

MARCH 2024 | N° 6

Newsletter Good Shepherd Museum

MOTHERHOUSE OF THE CONGREGATION OF
OUR LADY OF CHARITY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
ANGERS

Editorial

The last few months have been rich in events. The exhibition of cribs of the world was once again a great success, and Angevins also had the opportunity to discover the extraordinary lives of two little-known women, Jeanne Mance and Ida Hahn-Hahn, who also happened to be contemporaries of the founders of the congregation, St. John Eudes and St. Mary Euphrasia. The latter was also discussed at length during the visit made by members of Congregation of the Holy Cross in January.

History continues to take pride of place, with two objects linked to the first Cardinal-Protector of the Congregation, and a new section, which we hope will have a long life, drawing on the rich collection contained in the congregation's Bulletin.

Happy discoveries, and happy reading.

Sarah Elbisser

Interim Coordinator,
Spirituality Centre of the Congregation of Our Lady of
Charity of the Good Shepherd

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A Museum on display!

"The Evenings of the Museum"

Screening of the documentary film "La ville d'un rêve" (The City of a Dream), 24th November 2023

On 24th November, we welcomed French-Canadian filmmaker Annabel Loyola for a screening of her documentary film "La ville d'un rêve" (2022).

Presented as part of the 24th edition of Documentary Month, the film traces the founding of the city of Montreal, and in particular the central role played by Jeanne Mance, based on a manuscript dating from 1672 entitled Histoire de Montréal (History of Montreal). Around thirty people attended the friendly screening.

Find out more about the film in the interview Annabel Loyola gave to the local radio RCF on this occasion (in French):

<https://www.rcf.fr/culture/lanjou-toute-une-histoire?episode=426507>

"The German Countess Ida Hahn-Hahn at the Good Shepherd of Angers. Why? How?", 14th March 2024

On 14th March, around twenty people gathered for a talk by Mrs Andrea Micke-Serin, a Doctor of Germanic Literature, Language and Civilisation at the Catholic University of Angers, on the life and work of Countess Ida Hahn-Hahn (1805-1880).

This famous German author of novels spent several months at the Motherhouse of the Congregation, before becoming the benefactress of the community in Mainz, where she lived until the end of her life. A number of archives highlighted by the lecturer, who carried out research in Germany and France to find out more about the Countess, enabled us to retrace the links she maintained with the Congregation.



"I don't want people to say I'm French anymore. I am Italian, English, German, Spanish, American, African, Indian, etc, I am from all the countries where there are souls to be saved."

ST MARY EUPHRASIA





A Museum on display!

Exhibition of Cribs all over the World From 2nd December 2023 to 7th January 2024

This year again, a very successful edition of our traditional exhibition of cribs from all over the world, in a special year in which we celebrated an 800-year-old crib tradition with St. Francis of Assisi.

Over 2,000 visitors came to see our collection of 120 nativity scenes from 5 continents!

An exhibition that delighted young and old alike, with the same enchantment over the years of discovering or rediscovering the Nativity according to different cultures.



EXPOSITION
CRÈCHES DU MONDE
La crèche, 800 ans de tradition
Du 2 au 23 décembre 2023,
les vendredis, samedis et dimanches de 14 h à 17 h
& du 3 au 7 janvier 2024, tous les jours de 14 h à 17 h

Groupes sur réservation, toute la semaine
Stand de la boutique solidaire sur place
Entrée libre
Parking gratuit
Contacts :
secretariat@mm@gmail.com
Tél : 02.41.37.56.47 ou
02.41.37.56.41

BON PÂTEUR
MAISON-MERCI DE CHARITÉ DU BON PÂTEUR
18 RUE MARIE-EUPHRASIE PELLETIER
49100 ANGEURS

"I don't want people to say I'm French anymore. I am Italian, English, German, Spanish, American, African, Indian, etc. I am from all the countries where there are souls to be saved."



Shairing Fair volunteers. From left to right: Nicole Bougère, Jacqueline Garçon and Catherine Spiropoulos.

Congregation's missions through the handicrafts made by the women.

A special thank you also to the team of Le Tournemine, the restaurant of the hotel of the Good Shepherd, who created a 100% chocolate crib for this exhibition!

We would like to thank the volunteers from the Shairing Fair, who exceptionally set up a 'mini shop' in the cloister at the start of the exhibition. This initiative was warmly welcomed by the public, who were able to discover the



Chocolate crib. A creation of the restaurant "Le Tournemine".

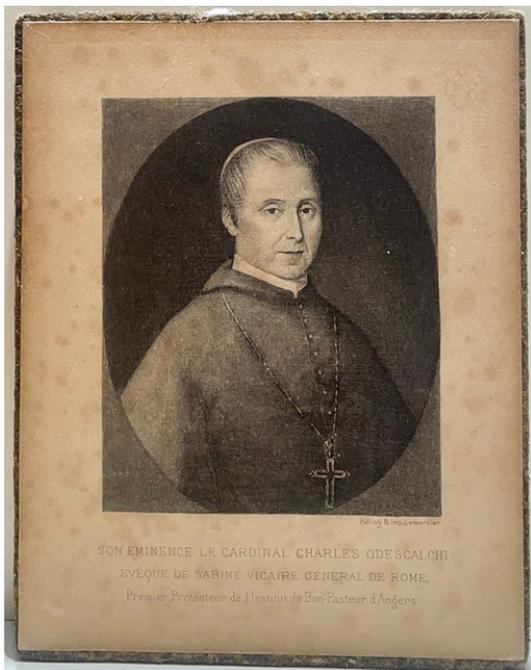
ST MARY EUPHRASIA





One Object, One History

The portrait and last letter of Cardinal Odescalchi



Portrait of Cardinal Carlo Odescalchi, 13x10.5 cm, Bishops' Room in the Museum.

On 15th August 1834, during Vespers of the Assumption, Saint Mary Euphrasia had the intuition to write to Rome to set out her plans for the Generalate.

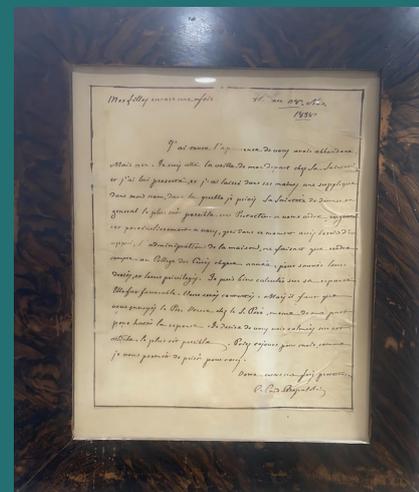
She chose to write to Cardinal Carlo Odescalchi (1785-1841), the son of a great Italian noble family and a close associate of Pope Gregory XVI.

His response, which was very favourable, arrived after a few weeks, and the solemn brief establishing the Generalate was signed by the Pope on 16th January 1835.

The Congregation was placed under the jurisdiction and protection of the Pope, who appointed a delegate with jurisdiction over all its communities, and in May 1835 St. Mary Euphrasia obtained Cardinal Odescalchi to become the Cardinal Protector of the Congregation.

As an important support for the Congregation, he remained in this position until his long-held wish to join the Jesuits in 1838.

St. Mary Euphrasia framed his farewell letter to the Sisters, whom he called "My daughters once again".



This letter is dated 18th November 1838.

Saint Mary Euphrasia kept it in her office, most likely with his portrait.



DATES TO REMEMBER

* **Concerts of the Association “Les Mousquetaires de l’Anjou”** (Large Brass and Percussion Ensemble) :
“*D’Artagnan, le Mousquetaire Favori du Roi Soleil*” - (“*D’Artagnan, the Favourite Musketeer of the Sun King*”).
Sunday 12th May 2024
at 11.30 am and 3 pm
in the Chapel.
Part of the profits from these two concerts will be donated to the Congregation to help the Sisters in their mission.

* **Mass for the 10th anniversary of the Reunification**
27th June 2024

* **Heritage Days**
Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd September 2024

Gems from the *Bulletin*

We are introducing a new historical section with an article from the News Bulletin of the Congregation, a rich communications medium published in Angers from 1892 onwards.

Published first monthly and then fortnightly from 1896, it contains news from the Motherhouse and from communities around the world.

The proclamation of the Heroic Virtues of Mary Euphrasia Pelletier

One hundred years ago, in January 1924, the decree establishing the Heroic Virtues of St. Mary Euphrasia was published, the first step towards her canonisation. The April 1924 Bulletin not only published the text of the decree, but devoted also more than 50 pages to the event. There is a full account of the solemn ceremony held in Rome on 24th February 1924, in the presence of the Superior General, Sister Mary Domitilla Larose, and of the celebration in Angers, as well as a chronology of the stages in the cause of St. Mary Euphrasia since 1886.

You can download the full text of the Bulletin on this event (only available in French) **by clicking here.**

In the News of the Mother House

VISIT FROM THE CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS



Members of the Holy Cross Congregation in the presence of the Sisters of the International Community of the Mother House (from left to right: Sr Marie Claire, Sr Melania, Sr Annamma and Sr Nancy) and Sr Marie Joël (left).

On 17th January, five members of the Congregation of Holy Cross, including three novices, visited the site of the Mother House in Angers.

There are historic links between Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd and this congregation, as its founder, Father Basile Moreau, beatified in 2007, prompted the founding of the community in Le Mans (about 100 kms from Angers) in 1833.

The visit, which included a discussion with the International Community, was an opportunity to get back to the roots of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, by exploring the Museum and the Mother House.

THE MOTHER HOUSE TAKES CARE OF OUR "COMMON HOME"

On Thursday 7th March, Pierre Croué, who is passionate about flora and fauna, came to install 8 nesting boxes in the Main Courtyard of the Mother House, as well as an owl nesting box in the Alley of Roses, which he had made himself.

A beautiful action carried out at the Mother House during Lent! Taking care of our "Common House", as Pope Francis asks us to do in his Encyclical Laudato Si.



Nesting box in the yew tree at the start of the Alley of Roses.



Pierre Croué and Sr Annamma during the installation of the nesting boxes in the Main Courtyard of the Mother House.

The Museum is open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 5 pm.
Groups welcomed all week on request.

Free admission for all!

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

