

## Feast of the Ursuline Martyrs of Valenciennes

On October 23rd, 2019, the celebration was like the feast of Easter : a solemn Mass, a masterful conference, an Exhibition, and a large assembly. On October 23rd, 2020, everything was different : this year, we all wore our masks and our celebration was like All Saints' Day.



How beautiful was our celebration at Saint Roch's Cemetery !. : Almost the whole community was there : the Sisters from Notre-Dame de la Garde, la Pépinière, and Mons, and they proclaimed once again the last words of our Sisters. What a grace it was to pray together with an Ursuline community in Heaven :

Sister Anne-Marie Erraux:

*How happy I am, dear parents, to shed my blood for our faith and for my sins. I cannot express all the peace and joy of my heart to leave this prison and such a corrupt world, in order to go to the Eternal Tabernacle ! May God in heaven grant us all the gift of perseverance, even by dying for Jesus Christ, if necessary And may you all, even my smallest relatives, always have only one heart, I hope, through God's mercy, to see you in Heaven. I am wishing you Heaven's blessings...*

A letter from Mother Scholastique Leroux to a Sister in Mons, under the name of Flavie :

*As daughters of Saint Ursula and her Companions, like them, in a few days, we are going to give our lives for His love and for upholding our faith. The consolations we experience when seeing this favor cannot be expressed, and this proves the strength of grace, for without this two-fold grace, we would all fall under the weight of our pains. Five of us have already been guillotined : Mothers Natalie, Laurentine, Marie-Ursule, Louise and Augustine. They did not walk, but flew to the place of their torments. They climbed it laughing.*

A second letter, undated, by Mother Scholastique :

*Do not grieve about our fate. We feel a satisfaction that no pen can express. I would never have believed it : The Lord, as you know, is infinitely good and merciful, and He is willing to make us feel the consequences of a total detachment. We would be very much annoyed to escape from the glory of martyrdom. It has been ensured, and there will be no delay for receiving it. We count on it in a very short time. Pray for us wholeheartedly. We look forward to being united to our Divine Spouse. So often we have told Him : «What can separate me from you, my God ? a cross or persecutions ? No, I will always love you, my God, even at the cost of my life !*

A second letter from Blessed Clotilde to one of her nieces :

*Dear Domitille,*

*I am writing to you from prison. Clotilde is there. Five of her Sisters have already passed through the guillotine, with a courage and joy too deep to be expressed. They faced death as if it were a great triumph. Clotilde and the others will have the same happiness ; they desire it, They are looking forward to shedding their blood, in order to sustain their faith and religion. God gives them many graces.*

When we returned to our house, we went to the Calvary erected in memory of our Sisters.



We had their faces before our eyes, and we prayed to them spontaneously.



To Sister Cordule, we willingly entrusted our daily life and our families to the two Sisters, Scholastique and Joséphine Leroux.

To Mother Clotilde, we entrusted the Provincial Council and the new aspect of our communities

To Mother Natalie, those in charge of politics and those who govern us

To Mother Anne Marie, the youngest among those who were condemned, our prayer was an urgent one for young people

To Mother Laurentine, we asked that all mankind may come to the light of the Gospel

To Mother Marie-Louise, that the sufferings caused by the Covid epidemic open us to greater fraternity

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