

Communique from the Little Sisters of Mary
Monday, June 3, 2019

Dear Friends,
Dear Families,

As you know, for the last two years, we have had difficulties with the ecclesiastical authorities: difficulties which have their origin in a difference with the Bishop of Laval who wants to impose the splitting up of [the EHPAD management associations](#) which had been amalgamated only in 2014, with his encouragement, in order to better respond to to-day's challenges.

Further, we understood that the ecclesiastical authorities also wanted us to change our way of living our religious life, to follow modern orientations...

At the end of these two years,

Having looked to remaining faithful, as much to the Church as to the charism granted by Our Lord to Mother Marie de la Croix,

Having tried to find, many many times, a path of dialogue with Rome,

Having offered peaceful solutions,

No agreement having been found, the authorities in Rome in charge of the Consecrated Life have now decided to choose to release us from our religious vows; whilst it is true that in the context of the moral pressure and the impasse that we found ourselves in, we were driven, last October, against our profound wishes, to ask to be released from our vows, since no other solution had ever been offered to enable us to remain in communion with the Church: we are profoundly wounded by this and remain sadly surprised that Rome has preferred to accept that request rather than accepting the peaceful solutions which we had put forward and which were possible.

Therefore to-day, with the exception of five sisters (in Mayenne) who have accepted Rome's decisions and their being put under a commission, we are no longer a religious congregation.

Certainly, we have not lived through these two sorrowful years in order to lose the treasure which is for us the charism received from Mother Marie de la Croix. We want to continue to live together, in a life of prayer and service. **Ecce!**

.../...

We are asked to give up our religious habit and our religious houses.

The hierarchy of the Church has no doubt believed it right to change as far as we are concerned: we take note of that...**Fiat!**

Paradoxically and mysteriously, we live perhaps more than ever perhaps what is at the heart of our vocation: following in the way of Our Lady, to take our part of suffering in the fulfilment of the plan of our Redemption, in reparation, for the saving of souls, for the sanctification of priests, for the Church so damaged by all sorts of scandals, for the world. If Christ, our souls' spouse, judges us worthy of carrying such a Cross, we must render thanks to him, in all things.

We thank all those who have helped and encouraged us and who will continue to do so, wishing to follow the way in the spirit and the values which have always been ours. **Magnificat!**

The Little Sisters of Mary - France
Community of Saint-Aignan (France-53)
Community of Lagardelle (France-31)
Community of Castelnau (France-31)