



*Father Eric Récopé,
Chaplain of the Cité
Saint-Pierre*

EDITORIAL

The CITE SAINT-PIERRE, an Oasis !

When people are driven by the desire to avoid misery, acts of violence or failure, they unburden in one go of everything that could decelerate their march into a better life and they set out along unknown paths, with fear in their chests and hope in their heart.

That's true for those of the Middle East or of the Southern countries but it is also true here, in our suburbs or in our impoverished regions... Some people have too little to survive and nothing to lose in the adventure, others have the feeling to play their last card and then there are those who are force-fed by an aimless consumer society, have lost the will to live ...

On these ways, some discover an oasis incidentally, others by rumour, by acquaintances or friends and this oasis which one suddenly discovers is the Cité Saint - Pierre. In this oasis they find board and lodging, and what is more important human warmth and brotherhood. Pilgrims, volunteers, wage earners and others, all want to share their respective roads of life travelled in the past between suffering, uprisings, discoveries and joy.

In this place which welcomes us with the emblem: "Peace and silence", it is possible to put down your bag, to gather your thoughts, to be comforted and to find the strength to follow your path.

Faith is the Way for walkers and not a life insurance or life annuity. Like for Jesus who went up and down the roads of Palestine to manifest the mercy of the Father and who «loved us to death» ...

Yes the City Saint - Pierre is an oasis for those who take the time to sit down, to remain in silence and to welcome their brothers. Today, this Oasis undergoes a complete renovation to welcome even better his travellers and pilgrims from all over the world. Don't be afraid, enter, you will be welcomed and then you will be able to leave again, saying as did little Bernadette of Lourdes «Here, I was considered as a person».

« The Almighty has worked marvels for me!» - Let us live together this topic of year 2017.



*Mgr Jean
Rodhain*

A WORD OF THE MANAGER

Extraict "Both envelopes" MSC, n°237 - January 1973

10 years ago, this African peasant had to sell five bags of cocoa to buy tractor.

In 1973 he has to pay the equivalent of ten bags. Even by producing more, he becomes poorer.

United in Santiago to remedy this global imbalance, the experts, instead of finding solutions, had to content themselves with determining this growing imbalance.

This calls us to choose. The legislator of tomorrow can have an influence on these international structures and introduce a reasoned justice. You tell me that I am involved in politics? Exactly: Charity leads to prepare social justice and thus to work on structures of the city which conditions this justice.

But this also calls us to transpose. When the Gospel condemns "this world ", this doesn't have anything to do with a Babylonian myth. In 1973 it is about this world of money; it is about these intangible cartels which weigh in on all problems on international or local plan.

BACK ON 1ST FEBRUARY



*A moment of reverence
around the tomb of Jean
Rodhain*

When I arrived at the City Saint Pierre last January, I didn't know anything about Jean Rodhain. I didn't know his history, nor his struggle, nor even his name. Nevertheless, on February 1st, I am witness of the gathering of hundreds of persons who commemorate the 40th anniversary of his death.

Whether they are volunteers or employees of the Secours Catholique, priests or pilgrims, all know why they gather around his tomb. They deposit there paper flowers and photographs which immortalise the roguish smile of the founder of the Cité.

At the end of the ceremony, I hear someone saying behind me: « He was a great man, a strong personality, a sacred character ». This is what I will keep in my memory of Jean Rodhain. It was his " sacred character », his conviction and this spirit of giving to others that gave birth to the Cité Saint Pierre. He transmitted his struggle for charity to his successors. He transmitted it to all people present who are standing there in silence, in prayer.

In this instant his words make sense entirely: «The story of true charity starts and is always written in a certain silence».

Clémence Renaud, trainee

SUMMARY

Editorial

Back on 1st february

Le mot du patron

The Cité Saint-Pierre,

Cité fraternal

Cité Life

The Secours Catholique committed to its brother coming from another country

Le Secours Catholique defends worthy living conditions for everyone, regardless of his nationality, his story or his administrative status. For this reason, the volunteers of the association accompany every day and without differentiation foreign persons and families, undocumented or not in order to meet their most fundamental economic and social needs: food, medical care, shelter...

More than one third of the people received by the Secours Catholique-Caritas France are foreigners.

The migrants are particularly vulnerable, as they dispose of a very fragile status and live often under very poor conditions. Whether they flee from hardship, war or prosecution, whether they are undocumented or not, these people are the very heart of the mission of the Secours Catholique-Caritas France.

To accommodate people is not the job of the Secours Catholique, but its first mission is to accompany these persons and to help them getting access to their rights and autonomy.

Le Secours Catholique draws its **values from the foundations of the Republic on the one hand, and on the other hand from the thinking of the church**, both of which considerate the hospitality towards exiles as a major requirement. The rejection of every sort of discrimination, the principles of freedom, equality and brotherhood are the founding values of **French democracy**.

The commitment of the Secours Catholique is understood as a solidarity duty and a commitment of faith which finds its strength in the permanent search for an actualisation of the message of the Gospel and the biblical tradition that has been widely replicated and expanded in the instructions of the **church's social doctrine**.

Thus, the Secours Catholique, in France and all over the world, provides support and assistance to all these people in order to give them a chance to live under worthy conditions and to assert their rights.

Claire Ozoux,

Responsible for the communication and the promotion



We are all brothers

Guidelines :

A foreigner is a person who lives on French territory and who does not have the French citizenship.

An immigrant is a person who was born in another country of foreign parents and who lives on French territory.

A migrant is a person who lives temporarily or permanently in a country where he/she was not born but who has acquired important social connections with this country.

A refugee is a person who has obtained the "refugee status", through application of the Geneva Agreement (United Nations Convention, 1951) introduced to protect the victims of prosecution.

An undocumented migrant is a foreigner who lives in France without having the right to stay there, either because he did not ask for his residence permit or because the authorities refused or did not renew this latter.

LOOK

Why this commitment to refugees?

It was a coincidence that they met in the Cité Saint - Pierre, during our voluntary work, a Tamil lady frightened and traumatised from what she had lived in Sri Lanka. First help, first support. Then the meeting with Maryse, who has been a volunteer for the Secours Catholique for 20 years, mainly working with migrants, encourages us to commit us a little more and to open the doors of the house.

A reception without asking questions, but with the only ulterior motive, this sentence of St Jacques: «The one who pretends to have faith and who does not act, for whom is it of use?». The arrival of our migrated brothers is sometimes painful. We are looking for host families, but people are afraid.

We created an association " Trait d' union asile " to find support. To welcome the foreigner is a Christian duty. « The man is previous and superior to the citizen », said Bernard Clavel. And Jesus, Mary, Joseph were they not the first migrants?

This reflexion leads us to dare and to conjugate this verb like the poet Czech Jan Palach: «I dare, because you dare, because he dares, because we dare, because you dare, because they do not dare!».

Testimony of volunteers,

Collected by Francisco Ochoa, volunteer

ACTORS OF SOLIDARITY

The reception of migrants : actors of mobilised solidarity



Support migrants

They escape persecutions, war or misery and cross borders in the hope of a better life. These migrants, isolated or in family, on the road of exile and severed from their roots, are vulnerable.

A strict and efficient organisation

A national system, managed by the OFII (French National Service of Immigration and Integration) and the Prefecture of the Region, structures the reception of

the migrants on the French territory, in accordance with international laws. Upon his arrival, the applicant is identified and registered in the GUDA (Single Window of Asylum-seekers) before being orientated to a reception centre. In Lourdes, the CADA (Reception centre of the Asylum-seekers), financed by the State, is assured by France Terre d'Asile. The association receives 90 persons. 42 household, with 16 different nationalities, live in the different social accommodations and are deprived of the city. A contractualisation is established with the migrants who promise to adhere to the offered institutional framework: rules of co-habitation, respect of the integration programme.

An adapted support network

The structure assures the administrative and legal steps for getting the resident's permits, social and medical accompaniment (accommodation, food, education, health). It hosts manifold activities (French lesson, computer science, cooking). Other workshops are offered: based on expression, they are intended to promote the person, to break isolation or to help to express the anxiety of a traumatism. The accompaniment also prepares for leaving the centre in case of refusal of the right of asylum.

In the extension of its action, France Terre d'Asile works in partnership with associations and volunteers attentive to human dignity. So, this branch of the Secours Catholique offers a supplementary reception: listening, coffee break, donations of food articles or good purchases.

The aim of these actors is to welcome the refugees without creating difference with the citizens in need.

Christine Château-Trcihel, volunteer in the communication

Would it be a luxury to think of tomorrow?



They are migrants, asylum seekers...their request were rejected and they appealed...some people have already obtained the status of a refugee... all of them were forced to escape war or persecution.

And they come, as volunteers, to the Cité Saint - Pierre. «For me, the Cité signifies Saint Peter, liberated from his chains» said a volunteer who obtained the status of a refugee. The rendered service is a good tool of communication, even if the ignorance of the French language remains an obstacle.

The coffee on arrival is a moment appreciated by all

Everyone has his own history, marked by long challenges which can only be mastered by the **right to live**.

In the course of fraternal sharing, we expressed our prejudices. It is true that our acts are based on favourable or disadvantageous judgements, on persons or groups of persons with consequences of differentiations, of segregation, of isolation. We have put aside these prejudices to listen to men, to women, young people, migrants and volunteers in the Cité.

What do they tell us about this **right to live**?

- We want to work, in spite of complex long administrative processes which end for many with a rejection. The Cité is like a family for them, where they feel useful and needed thanks to a job which is a service. The certificate which they receive at the end of their stay will allow them to prove to the authorities their will to be integrated.

- We want to learn French.

- We want to participate in the cultural, associative, sports life, which shows the will to assimilate with the local life (sports, choir, professional training, ...)

Our collaboration also made possible the participation of the volunteers in actions which is useful to know, to give us the means to welcome together the migrants . We take part in the associative plan of the Secours Catholique and of its mission which is to fight against the reasons of poverty, of inequality and of exclusion, and to offer alternatives in the service of the common good. We believe in and hope for every person to promote its capacities and to envisage the following day.

« During a walk in the mountains, I saw a wild animal; approaching me I saw that it was a man; I approached it further and saw that it was my brother. » (Arab proverb).

For the Christian I try to be, the prayer of Our Father can only approach us to the brother, to envisage the following day. Being a volunteer, he reminds me of the word of Jesus: « So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the prophets».

Father Roger, Chaplain of the Cité Saint-Pierre

WORDS

Migrants and refugees: towards a better world



Topic which Pope Francis chose for the World Refugee Day.

«I would point to yet another element in building a better world, namely, the elimination of prejudices and presuppositions in the approach to migration. We are invited to live the values of solidarity and acceptance, and to accomplish signs of fraternity and understanding.

We ourselves need to see, and then to enable others to see, that migrants and refugees do not only represent a problem to be solved, but are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved. Never lose the hope that you too are facing a more secure future, that on your journey you will encounter an outstretched hand, and that you can experience fraternal solidarity and the warmth of friendship! “

By these strong words of the Pope, the Church invites us, to change our attitudes, our perceptions, our hearts. We will then join the evangelical inspiration dear to Jean Rodhain: «I was a stranger and you welcomed me» Mt. 25

*Sister Marie-Sabine,
Notre -Dame de l'Immaculée Conception de Castres*

WONDERS

A great way to feed by the meeting



I arrived at the Cité Saint-Pierre incidentally. I am very happy about this experience. I came without preconceived ideas. My objective to serve was fulfilled. I have also received a lot in the meetings, the times of sharing, the ceremonies. I leave again with a great knowledge of the history of Jean Rodhain, the Secours

Catholique, of Foundation OCH (reception service of the handicapped pilgrims), and full of wonderful memories of all these exchanges with the volunteers and the pilgrims.

I think that the most painful cruellest form of poverty, is isolation and rejection. Each of us can feel and live this poverty. In the Cité Saint-Pierre I received others and I felt to be welcome myself. Thank you.

Testimony of Marie-Claire, volunteer

A MUST SEE

A sensitive and moving story about a young kurdish migrant who is undocumented but full of dreams.

Philippe Lioret created a splendid feature-length film on mutual assistance carried with a truly impressive cast, above all the actor Vincent Lindon, splendid and full of hope in this role which is sorrowful even to death.

A film that is essential in our times since *Welcome* reminds us with correctness and sensitivity that behind an undocumented person, there is first and foremost a human being who also deserves his chance.



Claire Ozoux



The Fresco in Words

« The Almighty has done great things for me. »

This beautiful sentence of the magnificat will accompany us throughout the year and will serve us as a support of animation for groups and pilgrims who will come to the Cité Saint-Pierre. If the Lord acts in each of us to bring to the surface what is great and marvellous in us, we know that we need time to allow God to look at us and to consider us as a marvel.

To illustrate this transformation in confidence, we chose to link this sentence of the magnificat with the story of Moses who travels with

the Hebrew people under the lead of God.

From the suffering and doubt to the liberalisation which leads to the encounter with other people, our fresco consists of 3 pictures taking up the announcement that God made to Moses: «I know your suffering», «I am with you», «Go I send you».

Every person who will come and look at this fresco will be able to deposit the great things that God has worked in him or in her.

Some great things have already been written down:

« The Cité Saint-Pierre; a place where you learn to be courageous; a place where you can live active charity ».

« It is a place that invites to forgiveness and to penitence ».

« In our group "Foi et Lumière" we don't need to choose our friends, because we are all friend ».

Let us hope that throughout the year many other great things will illuminate the fresco and the Cité Saint - Pierre.

Thomas Butruille, Lead of animation

"Repair my Church"

Brotherhood, Praise, Education, Sharing, Eucharist, Game, Effusion of the spirit.

The Cité Saint - Pierre had the joy to welcome a children's camp, with children from 13 to 17 years accompanied by the Franciscans of Cholet, Narbonne, Tarbes-Lourdes and Brussels.

The mission of their association is the evangelisation. 150 persons participated this camp under the topic of « the Immaculate Conception » in order to learn more about Mary and the message of Lourdes. The association also organises small chapters throughout the year, one on All Saints' Day, one for Christmas, one in February as well as one summer camp.

*Carine Levrier-Mussat
Coordinator reception*



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A real make-over for the Cité!



The new pilgrims self

Since the end of season 2016, we are now in the middle of the 5th year of renovations accomplished as part of the financial allocation granted by the Directorate of the Secours Catholique for the renovation of the City.

This long stage is undoubtedly the most complex one since it concerns the whole of the Cité. The current phase notably concerns the modification of the location of the chaplains' flats, both of the restaurant halls and many of the administration buildings.

This rehabilitation adds real value in terms of acoustics and insulation of the buildings, of comfort of the reception of the pilgrims and of the bringing up to standard the reception facilities for persons with reduced mobility.

At the end of March, we inaugurated the pilgrims' self-service restaurant with 450 young people who had come to Lourdes for the national gathering of the Marianist schools. Other renovation works will be carried out on the 5th of July to be able to live the high season in serenity.

Claire Ozoux

A legacy for the City?



A priest, who had been close to a deceased person manifests: «Rosa was a discreet person, from whom the family had moved away. She participated in a pilgrimage

to Lourdes in 2012, and stayed in the Cité Saint - Pierre. She has left us and I found out that she chose to donate a legacy for the Cité ».

She was so marked by what she discovered here, that she decided to make this ultimate donation which is the transmission of a legacy or of a life insurance.

Thank you Rosa and thanks to all the sponsors of the Cité and of the Secours Catholique!

If you want to know more about the legacy, donations and life insurances,

*Marc Chanliau, Administration, Finance and
General Services Manager*

Our Family Booklet

We share their joy:

Thomas BUTRUILLE: Charged with the animation in the Cité Saint - Pierre, Thomas prepares himself for his ordination as a Permanent Deacon, which will take place in autumn 2017. In December 2016, he was invited to put himself at the service of the word and the Eucharist. This is a powerful testimony of commitment to the service of the poor. Bravo Thomas!

Rita VARGA TOTH: Hungarian Volunteer, Rita informed us about the joyous birth of her daughter, Nora, on February 3rd, 2017. According to the young mom, Nora is «the representative of the new generation of volunteers» Welcome to the Cité Saint-Pierre, Nora!

Francisco OCHANDO: For 15 months, Francisco, a young Spanish volunteer, contributed his competences to the various services. He has just found an accommodation and a job in Lourdes. He is now also employed at the Cité, substituting another employee for a few months. Thank you Francisco for your service and your testimony in the Cité Saint-Pierre!

We share their grief:

Marcel and CHRISTINE TRICHET, a couple of faithful volunteers of the Cité Saint Pierre, lost their son some months ago in a tragic sea accident in Japan.

Georges Pandelfino, has suddenly lost his son Jean-Christophe, at the age of 52 years old.

Sister Maria-Rosal lost her brother in March 2017.

Father Gérard SIMON also accompanied his sister and stand by her at the moment of her death.

Several volunteers left us this year to join the house of the Father:

Michel TRICHET, Bernadette DILE, Robert MULLER, Robert GORRET, Grégory MASSON, Ghislain HUBERT, Louis MARCHAND, Marie-Hélène MORICET, Françoise VICENTE.

We would like to welcome Laurence and Laetitia to the reception, Chantal, Liliane and Patrice to the kitchen who joined the team of the Cité for the season.

We also welcome Marjorie, civic volunteer to the communication for 9 months and Arnaud, civic volunteer to animation.