

OUR EXODUS



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Five months have passed since our move, and I want to share with you about the remarkable journey of our trip.

As I listened to the scripture readings of the last days of June, I saw the Israelites fleeing the land of slavery towards the Promised Land. The difference is that we were called to leave the land of comfort, for the Promised Land of Providence.

Indeed, at the sending ceremony, during Vespers on May 30th, Sr. Liliane had given to the superior a frame enclosing our Vision, then to all the departing missionaries, a copy of our Purpose saying, « Do not forget the meaning of our life together :

" Women from different nations and cultures, in a fragmented world, we make the choice to live together. We want to manifest the face of God's love by being a humanizing presence with the suffering and the abandoned " ».

At our age, we are still being sent to a new Promised Land to continue this Mission because our Mission of Love continues until our death.

As soon as this news was announced, the superior, like Moses, organized in every detail the move of each sister. To each one was assigned a guardian angel who took care of the accompaniment and the preparation of suitcases and packages. Another team took down the masterpieces, paintings of our sisters, the crucifixes and the Stations of the Cross. Yet another team ensured the renewal of the clothing of each sister. Some very far-sighted sisters then began to sort out their belongings themselves by spreading them out on the bed in the morning, to facilitate the choice, and in the evening, they collected them back to be able to sleep. Others, on the other hand, totally trusted their guardian angel. The same question on the lips was repeated every day, " When are we going to leave? "

On June 1st, a group of 4 sisters, the animators, left Laurier. Their task was colossal, because in a week, accompanied by the superior, they were to prepare the rooms, lay out the furniture that arrived, hang the paintings, write beautiful thoughts on some walls, create a place for a small chapel with the glass panel from the little chapel of the 3rd floor of Laurier, prepare living rooms, two dining rooms, and so on ... Then from June 7th to 30th, the sisters traveled in groups of 3 or 4, some by adapted transport and others in our car. Each departure was very moving, as the sisters of Laurier said their goodbyes to those who were leaving.

The exodus of the 24 sisters from the infirmary, the 7 semi-autonomous and the six autonomous sisters took place in peace and serenity despite a few tears, an expression of their abandonment in confidence. Everything went on very smoothly.



Having arrived in the Promised Land, Psalm 23 burst forth as a song from my heart :

*Providence is my shepherd,
I shall not want;
He makes me to lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside the still waters,
Where splendid and giant trees
shelter me under their shade,
And I feel restored in this air that is clean and joyful,
Confident that He is leading me
in the path of righteousness....*

We were welcomed in brand new apartments on the 4th floor of the 12-storey building. Each room is equipped with everything, spacious and well lit. At each door the name and the photo of each sister is displayed. As it is time for a meal, I continue my psalm:

*You prepare the table for me
You anoint my head with oil,
my cup is overflowing.*

For Providence is the generous Host, who makes me live in His intimacy.

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.*



Five valiant predecessors have already gone ahead of us to the final Promised Land : Sr. Monique Morin on June 24th, Sr. Alice Audette on July 1st, Sr. Marie-Blanche Levasseur on August 22nd, Sr. Denise Paquette on August 23rd and Sr. Yvette Emard on September 22nd. We surrounded them prayerfully and affectionately, and they left very peacefully and gently to meet their Beloved Spouse.

What was the reaction of the sisters to this move? It seems to me that most of them did not even notice this big change. Almost all of them looked happy, as they found several familiar faces among the new nursing staff. It should be noted here that throughout the month of June, Laurier's nursing staff were invited to apply, if they wished to be hired at Carrefour Providence. This is what they did.

The sisters of the infirmary get together to recite the rosary and for the meals. The semi-autonomous sisters also meet in their refectory. Being together is perfect joy !

I sometimes hear astonishing remarks, such as : "This is luxury ", "What would Francis or Mary of the Passion say about this? " But as the psalm confirms that those who live in the intimacy of the Lord and rely on Him, grace and happiness accompany them.

What a blessing to have the privilege, granted by Archbishop Christian Lépine, of having the Blessed Sacrament in the small chapel where Jesus exposed is adored by our valiant sick sisters every day. Let us magnify the Lord ! Life goes on in all its beauty.

