

On Monday 9 May we celebrated Marie Paule's golden jubilee in the Mother House. That morning we prepared the aperitifs and Marie Jean took us for a final choir practice before Mass at 10.30am. It was celebrated by Father Charles Vernazobres in the round chapel. After Mass, we enjoyed the aperitifs and a lovely meal provided by a local caterer. As Marie Paule had wanted, the celebration was a simple one, with only the Béziers RSHM present, but each of us appreciated it very much. When they went home, the La Devèze community ended the day with a special prayer service which Lucienne had prepared.



The jubilee was also marked in the parish on Sunday 15 May, the feast of the Good Shepherd and World Vocations Day. All the RSHM went to the 10.30 a.m. Mass in the church of Our Lady of Reconciliation in la Devèze. The celebrant was Father Claude André, the parish priest. During Mass he prayed for Marie Bernard, who had been buried two days before, and baptised a little seven year old handicapped boy. There was a special prayer also for Marie Paule and, at the end of Mass, Fr André presented



her with Pope Benedict XVI's recent book "Jesus of Nazareth" on behalf of the parish. The Mass was beautiful, full of life and active participation and one got a real sense of community. Afterwards, everyone was invited to share an aperitif which had been prepared by our sisters, in the adjoining room. Around the walls Marie Paule had put up colourful posters, including photos of our founders, the noviciate in Brazil and our ministries today in different parts of the world. During the refreshments she also handed out leaflets about the Congregation to make us better known.

The jubilee was, indeed, a joyous occasion, marked by prayer, simple sharing and conviviality.

**Thank you, Marie Paule.**

