

At the Abbey of Fille- Dieu, how did we experience this special time?

Some people have often asked us this question, probably with reference to their own questioning because confinement itself seems a very negative concept as it involves a sense of imprisonment, and therefore confinement, deprivation of liberty. That is why the questions come. Except that our own confinement is consensual, chosen.

In a way, our lifestyle itself is a containment since we live in a monastic enclosure. And so these trying months for our contemporaries have not changed much for us! We have cultivated a fraternal compassion for our neighbours, for the cramped families in their homes, and we expressed it in prayer.

Its positive aspect was that the contact with the outside being limited we have benefited from more silence, more interiority. Without spiritualizing too much, we believe that prayer has been strengthened. The people in our environment relied on our intercession and their expectations touched us a lot.

Its negative aspect included a sadness over the closed church, the lack of participation of God's people in the Eucharist and services and this created a heavy atmosphere. During Holy Week in particular, it was really important that joy, and a happy faith inhabit our hearts so we could sing. Purity of intent: it is for God alone that we celebrate and not for an audience!

Also negative was the impact on the economy: the altar breads, our livelihood. The parishes stopped buying them as they had no Masses. Our mustard and sauces also remained on the shelves as shops and warehouses were closed, just as was our own small shop and the monastery's reception area. This created a real loss of profit, where we stand in solidarity with the population.

However, we do not forget to give thanks for being able to celebrate the Eucharist every day, compared to other communities.

Now that the second wave is coming... May God come to our aid!