

Prayer for the beatification of
John Mary de la Mennais

**O God our Father, you have given
John -Mary de la Mennais,
a generous heart and untiring zeal
to make your Son Jesus Christ
known and loved especially by the children and
youth.**

**As we venerate him as the Founder
of two religious congregations
devoted to Christian education,
we pray to you that he may soon
be recognized as Blessed.**

**Help us follow his example
at the service of truth,
and grant us through his intercession,
the favours we are now asking...
(silent pause)**

Through Jesus-Christ our Lord

**O Lord Jesus, glorify your servant,
Venerable Jean-Marie de la Mennais**

NOVENA, n° 17 - Rome, 01 -01 -- 2011

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Novena to J.M. de La Mennais

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For this month, our suggested theme for reflection will be
"evangelical poverty".

The example of Jesus at Bethlehem is of capital importance :
while still Son of God, he became man, assuming our humanity,
limiting himself to live like anyone of us.

The life of Fr. de la Mennais and his teaching will help us too, to
become real poor, and devote our lives to the poor.

A suggestion : Print the present novena on salmon pink paper.

Rome, 1 January 2010. –Bro. D.L.

RECOMMENDED INTENTIONS

* That we, on listening to what Jean-Marie tells us and following his
example, always listen to the voice of God and to that of others.

* For young people who feel called to follow Christ as Mennaisian
Brothers.

* **For the sick recommended**

- *Romain Delenne, 6 years; canalisation of his energy (Oppede – Fr.)*
- * Mr. Godin, on the request of Brother. Albert Côté(Canada).
- *Olga Ansaldi, in a bad state of health - Villa Gdor.Gálvez (Argentina)*
- * Natalia Cubillo, a cancer case (Madrid- Spain).
- *Adela Pertierra: affection of the throat. Nanclares de la Oca (Spain).*
- *Gonzalo Tolosa: hemiplegy – Buenos Aires /Argentina).*
- * Patrick Lebeau: tumour in the oesophagus (France).
- *Father Nicolas Guillou.- Fougères (France).*
- * M^{re}.Carmen Vélez Martín: tumour in the stomach. Aguilar de Campóo (Spain).
- *Olivier Meunier (12 years): amyotrophitis of the spinal cord (Canada).*
- * José Antonio García Martínez, with multiple sclerose - Bilbao (España).
- *Guadalupe Morales: congenital osteoarthritis -Luján de Cuyo (Argentina).*
- * Jules X.X. : (child of 27 months): tumour of the right eye (France)
- *Luz María Land: stricken by a cancer - Reinosa (Spain)*
- * Marcos Minetti: leukaemia – Luján de Cuyo - Mendoza (Argentina)
- *Bro. Louis Le Guichet : backache - Béthanie (France)*
- * Clara García Roig: une intention spéciale.- Buenos Aires (Argentine)
- *H^{re}. Pierre Tousigant: seriously ill with cancer.- Canada.*
- * Mercedes A.Alvarez, advanced cancer.- Luján de Cuyo-Mendoza (A)
- Jeannine Robert, sister of Bro. Jean Malo: distorting arthritis (Fr.)
- * Itaata TEIKITUNAUPOKO, a cancer case .- Marquisas Islands
- * Julián Castro, a child: with spinal column problems (Luján de Cuyo.(Mza.A)
- Khalid Sid Imorou: brain tumour - Parakou- Benin (Africa)
- * Fernand Lefrere, father of Brothers Daniel and Régis Lefrere.(France)
- *Pía Martina, a little girl in danger of death.- Villa Gdor Gálvez (A)*
- * ... **And those placed on the tomb of Jean-Marie, at Ploërmel, as well as the local intentions.**



EVANGELICAL POVERTY

Words of Jean-Marie de la Mennais

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✠ 18th – I

* Love and practise in everything the evangelical poverty, which will open to you all the treasures of heaven.

- *The school fees must be calculated so as to cover the Brothers' living expenses. The surplus must be used to buy school materials for the poor students. I myself desire to see their number become as large as the number of other (paying) students.*

✠ 19th - I

* The Brothers will bear out of love for our Lord Jesus Christ, all the privations they meet in their apostolate.

- *I wonder how I succeed at making ends meet, considering the present expenses. It is for that reason that I urge the Brothers and those in positions of responsibility to be thrifty, without depriving themselves of what is absolutely necessary.*

✠ 20th – I

* The brothers shall use with care all the things put at their disposal. They shall be careful not to lose nor damage any.

- *I say to the Lord: "You who are rich, be generous in giving to your poor children. But above all, pour your graces generously upon them.*

✠ 21st – I

* The Sisters (and the Brothers) will also remember that to sincerely want to be poor is to accept to feel the pinch of poverty in the hard reality of the indigent, under the triple situation of accommodation, clothing and food.

* *To reject poverty when it presents itself in this triple aspect is to have only a chimerical esteem of this virtue, and to reduce the vow to a mere formula without consequence.*

✠ 22nd– I

* The Brothers will **entirely free their hearts** from all kinds of attachment to material goods, never making an act of property without the permission of the superior.

- *We must save on all things and keep the habits of religious simplicity. If we make some profits, these should be used for the common good of our institutions, which are so overburdened with debts.*

✠ 23rd– I

* Our resources are barely sufficient for our living. We must therefore make some savings for our institutions because they are poor, and we can expand only as much as we increase our enrolment.

- *I need not remind you to avoid any useless expenses, which would be contrary to the spirit of religious simplicity.*

✠ 24th – I

* There is another sacrifice which we must renew every day, a sacrifice that is always painful for the soul, I mean, the spirit of poverty which the Lord has taught us as the first beatitude, and which is the foremost characteristic of religious life.

- *...We must avoid useless expenses. However I do not want to see the Brothers lacking in what is absolutely necessary.*

✠ 25th – I

* Blessed are the poor, Jesus said. The Brothers will remember therefore that poverty was one of the most cherished virtues of Our Lord, of the Blessed Virgin and of all the Saints.

- *They shall love it with all their heart, and shall look upon it as one of the virtues most appropriate to lead the soul to perfection.*

✠ 26th - I

* We would never have expelled the poor students from our school, even if we had lost the case. **The poor are sacred to us.**

- *It was an excellent thing to welcome poor children in our schools, children that we had looked for I do not know where. I even rejoice that you were able to give them clothes.*

It is unfortunate that there are no more poor pupils in your class.