

PRAYING WITH OUR SPC ROLE MODELS
Celebrating 325 Years of Life and Mission
MAY 2021



Theme: REJOICE (JOY)

Grace: Lord Jesus, I beg for the grace of hope and inner joy that I may always rejoice and celebrate God’s goodness, regardless of whatever situation or circumstance I maybe.

Scripture Text: “Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.” Rom 12:12

POINTS FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION:

A. Rejoicing in the life of St. Paul

The proclamation of the Gospel was Paul’s foremost concern and a great cause for rejoicing. Inseparable from the preaching of the Gospel is his personal, intimate relationship with the Lord, which is another basis for Paul’s constant rejoicing. On two occasions in his letter to the Philippians, Paul insists: “Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice.”

(Phil 4:4)

The foundation of Pauline rejoicing is always done “in the Lord.” Rejoicing for Paul is relational, i.e. always in the context of our personal loving relationship with the Lord. Without this context, our rejoicing would be meaningless.

B. Rejoicing in the life of our Sisters

Rejoice

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer." *Rom 12:12*

**SISTER MADELEINE
LE THI DONG**
Province of Hanoi, Vietnam

**SISTER PHILIPPE
DE MARIE KONG**
District of Australia

Sister Madeleine Dong was one of the nineteen Sisters who volunteered to remain in the North when Vietnam was divided in 1954. In 1960, after all the European Sisters had been deported to France, Sister Madeleine Dong was appointed Superior of the Hanoi Province. Not long after that, she was arrested and put in prison by the government for 25 years. During her imprisonment, she lived a life of charity and kept in her heart the

Sister Philippe never complained of pain. Whenever she had a medical appointment in the hospital, she waited patiently for the community bus for transport, with no word of complaint, but instead thanked the driver cheerfully. Her life in Hong Kong was so much easier and more convenient, but she accepted her life in Australia with resignation and cheerfulness.

Beatitude: "Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven." *Mt 5: 11-12*

SISTER MADELEINE LE THI DONG (1911 – 1993) Province of Hanoi, Vietnam

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SISTER PHILIPPE DE MARIE KONG (1924 – 2010)

District of Australia

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C. Rejoicing in our life

1. As I begin my prayer, I repeatedly beg for the grace stated above.
2. I examine my life and bring to my awareness experiences of joy and occasions of rejoicing. I list the top ten joyful experiences in my life. I take each one of them and sincerely ask: “Where are they rooted? From my desire for self-fulfillment or pleasure or from the Spirit?”
3. Where in my present circumstance am I invited by Christ to “rejoice in hope” and to share this gift to others?
4. I dialogue with the Lord on the points above.
5. I share my reflections with my community.