

Our Centenarians in 2002

SISTER LOUIS DE GONZAGUE JENNINGS

August 7, 1900 – November 5, 2006 – ENGLAND-IRELAND

Sister Louis de Gonzague Jennings was born in Weymouth (England), on the 7th of August 1900. She entered the Congregation the 6th of August 1933 and took her first vows on the 6th of August 1935. She has lived in different houses of the Province: Guernesey, Epsom, Weymouth, Tadworth and also in Paris (France). She has served as teacher, superior, Provincial councillor, treasurer and secretary. On the 7th of August 2002, she was 102 years old.

Sister Louis de Gonzague, please tell us something about your early life. I was born in Weymouth, Dorset, on the 7th of August, 1900, and three days after the Queen Mother. I was christened Muriel Dorothy. I had one sister, Elsie. My first contact with the Congregation was when I went to the Convent of the Sacred Hearts in Weymouth to have lessons in French. Then a Superior in France asked Reverend Mother to find a Nanny for a French family. Whilst in France I received instructions from a priest and became a Catholic. Later I entered the Congregation. I made my First Profession in Picpus in 1935 (August 6) and my Final Profession in 1938. The crucifix which I have in my rosary, was given to me by my Novice Mistress, Mere Marie Augusta.

What ministries did you carry out? For many years I was local, and then provincial bursar. I was also the Superior in Weymouth and in Epsom.

What has been of great importance in your life? Adoration. It is a great honour that the Lord wants us to be in Adoration. So many people are not able to do this. They do not understand what a great honour this is.

At the age of 102 years and after 67 years in the Congregation, do you have any words of wisdom for the Sisters and the Brothers? To be very kind in small ways. For example, to make a cup of tea when a Sister has a visitor and is no longer able to do it herself.

Looking back, would you ever have wanted to change the direction of your life? No, no, I would never have changed my choice. I am very happy to be in the Congregation. I have seen many, many changes over the years, but you adapt yourself to them one way or another. You do the best you can. The Lord understands. We are poor human beings. If we do not do as well as we should, the Lord says: "Poor dears! They are only humans..."

It is only a few days since you were transferred from your home in Epsom to this lovely Nursing Home in Burgess Hill. Are you settling in alright? I have settled in here very happily. I love the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts and was very happy but I am just as happy to be here with these Sisters. We are all religious and love one another. We will all find one another up above! (Points to the skies).

Sister Louis de Gonzague Jennings died in Epsom, (England) on November 5, 2006