



## 1<sup>er</sup> Congrès Européen OFS-JeFra – Lisieux 2012

**Synthèse 2**  
Tuesday July 10<sup>th</sup>

There was evening, there was morning...this was the second day.

« We worship you Oh holy Lord, here and in all the dursches in the whole world, and we praise you because you redeemed the world through your Holy Cross !

« Oh precious worschip, oh precious Eucharist which fills my heart with your love Lord.



Difficulties, joys, challenges ?

22 countries present themselves to us, to show us their joys, and there difficulties.

One single challenge : to be franciscans today, to live with God and to be a witness every day and at every moment.

Some poor countries who are rich in God.

Some rich countries who are poor in God.

Countries neither rich nor poor. ;

And God so full of humanity and mercy.

Each person expresses their joy to be here.

To look each other, to meet each other, to talk to each other, a simple word,...a hand

outstretched, a smile everything has been said ;

The language barrier ?? God is watching over it.

To be franciscan and to let God live in us.

St Therese of the infant Jesus : the infant Jesus born in a stable so poor, so humble, so divine.

St Francis and the nativity.

St Therese of the holy face, suffering pain, loving, like st Francis the humble poor, giving her life for her God.

And the young people sing « I want to see God, to see him with my eyes »

There are no more young or old people .There are smiles and joy, challenges

to take up together whilst we are reminded here in brotherhood.





Francis was here amongst us yesterday evening : a stage, an audience. We needed no more, a prayer, a time of sharing Francis was present amongst us.

It was so easy to see myself in the temptation to not be welcoming of others, the ones I don't like, the ones who have betrayed me, the ones who don't understand me, the ones who frighten me : the lepers !

But angels are watching over us and give me strength to meet with them. To meet with you.

I believe myself to be strong, invincible, full of knowledge and I discover in you the leper, the rejected ones, and that you bring with you all that is needed. The weakness that makes us strong, the fragility of life, affection, love, the ability to overcome, gratitude...

You are so pleased to see a single hand outstretched and I can't see anything anymore in this world which is so individualistic, where machines have replaced our fellow men.

I believe that I am free and I am emptied of love.

The challenges are here: maintaining the dignity of life, solitude, love for one another, for our neighbours, for ourselves and for God " Love one another as I have loved you." John 15,12-23

The spirit is watching over us.

Marie-Hélène Barousseau