

## **20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Marie-Louise of Jesus' beatification, May 16, 2013**

**A LETTER FROM SR LINDA JOSEPH, FDLS, PROVINCIAL LEADER**

**To all the Canadian Daughters of Wisdom**

Dear Sisters,

**Twenty years ago, an extraordinary happening took place in Rome. Marie-Louise de Jesus' beatification! /.../**

**A long process had been going on in the Congregation so that Marie-Louise was better known ...**

**We are now two decades later. What meaning do we wish to give to this 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beatification? More than the memory of this wonderful day of May 16, 1993, is it not a marvellous occasion**

- To refresh one's contemplation of this incomparable woman**
- To rediscover Wisdom**
- To deepen one component of our call to Wisdom mission today**
- To give thanks for the gift of a new profession.**

### **An incomparable woman**

Much has been said and written about Marie-Louise of Jesus. I dare invite us to contemplate her in the light of the Orientation of our Chapters ... **Let us be surprised to discover in her being and in her life, the work of «liberating Wisdom and her Presence».** May we find a woman open to different cultures, capable of holding the values of her time and to question those hidden "false wisdom". Let us get closer to this woman in love with Wisdom and the poor. In an extraordinary way, she was guided on an uncharted path of intimacy with God and with Mary; she has integrated and promoted a new spirituality in the Church and co-founded with Montfort, a non-traditional Congregation. **Is she not the chosen one to teach us the secrets of Wisdom?**

### **A treasure of Wisdom**

**A few years ago, certain «images of Wisdom» were newly introduced in the Congregation. They helped us deepen unknown aspects of our spirituality.** Several of these images came from the First Testament. They optimized our spiritual understanding and found their full realization in Incarnate Wisdom. However precious this reflection is, the time given to contemplation is even more. **Not only do they "widen the space of our tent", these images awaken our desire of Wisdom and our proximity with her.** We see Wisdom in God; we discover her active presence in the universe and in the humble realities of our lives. Far from centering us on ourselves, these realities help us to move forward in a concrete commitment in our own milieu. Wisdom is a treasure to search for, to cherish, to share!

### **Wisdom Mission today**

One of the graces of the Chapters and the new Rule of Life is certainly to reaffirm our identity as Daughters of Wisdom and our call to follow our Founders in our commitment toward the Church and our society. Today more than ever we are sensitized to our vital connection with planet earth and its inhabitants, as well as to our social responsibility, personally and collectively for the respect of life. **Faithful to the initial intuition, our call to Mission remains twofold. It invites us to meet liberating Wisdom and, at the same time, to set us at the heart of the world chartering the paths of**

**interculturality.** Where is the heart of the world? Is it not where we are now? Wisdom mission is always within our reach!

### **A profession**

**In the radiance of May 16 feast, a gift will be given us. Yes, on May 19, 2013, the Congregation and in particular, the Province of Canada, will receive a new profess, Jennifer Cortez.** Can we not see in this event Marie-Louise's and Montfort's smiles? «No, the arm of God is not shortened... Do not worry little flock...», Marie-Louise tells us again (Letter 22).

More than two hundred fifty years after her death, again, Marie-Louise urges us forward. She invites us to hope, to keep the "primitive spirit", to answer the call of the poor and of Wisdom. Her last words touch us still: «... In doing so, they will follow my wishes and will do what God has given me the grace to put into practise while I was on earth. They will fulfil the last wishes of a Mother who has always loved them, even after death. » (Testament of Marie-Louise)

**Let us give thanks for the extraordinary gift of Marie-Louise of Jesus and for the opportunity to «rediscover her for the first time»! Let us give thanks for the fire still burning in the hearts of the Daughters of Wisdom since 1703, for the care this outstanding Foundress still provides to her Congregation. Her loving response to Wisdom has given the Church and society a religious Family. Thus wisdom spirituality has been integrated and embodied as a unique spirituality in history.**

Love,

Linda Joseph, DW  
Provincial Leader  
And the members of the Provincial Team

*Translated from French by Sr. Gabrielle Blais, fcls*