

## **PASTORAL PLAN OF THE YOUTH HOSTEL ADVENIAT**

Implemented starting January 2015

The youth hostel, Adveniat, is situated in the heart of Paris near the Champs Elysees. Historically it is a very important location for the Assumptionists who settled there in 1860. It is from here that several audacious and, for their time, very original missions were launched; they are placed under the protection of Notre-Dame de Salut (Our Lady of the Salvation) : the Association Notre Dame de Salut, and soon after the National Pilgrimage to Lourdes, the Maison de la Bonne Presse, which has since become Bayard.

Driven by the mindset "bold, generous and disinterested", the youth hostel, Adveniat, opened its doors on June 1, 2010. Here we welcome guests, who come alone or in groups, for short stays. Being the only youth hostel that also houses a Catholic religious community, Adveniat, is both a youth hostel and a place of Christian hospitality.

### **1. A place of hospitality and encounter**

Even if Adveniat is first of all a place of hospitality which offers its guests a roof, a bed, and breakfast, it is not just a hotel. The youth hostel is a place that should allow everyone to live a profound experience of meeting others, meeting people from different backgrounds. A real encounter that involves being willing to take an interest in the life of the person one meets in shared rooms, common areas or during breakfast.

Everyone is welcomed at Adveniat, regardless of age, nationality, religion. In a divided world we are called to be men of communion and to make ours the prayer of Christ, "That they all may be one ..." (*Gospel according to Saint John 17:21*).

Means implemented:

- housing conditions that allow meeting others
- welcoming guests from various backgrounds: age, nationality, religion, social background ...
- informal meetings and discussions with the guests

### **2. A presence of the Church in a changing world**

Adveniat was founded in the name of the Christian faith. We would like our guests to discover that faith in Jesus Christ has its place in the world we live in, characterized by an ever greater mobility of people on an international scale. In this sense we are linked to one of the "existential peripheries" evoked by Pope Francis. This invites us to give a visible witness, respecting the differences of each person and without proselytizing. Jesus' prayer for unity is meant to serve the faith: "that all may be one ... that the world may believe" (*Gospel according to Saint John 17:21*).

We believe that Christ can reach each guest, implicitly or explicitly. In the basement of the hostel there is a chapel and it is the place where this faith is celebrated, through prayer and Eucharist animated by the Assumptionist community. Our ecumenical spirit also invites us to be attentive to our relationship with other Christian denominations present in our neighborhood.

Means implemented:

- presence of the Assumptionist community within the building of the hostel (made more visible by the "Half-habit" of the religious brothers)
- liturgical services in the chapel
- discrete proposition of faith: Bible in each room, religious decor (paintings, books ...), slideshow
- ecumenical group during Lent

### **3. An opportunity to discover Paris in another way**

Travelers often arrive in Paris with a predetermined program, leaving little room for originality. However, we want them to have the chance to experience authentic encounters beyond the tourist clichés, in a different Paris, Christian

or not. Through communication at the youth hostel, informal discussions or the organization of guided tours, as well as meals in a Parisian family, we offer our guests the opportunity to discover other unknown or neglected treasures.

Means implemented:

- proposition to have dinner in a french family
- tours-pilgrimages in Paris
- referral of certain groups towards charitable organizations
- possibility to participate at events organized in the lounge

#### **4. An available lounge**

We welcome more than just the guests of the youth hostel. Adveniat is also a meeting place for the residents of Paris and its surroundings. The lounge and the chapel can be made available to groups who wish to organize Christian, cultural and charitable events. This allows small groups to benefit from a place they can gather.

The lounge can also accommodate catering businesses that serve those who work in our neighborhood. All of this allows us to make the Assumptionist community visible in the ecclesial landscape and the Church in the world of culture or in our immediate environment.

Means implemented:

- conferences in the lounge
- receiving Christian groups
- concerts, cultural exhibitions
- use of the lounge by Vélissime

#### **5. A mission in communion**

The religious community is not alone in working at Adveniat. Employees are indispensable to make everything run smoothly, they also share in the spirit of hospitality, encounter and openness. Volunteers come to help, animated by a desire for service and gratuity. Having also a pastoral mission, they are much more than simply extra help. The Hostel team also has volunteers who spend a few months with the community while helping at the youth hostel. We help them discover that it is possible to live as a Christian in today's world, in the spirit of the youth hostel. As for the visiting students housed in the hostel and among the community, they also help out at the hostel (serving at the bar, serving breakfast ...).

All are invited to be actors of communion among and around them. The way in which the hostel, the visiting student lodged, and the community are run is the first testimony given to guests.

Means implemented:

- joint action of workers and religious in the youth hostel
- involvement of students / young professionals living in the community or in student lodging
- presence of the association of youth hostel's network of friends (Laaja)
- welcoming volunteers for short periods
- regular meetings of those involved in Adveniat, Advenews newsletter

#### **Serving the Kingdom of God**

This pastoral plan is part of the spirit the charism of the Assumptionist Community. If we implement it, we will be faithful to what Fr d'Alzon, founder of the Assumptionists, wished : on our scale and with resources that we have we intend to work for the coming of the Kingdom of God in us and around us (*Rule of Life of the Augustinians of the Assumption*, no.1).