



***"It is not our abilities that show who we truly are, it is our choices."***

**(The Room of Secrets.)**

I welcome all of you who have come to celebrate with us this Eucharist of the Resurrection for our sister, Françoise Pluinage. (Francine being her Baptismal name.)

- Françoise died at the age of 90 years. It is thanks to the marvellous understanding between herself and Mr Rosario, her landlord that she was able to remain in her own small apartment up until the end of her life, as was her great desire.

- Françoise received an education in the classics which equipped her to teach Latin and Greek but she also taught other subjects such as religion, art and even techniques of modern communication ( though before the internet era.) She taught in the schools of Uccle, Mouscron and especially rue Vergote.
- Following a serious hearing problem, she was obliged to give up her teaching career and she made a quite incredible change of direction. In the commune of d'Anderlecht she followed a training in care of the elderly. She lived these two radically different professions with the same passion.
- She chose to live in a simple environment in Anderlecht. Over many years she welcomed a large number of young immigrants encouraging them to persevere with their studies and earn their qualifications (nursing, teaching etc.)
- Françoise had a solid faith, rooted in her daily life and nourished by much reading, days of formation etc. Over many years she organised at her home days of prayer and Gospel sharing for those of us who wished to participate.
- Despite her somewhat critical approach, she loved her Congregation, the Daughters of Mary and Joseph and was strongly attached to it. At the time of her death she was in her 67<sup>th</sup> year of religious commitment. Two days before her death she suddenly said to us: give me the news of the others. How are they?
- And then she had a desire for the hereafter. A few months ago she said to me : 'You know how at the end of funerals the 'In Paradisum' is often sung ...that the angels might lead and welcome you .. for myself, I wish to be welcomed, not by the angels , but by my sisters who have gone before me.'

I believe that without a doubt in a mysterious way the last wish of Françoise has now become a reality.