

DECEMBER NEWS: BOUCIEU: From 16 December 2017 to 7 January 2018 the 10th international exhibition of cribs took place on the theme of **LIGHT**. The thousands of people who visited greatly appreciated the 261 cribs from many different countries and cultures. The historic steam train "the Mastrou" was roused from its winter's rest for the occasion, and was renamed "le train des Crèches" bringing tourists and pilgrims to the village to view the exhibition. Over the past 10 years more than 52,880 visitors have seen the display! This year Cardinal Philippe Barbarin, Archbishop of Lyon, was among those who visited the village of Boucieu le Roi, and the exhibition. The Cardinal celebrated Holy Mass in the Church near the tomb of Bl. Peter Vigne.

To the question "**what is a crib**"? this is what he had to say: *"It is the representation of the greatest mystery of the Christian faith: God becomes man and is born into a human family. The crib, in its literal sense is the manger. 'I am the bread come down from heaven to feed you' is what this little child would say, the piece of bread that is received in the Eucharist down through the ages as God himself"*



>>**VALENCE: From 27 to 30 December**, Sisters from France, Italy, England-Ireland, Brazil, Spain and Tanzania participated in an International Assembly at the Mother House. The aim was to study the draft text of the renewed Rule of Life. This was a significant and memorable occasion linking into the 302 years of the Congregation and the "versions" of the Rule of Life since the original Rule of Life written in 1737, at the request of Marie Spélat on behalf of all the Sisters of that period.

As then, we are "Eucharistic and missionary" with a special emphasis on adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as noted by our Founder: *"God wants us to make his Son known, and loved, adored and served in a special manner.....since those who follow this rule are called, Sisters of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament."*

On the visitor's book in Boucieu the following was written: *"I really liked the Cribs and the theme. But what I liked best is in the Church" Noëllys C*

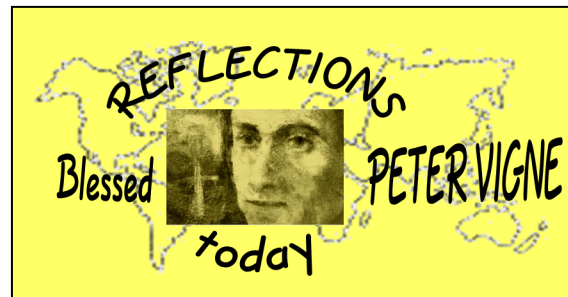
IN JANUARY: Week of prayer for Christian Unity 18-25 January.

JANUARY 2018—A HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our readers!

After the great feasts of Christmas and Epiphany we have now started the liturgical season called "ordinary" time. Let us then keep in mind Peter Vigne's invitation to **"lead a new life"** wherever you live and work. May the Lord bless you and keep you.



N° 1-2, 2018



As an introduction to this year, we reflect on a short passage from Peter Vigne. The text reminds us how easy it is to give up, to rely on habit and routine, not necessarily creative and life giving! To begin the year more "awake" and to start each day as a new beginning, might indeed be a good resolution. There are twelve months ahead of us so let us be attentive and determined like the bird sitting on the barbed wire, ready for take-off and new challenges.

A Reawakening.....a New Year, new life

"Jesus my Saviour, who would not be overwhelmed with love on seeing you in the garden of Gethsemane, struggling to your feet, as you go to wake up your disciples. Unable to keep their eyes open, they had fallen asleep while they were watching with you in prayer."

Sadly, you see that we have grown even more complacent than they in relation to our salvation.

We continue in our drowsiness knowing that our adversary the Devil is always ready to attack, and having brought us down continues looking for an opportunity to devour us like a roaring lion.

My God, come then and wake us up... Put into our hearts the desire to serve you, to lead a life that is new.

Grant us the grace of perseverance, and having praised, loved and served you here on earth, we will one day join with the Saints in praising you for all eternity"



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Vignemissionnaire



REMAIN....AWAKE

When we look at the various stages of Peter Vigne's life we never see him idle or "drowsy" but always alert and ready to respond to God's call. Of course, we know that at one stage, on a certain road, he received a "wake-up" call from Jesus! That meeting with the youthful Peter Vigne was so challenging that his **defiant arrogance was converted to joyous gratitude expressed in humble adoration before the Eucharistic Presence.**

He sees it as a precious gift that leads him to "a new life". In 1694 he was ordained a priest. For him to celebrate the Eucharist is to be profoundly moved by the One "who has given us the light of faith....and showed us infinite love" (R of Life 136). He wants to "persevere in that love" and, after a brief time with the Lazarists, **his eucharistic life will stimulate and sustain the missionary zeal that is going to inspire him until the end of his life.**

Probably sometime around 1711 he encounters the Priests of the Blessed Sacrament. This Congregation, founded in 1632 by **Msgr. d'Authier de Sisgaud** directed the diocesan seminary of Valence. He felt such a special bond with them and their Eucharistic spirituality that he longed to be associated with them.

From 1712 to 1713 Peter, the intrepid missionary travelled the length and breadth of the Ardèche evangelising the people.... finally arriving at Boucieu le Roi! Everything he accomplishes, including the great Way of the Cross, is lit up by the "beautiful Sun of the Church", the Blessed Sacrament, "the tree of life of the soul" object of his praise and adoration. His Eucharistic fervour awakens the vocation in the young women, who in 1715 will become with him, the Founding Sisters of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration enriches his missions and the foundation, thus making them fruitful

His intense evangelising activity doesn't in any way force him to abandon his **project regarding affiliation** because he would really like to benefit from the fraternal and spiritual support of the Priests of Christophe d'Authier de Sisgaud. The act of admission which he signed 10 October 1723 states: "*Messire Pierre Vigne, has made it known to us that, having felt called to the missions for several years and to be more effective in his missionary work, would like the help of our prayers. He desires to be associated with all our spiritual benefits and to be regarded as one of our confreres*". Finally, **he is officially received on 25 January 1724, the feast of the conversion of St. Paul**, the great Apostle whom he loved so much! His missionary enthusiasm finds new vigour and momentum, "a new life". I think it can be truthfully said that wherever Peter Vigne went on mission, **he carried his confessional on his back and the Eucharist in his heart!** In communion with his confrères and the Sisters, the Eucharistic praises are constantly in his heart and on his lips:



*"Glory to you, Lord Jesus, hidden God who loves us,
present in the Eucharist until the end of time"*

Two great Eucharistic missionaries pass on to us today their fervour on the path of Christian life.

Christophe d'Authier de Sisgaud

"I offer myself, I dedicate and consecrate myself to you...promising to live and die in your love, to work with all my strength....so that all may know, love and adore this wonderful mystery of your infinite love..."

Blessed Peter Vigne.

*"O Jesus, so ardently loved, would that you were known everywhere.....
May he be everywhere known, loved and served throughout the world.
He remains always among us, hidden in the Blessed Sacrament."*



And YOU ??? Will you be more « awake » in 2018? It's your call?. With Peter Vigne you can pray, love and serve. And with him have a HAPPY NEW YEAR !

"Jesus allows himself to be found by those who seek him, but to find him we need to get up and go, not sit around but take risks, not stand still, but set out. Jesus makes demands: he tells those who seek him to leave behind the armchair of worldly comforts and the reassuring warmth of hearth and home.....If we want to find Jesus, we have to overcome our fear of taking risks, our self-satisfaction and our indolent refusal to ask anything more of life. We need to take risks...." Pope Francis 06-01-2018

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: 8 February

On the 8th of every month, the Congregation invites you to pray for vocations, especially for sacramentine vocations. On February 8th we remember one of our founding Sisters **LOUISE BOUYEYRON**, on the anniversary of her death. She was born 11 September 1683.

On the death certificate we read: "**On February 8 1726, Louise Bouveyron, a Sister of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, was interred in the church in Boucieu.....after the administration of the last rites by Mr. Vigne.** In his Memoirs Fr. Vigne writes: "Our good Sister Louise Bouveyron died on Thursday 7 February 1726, after an agony of almost 12 days. **Her death like her life was most edifying...."**

Let us ask her to intercede for vocations to the Congregation she founded with Bl. Peter Vigne. **Join with us in prayer.**

