



"In love there is no fear, perfect love casts out fear."¹

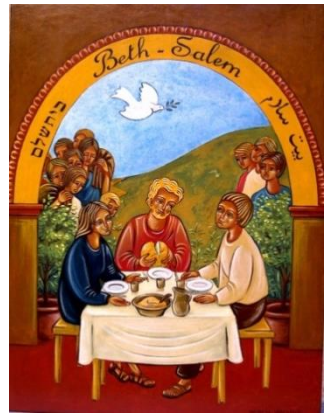
Hello to all of you, our family members and friends,

It seems that very little time ago we were taking up our pen, or rather our keyboard to present you our best wishes for the year 2016. And here comes 2017 already!...

365 days have elapsed, together with their tiredness, illnesses and their tiny and huge moments of happiness.

We live more and more intensely our duties as parents and grandparents: journeys, holidays, handiwork, large projects, and listening, accompaniment, advise of all sorts...

So lets go on with the news from the family.



Lydie is feeling much more at home now that she began arranging her house, let apart her fatigue due the fibromyalgia. Her children?

Anne-Lise follows her merry way with an iron will, and will take an optician BTS diploma this year. She seeks her way for next year, and would like to stay near Toulouse.

As for **Charles**, he will take his bachelor's degree and plans to join the army were he already serves as "reserve officer". He also is a "volunteer firefighter" and is passionate about everything related to the protection of people. He is preparing for the driving license, and already has a highly developed personal life.

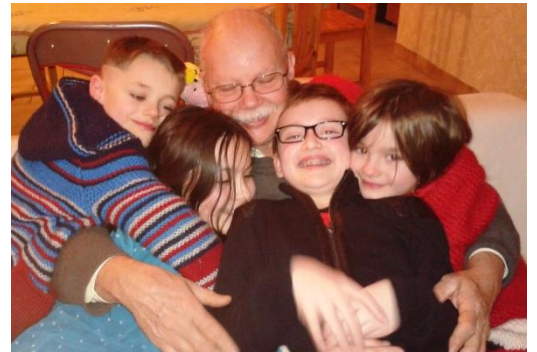
Orianne is in 4^e (eighth grade) and quietly continued her secondary school years.

At Sara and Benoist, life follows the rhythm of the four children. Benoist works in Nantes, Sara as a freelancer from home. As for the children, we will know more details in a few days, because we go there in early January to help them arrange sleeping rooms at least for Estelle and Célya.



When we last heard from there, everyone was fine.

At Céline and Ghislain, things are going for the best. Ghislain has a new job and enjoys his new activity. Céline continues her merry way, always in the same company. The children are as cheeky as they grow, and we are fortunate to keep them during the school holidays. At their request, we do some handicraft... During October holidays, Papou and Maxime have made birdhouses for chickadees, and Cléa helped her Manou in sewing a pinafore dress. We wait until February to invent other fabrications, let's see what will please them.



When we're done with family activities, we still have time, and we use it to sharing work with the community of "la Roche d'Or", and welcoming people at home.

About welcomes, we live most of them between May and September, the best period for cyclists in particular and holidaymakers in general. We had a particularly high season this summer, when children, grandchildren and travellers mingled and got along beautifully well. Tight relationships have developed between Sara and cyclists from Nantes, and others between Anne-Lise and an "awakener" who suggested a research topic for her end of studies report (topic approved and appreciated by her teachers). Over a meeting, everything is possible when everyone is open to the unexpected. Between early June and late August, twenty-one cyclist spent at least one night at home... Not counting other.

AIDES called upon us twice, and we had two very rich encounters with the people entrusted to us. We are always happy when we see them leave the house with happiness in the heart, and enough will to get on with their life.



¹ First letter of John 4,18



For the second time, we welcomed the Executive Committee of Servas International and we facilitated their annual meeting for a week of time. This year the meeting was held with a Norwegian man, an English woman, an Argentinian man and his Thai wife, an Indian man, a Canadian woman and a French woman. A team that reflects the service of peace, using travel and meetings as a mean. We also had the joy of welcoming, through Servas, a Polish man with his two children and a Taiwanese man with his daughter.

At "La Roche d'Or", we increasingly live as a "family". We know each other better and better, and know how to agree on mutual needs and abilities. This community is a place where "living with God" has a meaning, is tangible, incarnate. We do not spend our days talking, we start to work in the Spirit of Service and Love everyone needs to live. Prepare a room and make it cosy, prepare meals to satisfy small treats, ensure small maintenance work, developing the gardens and walkways for everyone to walk around, to meditate, see faces take colours, smiles brighten up faces, here is what gives meaning to our lives.

What we learn to live with this community, we live it back home. We unify in all our activities, our approaches.

Of course the world is moving, there are difficulties, but we are convinced that living small daily pleasures, and sharing them can only make us grow and please people around us. We recognize this changing world, we experience it throughout our village, our street. This year we had a meeting with our English neighbours, with French people, a Colombian, a Belgian, Scottish peoples and an Italian woman. On the street lunch day, about sixty people gathered together, we were of about a dozen different nationalities. Exchange of culinary specialities, jokes and songs fed our evening. We are well together and we are also aware that other migrants do not have the happiness we share. We experience how everything that creates link between people makes love grow, in which there is no fear. That's why we try, to the best of our abilities, to build as many bridges as possible, and to destroy the walls of hatred and exclusion.

Yes, we feel fully invested in life and exchanges with one only goal: to set up everything so that everyone feels good.



Our involvement in the vocal group "Tutti Swing" still gives us much happiness. No need to talk for hours, it is best that you go to see and hear the concert we gave in the Fontfroide Abbey: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUXnZ8Gsa1A>

And then there's still a little time left to go on with the arrangement of the house. Except for some minor finishing, all the amenities in the ancient farm building are completed, in particular our large living-room which is extremely nice. We started to work on the second patio. This development is expected to continue early this year and be completed before the summer. We will then have a green wall, a small pond with a fountain, and our turtles will have a pleasant space for them and for us. Then, all that will remain will be to build up the last building where our dining room will be located... But that's another matter!

We wish all the best to each of you for 2017, looking forward to having the happiness of meeting you or receiving news from you.

Odile and Jean-Michel



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