



THE LETTER OF THE SECULAR INSTITUTE OF THE HEART OF JÉSUS

March 26

The Women's Secular Institute thus offers us true fraternal communion. It calls us to new friendships founded on a common grace and on a certain way of expressing the Gospel in our lives. This friendship is strengthened by sharing and seeking the evangelical life that we want to follow together.

"The consecration of a member of a secular institute does not alter the member's proper canonical condition among the people of God." (Can. 711)

Having decided to live according to the Spirit, we want to help one another by sharing what is at the heart of our life: love for Jesus Christ and the service of humanity. Certain that faith, hope and love which are not expressed are in danger of being lost, we promise to give one another the joy of simple sharing, both honest and discreet. It is the Spirit of God who calls us together. It is He who unites us in our diversity. He enables us to grow together in the Church in the Father's love and in the love of the One He has sent: Jesus Christ.



Constitutions - 7

Dear Friends,

As we announced in our previous letter, this one is devoted to news from the Institute. We are delighted to share it with you and hope you will enjoy reading it.

In fraternal communion, For the General Council, Marie



Vololona Group - Tananarivo

In the North, we became acquainted with three new ISF members: Micheline, Marie, and Louise. Micheline and Louise are sisters and live together with one of their nieces, who is attending school in Andapa.

We were welcomed by Bonaventure, his daughter, and the members of his group. It was a great joy to be reunited with them all—what a blessed moment of fraternity!

On this occasion, we organized a three-day formation session. Bonaventure will continue to oversee the initial formation, with the support of Thérèse Tuoi, who will regularly send him materials for this purpose.

Marie, Louise, and Micheline marked their entrance into formation during a gathering of the SVE group at Suzanne's home—a beautiful time of sharing and communion within the Cor Unum family.



Let us begin with a journey around the world



Madagascar

During their visitation to the members of the Institute in Madagascar, Agnès and Marie were warmly received by Marthe, as well as by Nicolas Pesle, a Jesuit of Antananarivo. On this occasion, we met with Vololona and her SVE group. We were truly grateful for the opportunity to converse, pray, and share in fellowship with them all.

We then went on to visit Anasthasie, ISF, in Ambohimahasoia, south of Antananarivo. During this visit, we also met Michel, ISM, who shares in mission with Anasthasie.



Michel

Anasthasie

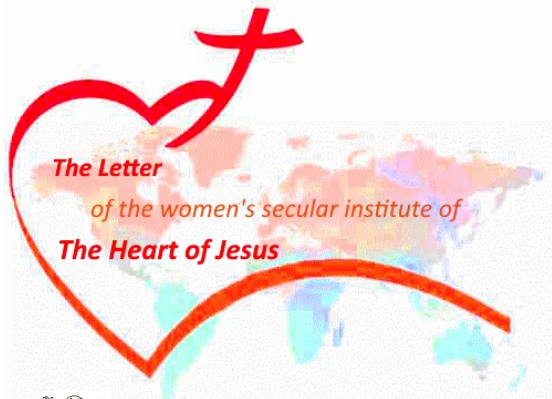


Louise

Marie

Micheline





NEWS



Việt Nam

This past June and July, ten members in Vietnam professed their perpetual vows. From October 15 to 24, the Vietnam Region welcomed members from various countries to K'long for a session organized by the Institute for regional leaders responsible for formation.

Following the meeting of the regional leaders, Marie remained in Vietnam to visit several fraternities. She traveled to the fraternities of Bùi Chu, Hà Nam, and Hà Nội, in the northern part of the country. Unfortunately, inclement weather prevented her from traveling to Nha Trang.

Our sisters in the central region are gradually recovering from severe flooding. Some have been displaced, while others have lost everything: their crops, livestock, tools, and personal belongings. We continue to uphold them in prayer.

As every year around the Feast of All Saints, members of the Cor Unum Family gathered in prayer for the deceased of our family. In Saigon, the family assembled at the tomb of Pierre Than.

On the Feast of February 2nd, the Cor Unum Family in the South



organized a Mass presided over by Bishop Louis. The northern fraternities took part in a Mass organized by the diocesan Office for Consecrated Life.

On the occasion of Tết, the Vietnamese New Year, members of the fraternities visited their families and their ailing sisters to extend their New Year's wishes.

With regard to formation, the Vietnam Region organized a training session for group leaders on the theme of leadership exercises. This session brought together 110 participants and was led by a PCJ priest.

Two in-person formation sessions are planned:

- A session for approximately 70 sisters in initial formation, focused on discernment in daily life and guided by Father Gioanbaotixita Bửu Khánh (PCJ).

- A six-day session in early August for approximately 60 formators, led by

Têrêsa Tươi, centered on spiritual accompaniment.

Online formation: The Vietnam Region organizes monthly online sessions for group leaders, fostering exchange and the drafting of written reflections, under the coordination of the formation coordinator. In addition, members in initial formation attend two monthly sessions on the Rule of Life and the Way of Life.

Each year, the Vietnam Region selects a theme for ongoing formation. Last year, in a spirit of communion with the whole Church and fidelity to the Institute's spirituality, the chosen theme was Christian Hope, intending to sustain their spiritual life and strengthen their vocation and mission in the heart of the world. This year, following *Dilexit te* of the Holy Father Leo XIV, the theme for formation is "love for the poor."

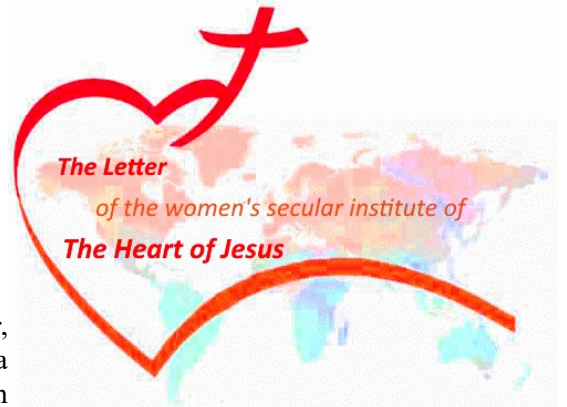
Spiritual retreat: In order to accompany the sisters at important stages of their vocational journey, the Region plans to organize a spiritual retreat from May 21 to 30, 2026, with approximately 20 sisters participating. This retreat will be preached by a Jesuit priest.

Live the present moment to the full. Yet at the same time, be wholly rooted in eternal life. Be concerned for the salvation of others, but do not forget that it can be accomplished only with God and through Him. With all your strength, press forward, but in the clarity of heavenly light. Commit yourself to the world, yet love it with a spiritual love.

Path of Hope - No. 968



NEWS



France

As each summer, the Region offered a few days of vacation to those members who wished to participate.



This year, they took place in the southwest of France, in Charente, from August 11 to 18. This time of rest provides an opportunity to come to know one another more deeply, to strengthen fraternal bonds, and also to be renewed and restored. It will be offered again this year.

Pierrette Maugey professed her perpetual vows during the regional weekend last October. The theme of that gathering was *“At the Well of Encounter.”* Drawing from the meeting of Jesus with the Samaritan woman, we sought, in His footsteps, to encounter one another and to listen more attentively, so as to grow in mutual understanding.

The regional spring weekend will take place in April. Its theme



is: living the different stages of life, growing older—how do I remain faithful to my vocation through the many changes of life?

The Cor Unum Family in France organized a weekend this past February centered on the spirituality of Cardinal François Xavier Van Thuan. About 80 participants were present, and it was a grace-filled time of reunion and fellowship.

The General Council, with the assistance of the France Region, is currently reorganizing formation in order to better welcome new members. Sylvie Daudet and Caroline Dry have now joined the team, and Annie Rogier has become the new person responsible for formation.

Benin

In October, Chantal Adiko renewed her vows for two years. Her vows were received, by delegation, by Ghislain Sany, PCJ.



Irène De Souza, who had been in a period of discernment for over a year, requested to enter into formation. We all rejoice in this grace. She celebrated her entrance into formation on January 25, 2026.



La famille Cor Unum au Bénin

Mireille has also begun a period of discernment. Our sisters take part in group meetings in person with the SVE, and by videoconference with an ISF group in France. In the near future, we will create another online group so that the newer members may also benefit from regular exchanges with a group in France.

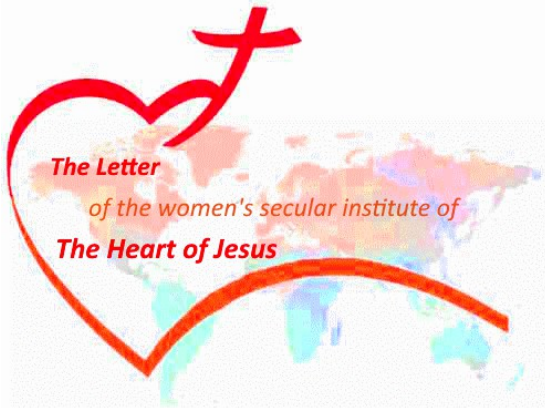
Secular Institutes are rooted in the call to holiness—the call to a radical life lived in love, through the evangelical counsels embraced in the midst of the world. Baptismal consecration reaches its full expression in the existential consecration lived by the members of Secular Institutes within the culture and history of their people. It is there that, called by the Father and sustained by the Holy Spirit, they are invited to follow Jesus Christ more closely.

The members of Secular Institutes live for Jesus Christ, and their particular existence in the heart of the world becomes a hymn of praise to the Lord. Animated by the Holy Spirit, they bring joy to God.

— Father Robert Daviaud, April 9, 2013, Institut du Parado



NEWS



The Letter
of the women's secular institute of
The Heart of Jesus



United States

This past July, Kathy Baroody, Mary Nguyen, and Philomena Jose professed their perpetual vows during the annual July retreat, at which Thérèse Tuoi received their vows. Alexandra Nuñez renewed her temporary vows.

Beth, who has served as Regional Leader for the past ten years, has agreed to be succeeded by Philomena Jose. After a period of transition, Philomena will fully assume her responsibilities next July. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Beth for her generous service to the Institute and to the members in the United States.



Cameroon

Félicité Ngo Likoba, who came to know the Institute through an IMS member, has asked—after a long period of discernment—to enter into formation within our Institute. We rejoice greatly in this grace.

Two other women have asked to begin a time of discernment: Marie-Louise, in the north of the country, and Brigitte Flore in the south. Like all those in this stage, they will receive monthly accompaniment from members of the France Region.



General Information

The Cor Unum Family

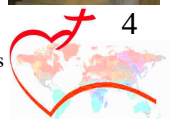
► The “202”

As you know, the Cor Unum Family house in Paris (known as “202”) has been sold. An important page in our history has been turned. The PCJ had been established in this house for many years, and it was in this place, rich in memory, that our entire Family grew and developed.

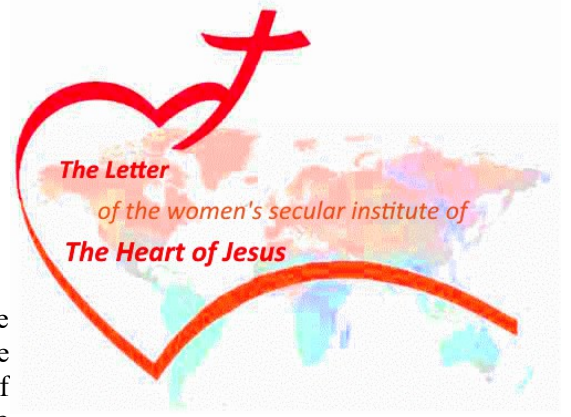
However, as the number of members in France and our financial resources have significantly declined, we no longer had the means to remain there.

Several members of the Family came to assist Pierre-Jean (Federal Secretary – SVE) and Isabelle d’Harcourt, ISF. All accomplished a tremendous amount of work, for which we are deeply grateful.

Today, the Cor Unum Family has taken up residence in an apartment rented from the parish of Saint Christopher of Javel, located at 9 rue Saint Christophe in Paris. These smaller premises will be used solely for the secretariat and for meetings related to the functioning of the Cor Unum Family (commissions, councils, and governing board).



NEWS



► Archives

The archives of the Family, as well as those of the Institutes and Societies, have been entrusted to the archives center of the Conference of the Church of France in Issy-les-Moulineaux. There, they will be kept and preserved under far better conditions than previously in the basement of the “202.”

► The Federal Council



It was held in L’Haÿ-les-Roses from March 3 to 5. Due to the events in Iran, the members from Vietnam were unable to travel to France as initially planned. Nevertheless, thanks to modern means of communication, our brothers and sisters from Vietnam were able to participate fully in the meeting.



mission will be established to finalize this text. It is intended to be incorporated into the *Book of Life*, following its presentation for a vote at our Federal Assemblies.

■ For reasons of economy, the General Chapters, General Assemblies, and Federal Assemblies will be held in October 2028, and most likely in **two locations**: the PCJ and SVE in

France, and the ISF and ISM in Vietnam. The General Assemblies will take place in person, as required by the Catholic Church, while the General Chapters and Federal Assemblies will be held online.

■ In preparation for the Federal Council, a small commission was established to reflect on the statutes of the Cor Unum Family. Indeed, we no longer have the financial or human resources necessary to organize future General Assemblies and to sustain our



daily operations as before. The aim is to re-examine, in a renewed way, how we may live our family life, taking into account

our present means, while remaining faithful to our Constitutions and to our desire for deep communion among the different branches.

As a reminder, the structure and organization of our Institutes and Societies, as defined in our Constitutions, are modeled on the canon law under which we operate. The commission has been entrusted with continuing its



reflection on the definition of the Family’s specific terminology (in particular what is meant by “region,” “regional council,” etc.), as well as on the possible

drafting of internal regulations concerning the organization of the Cor Unum Family.

A document will likely be proposed at the next General Assemblies. At the conclusion of the Federal Council, Davy Emmanuel, ISM, joined the commission.

The governing board and the members of this commission have chosen to live, together, a time of reflection and prayer in September, listening to the Holy Spirit. They will be guided in this by Father Michel Roger, SJ.

Several important decisions were taken:

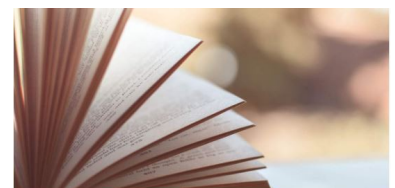
■ Cécile Legris, General Responsible of the SVE, and Gilles Enot, General Responsible of the ISM, have been re-elected as President and Vice President of the Cor Unum Family.

■ The Federal Council worked on a text concerning the spirituality of Hope, inspired by Cardinal François Xavier Van Thuan. An international com-

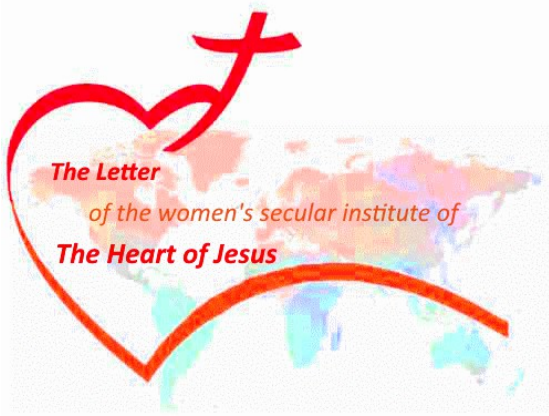


► The Archives of the Institute

On the occasion of depositing these archives at the Archives Center of the Conference of the Church in France, we became more deeply aware of their great importance—for us today, for those who will follow after us, and also for the Church. Our vows are professed within the Church and received in her name; they therefore hold a particular significance for her. It is thus essential to preserve a record of them.



NEWS



For this reason, we have asked each Regional Leader to gather the documents in her possession, as well as those kept in the various houses of the Institute, in order to deposit them in a diocesan archives center or, if this is not possible, to send them to France so that they may be preserved together with the other archives of the Institute. Testimonies concerning the founding period of the Institute, as well as personal accounts of lived experience, may also be added. These represent a precious treasure, both for the history of the Institute and for our present life.

► Internal Regulations

You have most likely already received the internal regulations, along with the accompanying letter. Each group and each member of the Institute has been invited to share observations and feedback, so that a final text may be presented for a vote at our next General Assemblies.

The title “*internal regulations*” is itself a proposal and may be subject to change.

This text seeks to clarify certain points and to highlight elements already present in the Constitutions—particularly the importance of formation and of life in community. Nevertheless, it may include certain chapters or articles that could be surprising. It is important, however, to keep in mind that these regulations are intended for all members of the Institute, across a diversity of cultures and living conditions.

We have chosen to maintain a single set of internal regulations for all, in accordance with the recommendations given to us, in order to preserve the unity of the Institute and to prevent, over time, the emergence of

differences in the way our vocation is lived—differences that could ultimately lead us away from what we desire. Indeed, the purpose of these regulations is to harmonize certain practices.

It seems difficult to hold that what is beneficial for one region would not be so for another, or would not concern it. In this way, each member stands on equal footing, knowing that all share in the same reality, within one and the same body.

► Session in Vietnam

An international gathering brought together the Regional Leaders and their assistants, the Formation Leaders and their assistants, as well as the General Council in Dalat (in the south of Vietnam). In the absence of the Regional and Formation Leaders from the United States, Philomena represented them. Karen, Beth, and Marie-Françoise (General Treasurer) were also able to participate occasionally via videoconference.

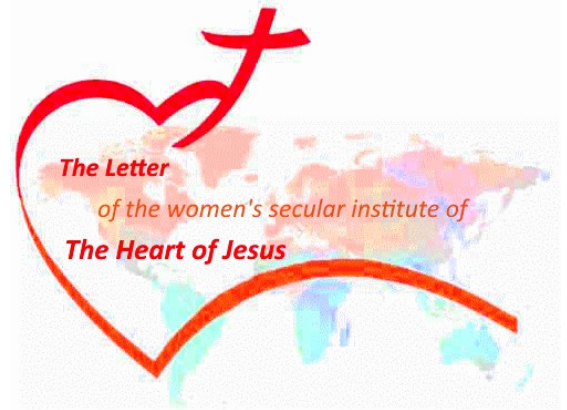
The primary aim of this session was to foster deeper mutual acquaintance and to exchange on our lived experiences and practices within the Institute.

At the outset, each region presented its activity report. We then took time to reflect together on how we live the evangelical counsels and our secular vocation. We observed that, despite cultural differences, our way of living and understanding secularity and the three vows is remarkably similar. There exists among us a true unity and communion.

During this session, three priorities were discerned and voted upon for the Institute, to guide us until the General Assemblies of 2028. Each level—group, fraternity, region, and General Council—is called to deepen, appropriate, and put these priorities into practice.



NEWS



“This Society is not confined within the enclosure of a cloister; and the end it proposes is to contribute in every possible way—above all by the witness of a good example—to the renewal and edification of the world. This is to be done without anything outwardly distinguishing its members from other persons who live as Christians in the world and strive after perfection.”

— Father Pierre de Clorivière, *Sommaires III*

We also addressed the question of our future General Assemblies. A consultation will be organized in each region before developing the next set of orientations, which we desire to be concrete and

directed toward practical implementation.

► *Priorities*

- *Deepen our understanding of the importance of our charism for the world today: we believe it carries a prophetic dimension and is also a call to conversion.*
- *Work toward the unity of the Institute by learning to know one another better, including at the international level.*
- *Develop and structure communication—both externally, to make our Institute better known, and internally, to facilitate clearer and more fluid information sharing.*



Testimonies



Member of the Đà Lạt group: I was graced to participate in the ongoing formation session organized at K’Long for the Regional Leaders. I sensed an atmosphere that was both contemplative and fraternal. All the members seemed to allow themselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit, speaking, in a way, a common language in Him. Thus, despite the diversity of our origins—France, United States, Vietnam—we could understand one another, love one another, and remain deeply united.

I give thanks to the Lord for the blessings received, both spiritually and in the practical conditions of this gathering. Together, we revisited the charism of the Institute, deepened our understanding of Ignatian spirituality, the spirituality of the Sacred Heart, and the spirituality of hope, as well as our secular vocation. We also shared on

how to live the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty, and obedience in our respective contexts. This led us to reflect on the authenticity of our commitment, the place given to discernment, and the reality of spiritual accompaniment. We also discussed the joys and challenges connected with leadership and the mission of formation.

Finally, we reflected together on were demanding, yet always lived slow to emerge, we turned to the sessions, I found myself silently sisters the same attentive, dialogue with Him.

This session helped me recognize associates me with His work; or claim. Witnessing the generous commitment of Sisters Marie, Agnès, and Têrêsa—their quiet and faithful



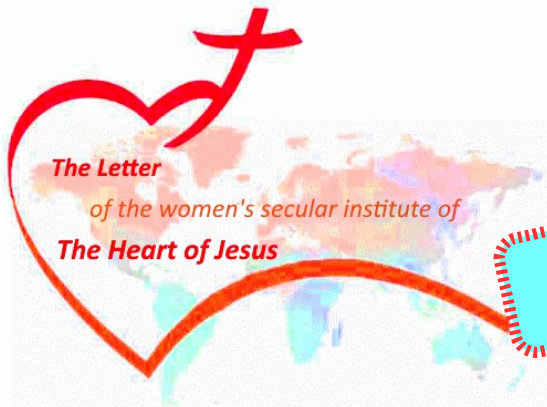
orientations for the future. Some moments in a spirit of prayer. When consensus was Lord in oration. Even during working invoking the Holy Spirit and sensing in my contemplative posture—as if in silent

that everything is grace. The Lord acts and nothing belongs to me personally to hold onto or claim. Witnessing the generous commitment of Sisters Marie, Agnès, and Têrêsa—their quiet and faithful dedication to serving the Institute—encouraged me to give more of myself, despite my limitations, in order to cultivate the gifts received from the Lord.

Maria Tuyêt, Đà Lạt



NEWS



The Letter

of the women's secular institute of

The Heart of Jesus

Testimonies

We were sixteen participants: ten Vietnamese, five French, and one American. A translator assisted us during the first days, and two translators supported us in the following days. Our schedule was well-paced and full, with three hours of work in the morning and two to three hours in the afternoon. The session was briefly interrupted by a half-day break on Sunday, October 19, in Đà Lạt, which included a meeting with the bishop, a visit to the cathedral, a visit to the Vietnamese Martyrs' memorial, Sunday Eucharist, dinner at a restaurant, and finally Compline in a chapel regularly attended by our sisters in Đà Lạt.

Our work began with presentations from each region and the General Council report. Then, following



the same structure—personal prayer time, small group sharing, and feedback in the large group—we reflected on our fundamen-

mentals (the three evangelical counsels, secularity, and our charism), our responsibilities at the regional and

GIVING THANKS FOR THE JOURNEY SO FAR



The ten-day study trip, from the north of the country to K'Long – Đà Lạt, began for me with a mindset marked by anxiety. As departure approached, I was filled with many apprehensions:

leaving a familiar environment, living and working with experienced sisters from different countries, and above all facing the language barrier, which made me fear that I would not be able to keep up with the intense pace of the session. I wondered if I would be able to integrate and grasp the essential points of our exchanges.

However, from the moment I arrived, these anxieties gradually subsided. The natural surroundings, peaceful and welcoming, along with the warmth of the fraternal reception, deeply touched me. Through their smiles, kindness, and gentle attention, the sisters made me feel as if I were part of a true family. I then realized that, despite language differences, lived charity enables genuine communion.

formation levels along with our practices, questions, and challenges, as well as our relationships with the General Council (what we value, what we feel is lacking), internal and external communication, the draft internal regulations—which we have until the General Assemblies to work on, taking fully into account its international scope—the priorities for the next three years, and the 2028 General Assemblies (their format, how to organize consultations before the Assemblies, and post-Assembly follow-up).

Marie Boudier will send a letter to the Regional Leaders summarizing the priorities for the next three years, which concern our charism, the unity of the Institute, and the development of both internal and external communication. Of course, this information will then be shared with each member.

We return from Vietnam with a deeper appreciation and understanding of the international dimension.

We experienced the joy of living and working together across our different cultures. We leave with hearts full of joy and trust, and a deep desire to live unity within diversity.

—Annie, France



Testimonies



The formation days were dense and demanding. At times in small groups fostering personal sharing, at other times in assembly for communal reflection and discernment, we were constantly invited to root our

work in prayer. At decisive moments, we turned to the Lord, entrusting our reflections and decisions to His Providence. These moments of contemplation helped me recognize that our commitment does not rest solely on our human abilities but must be sustained by God's grace.

Despite time constraints and language challenges, I strongly felt the fraternal warmth uniting the sisters—through



glances, attentive listening, and mutual

The Letter of secular institute of the Heart of Jesus



NEWS

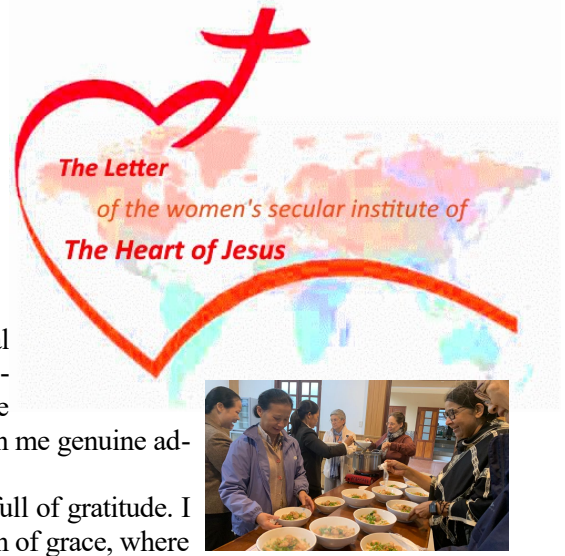


support. I experienced that true communion does not depend on words but on the deep bond that unites us in Christ.

Moments of fraternal life—simple, convivial meals, times of relaxation, joyful recreational activities—as well as the creative and flexible way the members of the Central Council worked, inspired in me genuine admiration and provided a rich learning experience.

At the end of this journey, I leave with a heart full of gratitude. I give thanks to the Lord who led me beyond my initial fears into a path of grace, where I could learn, form bonds, and grow in charity and unity.

Maria Nga



► The Charism of the Institute

Following the session in Vietnam, a commission was established to reflect on our own charism. Indeed, during our exchanges, we realized how difficult it was to express it in just a few sentences. The commission is composed of Caroline Dry, who takes responsibility for it, Têrêxa Nguyễn Thị Thu Bằng, Kathy Baroody, and Maria Trần Thị Mừng. Thérèse Tuoi will serve as their counterpart.

► Upcoming Journeys

To ensure a dual perspective and to strengthen the international dimension of the Institute, visits are preferably conducted in pairs:

- **Late July 2026:** United States, on the occasion of the FCU retreat – Marie and Thérèse
- **Mid-August 2026:** Madrid, for the General Assembly of the CMIS (World Conference of Secular Institutes)

► Prayer

This year, as in previous years, we invite you to set aside a time of prayer around the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, from June 7 to June 14, for the members of the Institute, the Institute itself, and our Cor Unum Family.

Lord, we turn to You in filial trust. We entrust to You our brothers and sisters of the Cor Unum Family.

We place our Institute into Your loving hands. We believe that our Institute is a work of the Holy Spirit for our time. You love it and desire that it may enjoy the fullness of life.

Grant that it may remain faithful to Your Gospel and be, for all people, a sign and witness of Your love. Strengthen the bonds of unity among us and awaken new callings wherever You will, so that others may join us and together we work for the coming of Your Kingdom.

Lord, I entrust to You all my sisters; come to console, heal, and pour into them the joy of being entirely Yours. Keep them faithful to their vows. Teach them to cultivate hope so that they may bear witness to it in the ordinary circumstances of their lives. Amen.



Institut Séculier Féminin du Cœur de Jésus - FAMILLE COR UNUM

9 rue saint Christophe – F-75014 PARIS – contact@isfcj.org – http://www.isfcj.org