



A model of holiness near you!

'We do not light a lamp to put it under a bushel, but we put it on the candlestick, and it gives light to everyone in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.'^[1]

This is the meaning of the ceremonies, presided over by Mgr Jean-Pierre Delville, Bishop of the Diocese of Liège, which took place on 30 June in the church of Saint-Gilles.

'Her relics, which were hidden from everyone's view, have finally been returned to the parish where she died and placed in a chapel so that anyone can ask for her intercession.

But who are we talking about?

OOOHH, a 'little nothing' to use the expression of a saint^[2] born just 30 years before her. This 'little nothing' is Blessed Eugénie Joubert, born in 1876 in Haute-Loire, who responded to Jesus' call by entering the Sisters of the Holy Family of the Sacred Heart at the age of 19. Life circumstances (tuberculosis) meant that she ended up in the parish of Saint-Gilles in Liège, in a working-class neighbourhood.

She was entrusted with catechising the very young, mainly the 'difficult cases': rowdy, disadvantaged children with little schooling. But she excelled at it because the children were touched by this 'little sister' who loved them, who understood them because she had experienced a similar life path in her youth. Sister Eugénie makes them love the Blessed Virgin, the rosary and intimacy with Jesus. And the current passes because this intimacy she herself lives deeply with trust and humility.

These 2 attitudes seem to me to correspond best to Sister Eugénie's personality:

- Total trust in abandonment to Jesus,
- Humility, because she was aware of her weaknesses, of being 'small with Jesus', but she was also aware that it was in the little things of everyday life (and she knew all about that!) that a great deal of love had to be put into practice and, above all, passed on.

As soon as she died, large numbers of people came to pray at her tomb, originally located in the cemetery next to the church, aware that they were addressing a '*model of union with God in the little things*'^[3].

This feeling of speaking to the humblest among us, of being in this simplicity a link between earth and heaven, was something I felt very strongly when I visited Saint-Gilles church. And to have carried her on my shoulders, to have felt the weight of her relics as a call to greater humility and abandonment for myself did not leave me indifferent.

The final message to remember from Blessed Eugénie is the importance of passing on our faith to the young through catechism and the witness of our personal faith. So it should come as no surprise that she has become a model for catechists!

Damien de Laminne

Lieutenant for Belgium of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

^[1] Mt, 5, 15-16

^[2] Mariam BAOUARDI, Palestinian saint, born in 1846 in a village near Nazareth and died at the age of 32.

^[3] Saint John Paul II at the beatification ceremony on 20 November 1994.