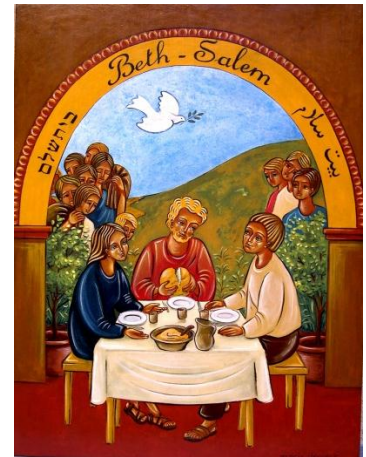




To each of you, whom we carry in our heart,
Hello!

Our annual appointment is already there! I am very surprised, as time seems to have passed quickly. What have I done with my year to have that feeling of speed? I have lived my ordinary life, and **to live** takes all my space time!

My life is serene. My focuses of commitment are few, but I'm more and more invested in those I have taken:



With Jean-Michel,

Next to the community of La Roche d'Or¹, where we are in a supportive presence through prayer and work. (*The question that rises in me by reading this sentence is: for which of them or us, this commitment is it the most helping?*) Our life is nourished and invigorated by this commitment. We discover how much we taste there a true happiness, and how this one allows us to live happily in Cesseras, sharing with our neighbors what we are, what we have.

SERVAS² (association of hospitality and travel): Odile became an interviewer, Jean-Michel prepares to assume the national secretariat, and we're both members of the Peace Commission. Jill, the last person that came at our home has been an angel on our way. Wishing to work with Jean-Michel in the house (she had read in the directory that we like tinkering), she allowed us to start a room, which is already half over! Wonder of this One who leads us to move forward. Thanks to her.

AIDES³: We are still "welcome family", although being less requested this year, because our extensive travel have reduced the opportunities for long stays at home. This dimension of the hosting of the man in the hollow of his illness calls out to us greatly. How to give, how to restore to each one his place, his dignity, if not saying: come, come in, we're waiting for you? With this in mind we particularly live this commitment.

The Penguins⁴: we are not absent from these three annual meetings of relaxation, sharing, friendship, reunion. How good it is to think in a group open to the world in a broad view, looking to the future!

The choir: we try to be regular. We go every Tuesday night, dragging our feet a little because this is late for us, but we come back every time invigorated, fit, full of élan and drive. We need this relaxation and the conviviality of the group. The concerts in which we participate are always marked with joy, simplicity and good humor.

My personal activities

Cookery: I worked all year for a Rotary club, taught and worked at people's home. My readings are very slanted, and they feed my imagination and my creativity. *I enjoy!*

The garden is one of the main sources of my greedy preparations. It takes me much time and energy and offers us this year forgotten treasures like parsnips, a special kind of parsley from which we eat the roots, and swede. It is a place of experimentation and observation that excites me.

With les Chanoinesses d'Azille: I have a favoured relationship with this community of nuns. After agreeing to become the confirmation godmother of one of the postulants, I invested myself for supporting her in her human and religious path, and she is for me a gift that helps me to back into question and deepen my faith and my solidity as a woman.

¹ <http://rochedor.fr/site/>

² <http://www.servas-france.org/>

³ <http://www.aides.org/>

⁴ <http://www.pingouins.com/>

I also share my taste for cooking by accompanying them in order to organize the design and manufacture of meals. This is not always easy, given the constant changes necessary in order to do something based on the donations made to them.

Dintilhac Conseil: This year, I had very few travels to Rodez with Jean-Michel, being taken by my professional work. I met up again with all members of the company for New Year dinner and my service at the symposium. I do love living these times of sharing and the friendship between us.

Of course, all these activities are supported by our family life. Our children are doing well! So, we too...! The happiness of some makes the happiness of others.

Lydie and Jean-Michel accompany their two eldest (Anne-Lise, 16, and Charles, 14 years) on the road of adolescence, with all the tensions, all the happiness attached to it. The life is very hectic at their home. We had the pleasure to do them a service going to their home one week to take care of our grandchildren and renovate their bedroom, floor to ceiling (paint, panneling, parquet flooring, etc). Since they feel good in their home, the goal is reached. We welcomed Anne-Lise during the summer (5 weeks) and then the whole family, then kept Orianne in order that she to be on vacation with her cousin Estelle. It's a bliss to see them together. Orianne just turned 8 years old and goes peacefully her way.

Benoist and Sara are happy at Ségoufielle, and their first year ended on a good command of learning to read and the dance gala for Estelle in June and the entry to the nursery school for Alexandre in September. Celia grows like a small mushroom, without making too much noise.

Céline and Ghislain share with us their new happiness, Cléa, arrived in September in their house. Maxime becomes big in front of this little sister, and entered, too, in kindergarten. They continue to work the layout of their house and garden, build a cozy nest.

Pierrot, our elderly neighbor, is now resident at the retirement home of Olonzac. It's hard for him to get used to it, always loving the freedom that nurtured his life. He always comes out with his car, going to eat at the house of one or other of his friends, goes to the restaurant and plays his game of belote to the seniors club. With the bad weather and winter that shows its face, we'll see him a little less, and go and visit him.

I can say that my life is a life of happiness and little pleasures, interspersed with worry, but so beautiful that every day I look forward to the day that lies ahead, and make me ready for taste it. I leave a little room for Jean-Michel; he has things to say...

I wish each of you a good and sweet year 2012.

See you soon

Odile

PS: I acquire, as a year-end gift, a new sewing machine! Treasures are in the making!



Célya, Anne-Lise
Orianne, Estelle, Alexandre, Charles, Maxime



Cléa

Yes, it is good at the end of this year, to watch with you the covered path. How rich it is!

About our family, I would add that we have not seen Marie-Reine this year, for she was in the Congo, in her family, when we went in Béarn. Ma Teresa Janelle, our Filipino goddaughter, works properly in class and becomes a beautiful girl.

Professionally too, my year has been excellent. I lived a few exciting projects and the working atmosphere was still also pleasant, not to mention the deep friendship that binds me to my employers and colleagues.

Since late October, I am in fact retired, although the official date of my departure is only December 31st, and I remain available for tips, for friendship. As a result, the works in the house have seriously advanced. As you said Odile, the starting up was given by Jill, our "angel" come from the end of the world; this septuagenarian New Zealander cyclist arrived, saying she wanted to tinker with me. I had to start a room! At the end of three days, when she left us, the framework of the doubling of the walls of the rooms on the second floor was finished ... and we continued, Odile and me. These two rooms will soon be operational... Then we'll have five usable bedrooms; the sixth one will come later. Each room is dedicated to a continent. Those where Jill worked are called "Oceania" and "Antarctica". "Oceania" is dressed in blue and "Antarctica" in ... white!

I also finished up the garden wall of Pierrot that we started this summer with Charles.

Finally, I work perhaps more than when I was an employee, but I feel fully relaxed, happy to see our projects moving forward. Design and build our house is for me an immense source of happiness that made me fully blossom. I feel that I now have to learn to give me the right to do nothing ... but that will come with age!

I recently thought that I have the chance to have a wonderful toy: a house to restore, the tools and the financial ability to acquire materials. If I add a good health, a happy married life and children and grandchildren full of life, what more to ask for? I consider myself "blessed by God" and give thanks daily for that.

And remember, all these works will make sense only if the new rooms are used... So, come and enjoy of that. Welcoming people gives a significant contribution to our happiness.

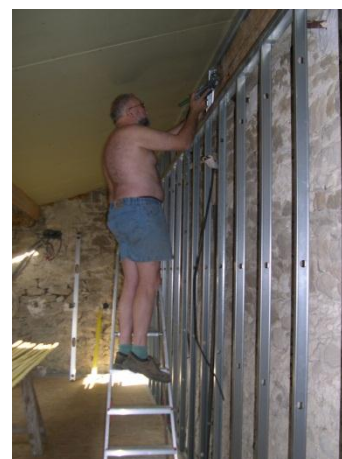
May this year 2012 be for you full of life, of love and smiles to overcome the difficulties.

See you soon

Jean-Michel



Jill



Europe



Oceania



Antarctica

