

International Centre Cancels 2020 Season Due to Coronavirus



At its April meeting, the International Centre Board decided to close the Centre for the 2020 season. Pilgrims traveling from many parts of the world and uncertainty about the spread of the pandemic made this decision necessary. The Board, however, is already looking to the future and plans are in place to move the 2020 programs to 2021. Meanwhile, we are trying to stay in touch with Sisters of St. Joseph, associates and friends around the world with short newsletters like this one—and soon with our new and improved website.

Eluiza and Olga, staff members

New Members Join International Centre Board



Sr. Lucia



Sr. Maryellen



Sr. Vianney

Three sisters assumed their new roles on the Board at the April 17-18 meeting, which took place on ZOOM. Sr. Lucia Gallo represents the Italian Federation. Sr. Maryellen Kane represents the US Federation. Sr. Vianney Thanniath of India represents the Annecy Congregation in France. We welcome them all!!

Medaille Tree Blossoms

The magnolia tree that the Global Coordinating Group (GCG) donated to the Centre at its October 2019 annual meeting is healthy and thriving. The tree commemorates the 350th anniversary of the death of Fr. Jean Pierre Medaille. The International Centre is one of the GCG's projects.



Coping with the Quarantine at the Centre



A Super U employee puts groceries into the car's trunk at the Drive-Through service.

The values and discipline of religious life have allowed us to adjust our lives to the quarantine as we tried to remain healthy and safe. We developed a daily routine and rhythm with plenty of time and space for praying, reading, studying language, listening to music, watching online movies and news, and maintaining the Centre. We share meals together and each of us cooks the main meal every other day. We attend TV Mass and watch the news. The land around the Centre provides us with space to walk and enjoy nature. Our biggest event is grocery shopping at the Super U Drive-Through, which occurs every 15 days or so. Although France will re-open on May 11, we've decided to remain mostly at home.

Three Bicycles Donated to the Centre

Tom and Linda Clougherty of Ithaca, New York, had lived in Le Puy for a few years before they decided to sell their home and move back to the USA. As they were selling or giving away home items, they generously donated three bicycles to the Centre. The bicycles all have new tires and replacement tubes, and they came with helmets and an air pump. We thank the Cloughertys for thinking of us!



1720 Epidemic in Le Puy

Epidemics are a part of life and Le Puy has had its share. In 1720, the people of the Le Puy region lived through a terrible epidemic, which began in Marseille and quickly spread toward Le Puy. Authorities ordered the people to quarantine themselves. The plague traumatized the population. This painting hangs in the Notre Dame Cathedral in Puy and represents a procession passing through the Place du For in thanks to Our Lady to whom people prayed to stop the epidemic of 1660.

