The Tunnel Experience

To see light inside the tunnel, is called: "Love".

To see light around the tunnel, is called: "Faith".

To see light through the tunnel, is called: "Wisdom".

To give one's own light to the Tunnel, is called: "Holiness".

(unknown)

Where is the Tunnel?
In the gardens of the Motherhouse in Angers, 18 rue Marie Euphrasie Pelletier (close to Boulevard du Bon Pasteur)

When can we come?
All year round, please book in advance by calling the following number: 02 41 37 59 47
The tunnel is **55 metre long** and links the Good Shepherd Motherhouse with Saint Nicolas Abbey, which was bought in 1854. The Abbey had been a "state owned building" from 1791 onwards. It was bought to be used for two groups of persons: female prisoners under 18 and those who were just being released.

From their inception, the **Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd** observed monastic enclosure. This involved getting the Bishop’s approval each time they went outside the convent. The building of the tunnel was a **creative way to connect the Mother House and the Abbey** while avoiding leaving the enclosure, and so getting around cumbersome restrictions.

The building of the tunnel started at the end of May 1855 and finished in August of that year. 50 workers were employed for 3 months, using explosives to get through. The Sisters, including **Sr Mary Euphrasia, foundress of the Congregation**, helped them in moving rubble.

**As you go into the darkness of the tunnel, get in touch with the deepest desire of your heart...**

Consider how you can make this desire one with God’s desire...

Think about the difficulties that prevent you from going forward with this desire and God’s desire for you.

At this point in your life, what is your experience of passing from darkness

It is thanks to **Saint Mary Euphrasia** that we have this tunnel. It is an example of her creativity, her practical mind, her imagination, her courage, her perseverance and zeal, her desire to bring light to people in distress.

**How does this story and the experience of the tunnel encourage you to take necessary risks today?** To what lengths are you ready to go to help others?

The tunnel connects us to others, facilitates relationships; it helps us to get around obstacles, to make contact with other places, with other people.

**To whom are we called to bring light ?**