the chapter. You'll receive news and photos.*

*Yesterday we presented two counsellors; today we'll fly across the ocean to meet MarJo from the Philippines and Mayi of Ecuador*



### Interview de sœur Marjo

*Maria Josephina Matias, Philippines- Thaïlande*

*Word : Jésus Christ*

*Mystery : Incarnation*

I was a student of the Assumption from kindergarten all the way to Secondary School. Then I left the Assumption and moved to the University of the Philippines. But my contact and my relationship with the sisters and my classmates and all those who were with me in Assumption continued. I began in Herran then moved to San Lorenzo when the campus in Herran was closed. In the University I took up Music Education. I took up Education because I was already thinking of religious life and I was advised to take a course that would be useful in the Assumption and so I took up education.

In the University I belonged to a choir called the “Madrigal Singers”. It was a university choir and later it became a national choir, so I had the privilege of traveling with this Choir. (This choir even came and lived here in Auteuil in 1976, for a few days!).

## Wich are your passion passion?

EDUCATION! Well, when I was younger, I had always wanted to teach but I never thought I would take up Education as a career. In the beginning I thought I'd take up Humanities because I loved the Arts, but when I began to take up Education, teaching became a real passion for me. I love to teach and later on, in Religious Life, formation became something that I truly value very much..



*de gauche à droite : Marjo, Vicenta, Mary Cecilia et Sheryl*

## What aspect of the Assumption do you like most?

The contemplative-active dimension of our life is something I love. I find that it is how I can best be myself. In fact in my life I really cannot live one without the other. I feel it really unifies my life. To me that was the most attractive. When I was in High school, and the first thought of Religious Life came to me, I was a bit unsure because I had the impression that the Sisters were "superwomen". It was an impression. But when I would see them come for Midday, I attended Midday Prayer regularly as a High School student, when I would see them come for Midday, I began to say to myself: this is where their being active comes from. Of course, I didn't realize then that the balance of this unity of life was and still is a challenge but it convinced me that the life was beautiful. When they come for prayer at Midday or even Vespers (because if I stayed longer in school as I was in the Glee Club), I would come and listen, that attracted me very much. Later I was also attracted by the joy I see when the Sisters come together. I am an only child, so I had no siblings, so it was very attractive to see Sisters, happy, together, loving each other and enjoying together.

## How would you describe the General Chapter in a word or an image?

More than an image maybe a word or a phrase. For me this General Chapter is a "historical milestone" - an important moment in the history of the Congregation. I feel that the decisions so far have been quite decisive. I get the feeling that we have gone beyond being symbolic

towards becoming more concrete and real.... I feel that in this Chapter the symbol became a reality... it is a bit difficult to explain much less find an image that would capture what I mean, but for me we have experienced a decisive movement in the Congregation, that is historical, and put us on the road where we cannot turn back. The way may still be difficult but the direction is clear it seems to me, we have taken the road and we cannot turn back. For me this is a "milestone". It could be a little scary but with the grace of God we can be faithful. The Chapter was marked by a lot of listening and prayer, listening to God and to life and I think that the Provinces, the Sisters obeyed what they heard, and lived Assumption Today - listening to God and to Life - on the path of communion, wisdom and prophecy.

## Interview de soeur Mayi



Maria Eugenia Ramirez, Equateur-Chili

*Mystery: God*

*Word: Come Lord Jesus*

### What is your passion ?

My great passion has always been the extension of the Kingdom, but in the course of my life, it has been enriched by a multitude of elements. I realize also that I am called to develop the Kingdom in my heart, by His Word-which is a growing passion in me. Another of my passions is art, or rather the art forms that speak to me of God: music, dance ....

### What aspect of the Assumption do you prefer?

I did all my studies in our school in Guayaquil. I was fascinated by the passion for the Kingdom in the sisters whom I met in school, as well as their commitment to the very poor. They transmitted their fire, and the same passion burned in me. The first thing I noticed was their desire to serve.

Very early on, my love for Marie Eugenie grew because ever since I was quite small, the sisters told us about her life and her message. They presented her to us as a model , which is why another great passion was awakened.

At school, the mission, openness, internationality, breadth of vision were cultivated – other facets of the Assumption that I love very much. My initial wish, before that of becoming a religious, was to be



an AMA, (associated to the Assumption mission) until I realized that the Lord didn't just want one year of my life : He wanted them all.

When I entered the Assumption, my principal passion was the Kingdom; now it is more contemplative life and the liturgy. With the passing of time, another desire has been awakened: the fascination for Jesus, to follow Him by living a fraternal life in community.

At school, I was impressed by the delicacy and attentiveness that the sisters cultivated in their relations.

The liturgy is also a place of relationship and knowledge of the person of Jesus.

### **The chapter in a word or an image**

A fragile vase. We have a precious treasure in a delicate clay vase. Together we form the Assumption that each and all of us are. We carry her and she carries us at the same time. It is also the experience of great riches that we receive through Congregation, a treasure that fills and fulfils us.

Here is a song that resumes what I want to say:

**You must love** the clay in your hands, you must love the sand to the point of folly, and if you don't, your enterprise will be in vain; only love enlightens what is lasting...only love changes mud into miracle.

**You must love** the time of attempts, you must love the hour that doesn't shine, and if you don't, you will never touch the truth... only love engenders the miracle, only love enkindles death....

*José Martí (Havana, 1853-1895)*

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