

WELCOME TO «YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME » International Center, Le Puy en Velay

Echoes from the Center.

October 2nd was not only a special day for Indians (Ghandi's birthday) nor for the Catholic Church (Guardian Angels) but also for the people of Aiguilhe. It was the "Honey Festival" and "Wine-growers Day". People from the village of Aiguilhe dressed up and came



in procession right past our house. They carried the King of "Chosson"(name of the hillside behind our house) on a mule-drawn cart decorated with leaves and flowers.

They went from house to house collecting vegetables, and in the evening they prepared a soup, shared together among the neighbors. The event closed with fireworks. This festival takes place the first Sunday of October.



MISSION EFFECTIVENESS 2011

October 8-15, lay leaders from C/SSJ ministries came to the Center to revive their commitment to the mission with more understanding of our heritage. Sr. Dolores Clerico guided them through input sessions and walking tours. They returned home eager to share this experience with their co-workers.

NOVEMBER

After continuous visits and programs it was time for the Center staff to go on an outing. They chose an historic place in France, Conques, where there is an 11th century Benedictine abbey built into the mountain. It is also a stop on the pilgrimage St. Jacques de



Compostella. The route to Conques in the advent of Winter is “magnifique.”

DECEMBER

Winter is fast approaching. Mornings are covered with mist. The sun tries to tell us that we are not forgotten, by making great efforts to shine through the clouds.

It was a difficult moment for the staff to bid goodbye to Carol as she finished her term and returned home to Chicago; she left the Center December 5th. **THANK YOU CAROL FOR THE GIFT YOU HAVE BEEN TO US AND TO THE MINISTRY HERE!**

We, Rita and Gracy, will celebrate Christmas at the Center and then prepare it for closure for the month of January. We'll return to the Center on 10th February, along with the new member of the team, Claudette Des Forges, from the Congregation of Orange, California. **A HEARTY WELCOME TO YOU, DEAR CLAUDETTE!**



THE CHAPEL SAINT MICHEL CELEBRATES 1050 YEARS

The ancient chapel that we see from our windows began its' year of celebration with a festival of lights on 8th December. The whole village joined in, with lights in their windows that evening.

Most of our guests have made the pilgrimage up the steps to this honored chapel.

We at the Center also joined the Village with lighting candles in our windows.



PROGRAMS, 2012

We look forward to welcoming you to one of our programs this coming year. You'll find them described on our Web: www.centreinternationalssj.org

CHRISTMAS 2011



May this Christmas be a different one for each one of us
by having a different look at it.

May the PEACE that was announced
by the angels at Christmas to those of good will
be our eternal heritage.

May the New Year 2012 be a year of many blessings and graces
to live a purposeful life.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
2012**

Gracy and Rita

International Center

Le Puy en Velay