

A Gospel Visitation

- *The Trinitarian Nuns of Suesa*

THE VISIT OF THE WESTON BROTHERS TO OUR HOME was comparable to the encounter between Mary of Nazareth and her cousin Elizabeth in her village of Ein Karem. Two women from different places, with different personal stories, different journeys, different ages, different circumstances . . . were both eager to share good news, the good news of new life gestating in their wombs. The encounter was similar for the Suesa and Weston communities. We have differences in our histories, our cultures, the charisms of our monastic communities, our ages, and even in our gender, yet . . . both communities were filled with Good News because new life was gestating in each community's womb.

To share these few days with the brothers was without any doubt very invigorating for us. Even before their arrival we were living through a very interesting time among ourselves. The more 'external' preparations were already telling us: something good is about to happen. The time that we sisters were giving to reflect among ourselves, to lovingly prepare the topics that we would discuss, to anticipate the exchanges . . .

With them among us our home was filled with deep moments of shared prayer, lively afternoon discussions, welcomed leisure time, nourishing meals in silence, and special celebrations of life . . . and through all of these we were becoming one community.

We believe it has been a great privilege to experience such an intense encounter with other persons who are living the same monastic call and who, from the silent word of their daily life, initiate new paths that stimulate us to live our monastic choice anew in today's reality. From them we have learned the strength of a community's heart; respect and real affection for each brother; concern to savor time, valuing each moment; recognizing the constant presence of a humble God in the little things of everyday; and living with a spirit of gratefulness.

Mary and Elizabeth said their good-byes after spending some time together, and then each returned to her own life. The Gospels do not tell us any more about their further encounters, yet they do tell us that the lives gestating in the wombs of these two women blossomed into the lives of two men in love with God. ■



Suesa nun's Visitation statue.