

***Mennaisian  
Novena  
N<sup>o</sup>. 27***

**Prayer for the beatification of  
Jean-Marie de la Mennais**

**O God our Father, you have given  
Jean-Marie de la Mennais,  
a generous heart and untiring zeal  
to make your Son Jesus Christ and his Gospel  
known especially to 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 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**

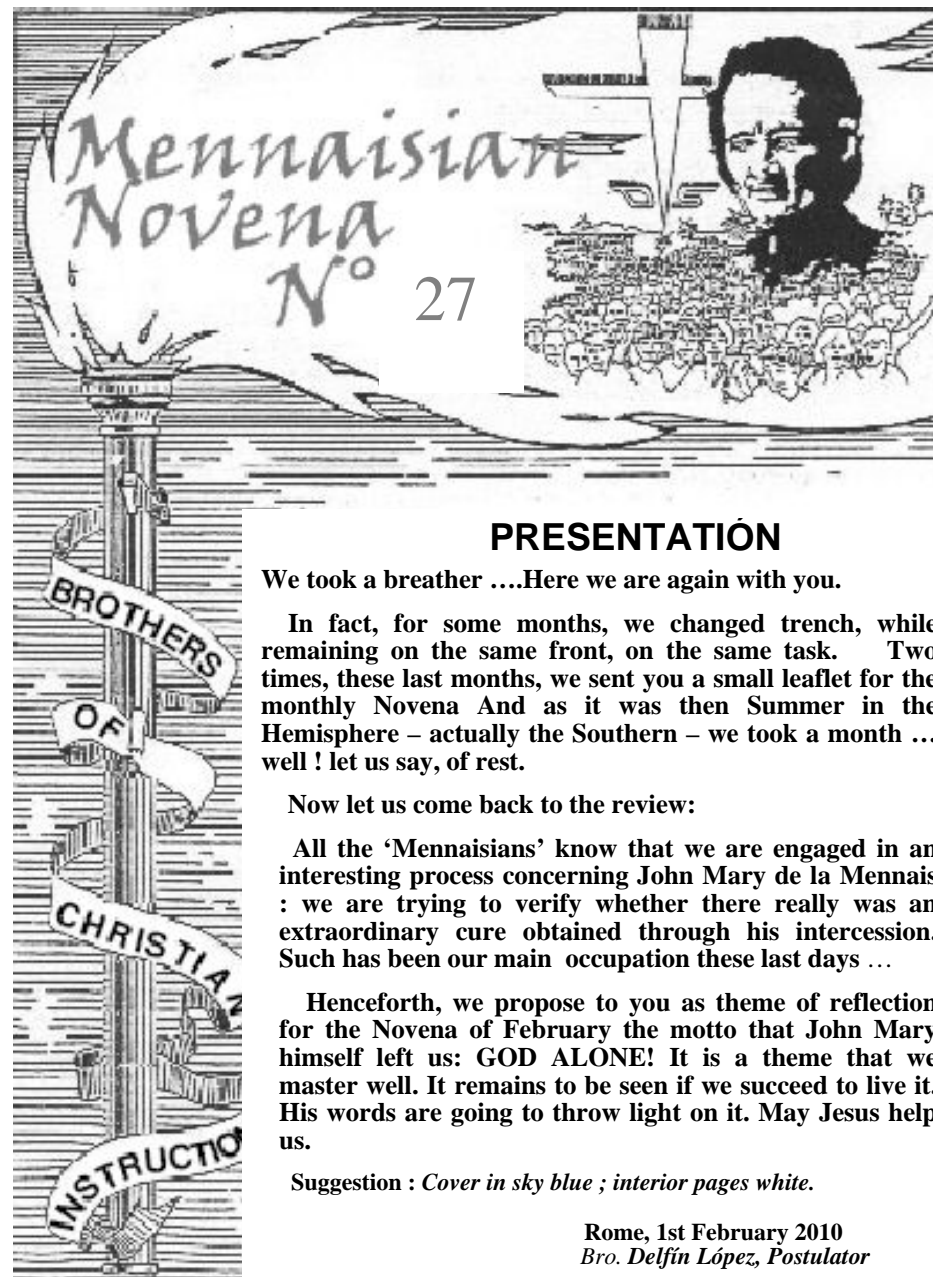
**O Lord Jesus, glorify your servant,  
Venerable Jean-Marie de la Mennais**

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**"MENNAISIAN NOVENA" N°.27 – ROMA – 1.II.2009**

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## **PRESENTATION**

We took a breather ....Here we are again with you.

In fact, for some months, we changed trench, while remaining on the same front, on the same task. Two times, these last months, we sent you a small leaflet for the monthly Novena And as it was then Summer in the Hemisphere – actually the Southern – we took a month ... well ! let us say, of rest.

Now let us come back to the review:

All the 'Mennaisians' know that we are engaged in an interesting process concerning John Mary de la Mennais : we are trying to verify whether there really was an extraordinary cure obtained through his intercession. Such has been our main occupation these last days ...

Henceforth, we propose to you as theme of reflection for the Novena of February the motto that John Mary himself left us: **GOD ALONE!** It is a theme that we master well. It remains to be seen if we succeed to live it. His words are going to throw light on it. May Jesus help us.

*Suggestion : Cover in sky blue ; interior pages white.*

**Rome, 1st February 2010**  
*Bro. Delfin López, Postulator*

## Novena to Jean-Marie : How to do it ?

**A remark :** It is important to put ourselves in the proper spirit and enter into the suggested theme, as explained on p.1 of this leaflet: the meaning of the theme and how it was reflected in the life, words and actions of Jean-Marie.

This is only a suggestion. There are other ways to make the novena: For example :

Steps :

- a) We start with the sign of the Cross
- b) We mention our prayer intentions (p. 8)
- c) We read the 2 daily quotations of J.M. (p. 4 - 5).
- d) We recite the prayer for his beatification (back cover)
- e) We end with the sign of the Cross.

This method is simple, and can last from 3 minutes to... 15 minutes, if we want !

We can also use profitably the suggested reflection on p. 8, reflecting upon one specific question every day, and then choose one to reflect in group and share with others.

The other texts in the leaflet are put there to help you know better our

### CHILDREN OF THE SAME FATHER!



With great joy we have received a letter from Sister Louise Touchette, Superior General of the Daughters of Providence. They are our sisters. Like us, **they were founded by John Mary de la Mennais**. Thank you, Sister Louise!

Here is the letter ...

*Dear Brother Delfin,*

*It is with joy and gratitude that I receive the good news of the progress of the cause of Father de la Mennais towards the recognition of the holiness of this Servant of God!*

*The entire Congregation of the Daughters of Providence will no doubt live with still more fervour the Grand Novena of the month of November 2009..*

*Perhaps the year of the 150th anniversary of John Mary de la Mennais' entry into eternal life is going to be marked beyond our expectations by a sign of Providence! United in a fervent prayer ? you and the entire Mennaisian Family,*  
Sr. Louise Touchette

### ...and on the Cause of Beatification of Venerable John de la Mennais

From Polynesia- TAHITI

I read with interest your very short message concerning the happy outcome of the Process in recognition of the miracle. I rejoice very much with you. I spoke about it to the Brothers who are very pleased with your work and would be very happy indeed to see Father de la Mennais beatified on the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death and of the arrival of the Brothers in Polynesia.

In any case, thank you very much for all that you are doing , for your prayers, and for your fatigue for the apostolate. Perhaps you are close to a good reward ! It is what I am wishing you with all my heart.

**Bro. Yvon**

From Philippines

**Greetings from Philippines! Thank you for the information** concerning the Process of the Beatification . "I would like to request you to keep on putting the name of my sick brother on the list of the intentions for the monthly Novena". He is called "FRED KAREMA", a brother of Brother Eugene

**Bro. Eugene**

From France

Anyway, thank you for your work on the "Diocesan Process " in Argentina. I was happy to have received news from you especially. I am like the old man Symeon : I would like to see the canonisation of John Mary Robert de La Mennais before dying... I owe my vocation to God and to " John Mary ".

**Bro. Alain**

From Italy

I prefer saying it the Italian way, just as I was in class at Sant'ivo, in that famous fourth year of the Elementary.

It is really with joy that I learn this piece of news.... I have esteemed, I am esteeming and I shall hold in high esteem the Founder for that spirit of enterprise and of serenity that we breathe always in his houses, those of the Brothers of Christian Instruction that I have since then always called. 'my masters '.

If the Lord has conceded the recognition of this miracle, that means that the time is henceforth ripe not for the sanctification of the Founder – he is already holy – but that we can henceforth understand his message, his spirit, his word, his testimony... in a world particularly Western and Pseudo-Catholic, and understand the message of a school marked by the charism of the Brothers of Plœmel according to the spirit of the Founder : such is the miracle that we can expect today.

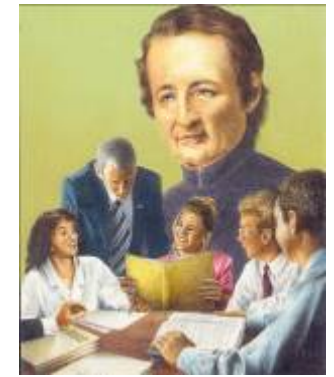
Paolo Baggiani, Old Boy

From Argentina

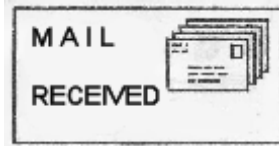
Good morning Brother !!! It is Bibi. What excitement on learning that the Cause of John Mary de la Mennais was opened in view of the Process of his beatification!!!

In all the events of these days which absorbed our attention (I want to speak about the earthquake in Haiti), John Mary must have a lot of work and we shall not get tired of praying so that through his intercession our Haitian brothers can resume their normal life.

**Bibiana Barderi**



# Our Readers Wrote to Us



## **From the Diocesan Process and from the Apostolic Process**

### France

*Thank you very much for your message and for all the information given ! We pray that the Cause of our Founder reaches the desired end, step by step. That of the 24<sup>th</sup> February is around the corner. Let us have the lively hope that it will permit us to continue on our route, in all confidence.*

*See you soon, in Rome !*

*Yours fraternally,*

**Bro. Jean Pétilion**

### From Canada

Very fraternal thanks for your diligence to keep us informed of all the developments of the Cause.

It is a good sign that everything is going on expeditiously.

Congratulations for the care you put into the preparation of the documents.

The Founder is waiting for you...

Ovide

### From Spain

*Thank you very much Bro. DELFÍN for the letters and especially for all this work and this occupation in this whole PROCESS, that you are pursuing with passion and tenderness. All for the BROTHERS, the CONGREGATION, the CHURCH and THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD.*

*Bro. Gil sent us the "historic photo" of the delivery of the documents, as he said.*

*We keep on praying the Lord for the full success and for those who are engaged in this task.*

**Bro. Benedicto**

### From Senegal

**THANK** you very much for your message. Thus you encourage us to continue praying for the beatification of our Father Founder. I hope we shall we shall not wait long to reap the fruits of your efforts, and of your fatigue...

**Bro. Pierre.**

### From Uruguay

*It is a great joy to know how far the Cause of our Father de La Mennais is. I thank God for the enthusiasm with which you make Jesus Christ and his Gospel known. May God deign to increase the number of the Brothers and Lay Mennaisians that we may go beyond the frontiers of our own countries.*

*Thank you, and may God bless you Delfin in all your endeavours.*

**Bro. Javier Fernande**



# HAITI

## **Disaster**

## **Hope**

## **Aid**

On the 12th January 2010 this small Caribbean nation made a name in the history of mankind as one of the most afflicted. Haiti, which is struggling with the war against an endemic poverty, was very hard hit by a very strong earthquake. On a population of approximately nine million inhabitants, more than three million must have suffered the consequences, deprived of their houses, of their goods and many of their family, partially or entirely.

How many deaths? They speak of 250.000. Many areas, notably in the capital Port-au-Prince, found themselves completely destroyed.

The Brothers arrived in Haiti in 1864. They have suffered earthquakes, hurricanes, fires... But they have not give in.

Two Brothers succumbed under the rubble, and some others have been hospitalised. Six establishments collapsed... But all is not lost.

On the premises of Saint Louis de Gonzague School 10.000 persons are living in tents. Many others reside on the courtyard of La Vallée.

And at Jacmel the courtyard serves as an open-air cathedral. The House of formation of Pétienville has been transformed into flats. And at Delmas and Jean Marie Guillou, the courtyards are covered with tents : the people go for work during the day and return in the evening.

**Groups of youths work in shifts to give out aid...**

Some vestiges remain standing amidst the ruins :

\* The cross of the Carmelite church.

\* The statue of John Mary at Pétienville

\* The church of St. Louis School. These are some of the signs of hope for the people of Haiti.

This is the time to offer a helping hand to this distressed people. They DESERVE it !



## GOD ALONE

### The motto bequeathed to us by JOHN MARY DE LA MENNAIS

**J**ohn Mary de la Mennais, in creating his 'work', did not concern himself only with giving it a *raison d'être* and a finality, not only making supporting it by an organisation and a structure... but he particularly gave it a motor, an idea generating energy and life : he gave it a motto. Which one ? **GOD ALONE !**

It is an idea that he himself had received :

- he made it his own ;
- he lived it ;
- he gave it to us as a gift.

Yes ! It was an idea that spread in the final days of the Middle Ages and exploded in the Modern Age. The great figures of Christian spirituality adopted it as a reason and guide of their life...

Saint Therese of Jesus was, no doubt, one of the spiritual inspirers of our Founder : certain writings testify this. We could even say that certain traits of character of Saint Therese of Avila appear, in the masculine, in John Mary. In his library of Ploërmel he did not have less than two complete collections of the mystical Doctor, and the volumes seem to have been consulted a lot. It is not surprising that he made his own the last sentence of the famous Theresian poem :

"Whoever possesses God lacks nothing :

**"God alone is enough !"**

And, like her, because *God Alone* was the One who counted for him and whom he used to call his "**Providence**", he put aside :

- \* the riches on which he could count, family inheritance ;
- \* the titles and honours that were within his reach ;
- \* the big ecclesiastical responsibilities that he left aside to concentrate on the formation of the humble religious teachers in the countryside....

He could then really give us advice, he who had given us an example.

**"God alone is your motto!"** he told us.

\* *How did the Process unfold?* It spread over four weeks, holding three sessions per week, with intercalated days. Eleven witnesses presented themselves on behalf of the Postulator, and three on behalf of the Tribunal to complete the information and to certify the actual state of health of the cured child.

\* *Were there certain remarkable days?* The day of the **opening**, preceded by a veritable downpour, which prevented the participation of those who would have wished to attend; and the **closing** day, the 18<sup>th</sup>. Dec.2009, presided by Bishop Joaquín Mariano SUCUNZA.

The 17<sup>th</sup> **December** was a very moving day: there was a very family **ceremony**. The witnesses and the officers of the Process had been invited. The protagonist was the mother of Enzo and also the child himself drying the tears of his mother while she was relating the incidents of the illness and of the cure.

\* *What can we say sympathetically?* That the four officers of the Tribunal formed a veritable team. That the **witnesses** spoke with full sincerity and full freedom. That the four **Doctors** - the chairman and the vice-chairman of the department, a neurologist, a paediatrician, and the psychologist who accompanied him afterwards -, spoke in the same way, but ...

\* *... but, what?* It is necessary to continue working hard : all is not yet done. Some difficulties must be resolved.

\* *And now?* Transported from Buenos Aires, the documents were delivered to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints on the 4th January 2010, - endorsed by Cardinal Bergoglio. -A request was made for the opening of the documents and of the Apostolic Process.

\* *We speak of documents : which ones?* Those prepared at Buenos Aires, in two equal dossiers. a) **the Transunto**, which remains with the Congregation and b) **the authentic Copy**, returned to the Postulator.

\* *Would there be anything else to be added?* It is true that it is the first time that we go as far as Rome with a case of a cure. But it is also true that nothing has been **resolved**. We have before us a long and tortuous road. The final result belongs to God, through the decisions of the **doctors** and **theologians**.

Afterwards there will be a **Consistory of bishops and cardinals**. Finally, **it will be up to the Pope to make the declaration**.

\* *What else?* We have great means within our reach so that the Process in Rome may have a happy end : **prayer in itself** and **the prayer of our life**, requesting Jesus and the Virgin Mary for their help.

Rome, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010

Bro. Delfin López, Postulator

Enzo Carollo before the bust of J-M. de la Men.



## The Cause of Beatification of John Mary de la Mennais



1st session : opening of the Diocesan Process

### **From the Diocesan process of Buenos Aires to the Apostolic Process of Rome**

Entering directly in the subject, I would say that news concerning new and old cures (one or the other dating 50 years) is still coming to us in Rome. It is a pity that it was not sent to us at that time. We have just learnt of another cure that took place a few months ago, here in Italy.

\* Is there one being studied ? It is henceforth known : that of Enzo Carollo, dating from 2006; he was

then 5 years old. He was suffering from **encephalitis** : his brain had neither white nor grey substance ; he was in coma and the brink of death for more than two weeks... But on the 16th April, Easter day, he began to react, to speak, to stand up... And that without the prescribed drugs which had failed.

The explanation was not easy, but the entire Mennaisian Family of Buenos Aires had ardently prayed Jesus through the intercession of his Servant Venerable John Mary de la Mennais.

What development has this fact had ? After a year of research for information, timely consultations were made with the Secretary General of the Medical College of the Congregation. His advice being positive and encouraging, we thought of opening the Diocesan Process at Buenos Aires, where the cure had taken place.

\* How did the Diocesan Process proceed ? With the permission of the Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Cardinal Bergoglio, the Process opened on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2009. The tribunal consisted of four officers :

\* Judge, delegate of the Bishop : F. José Ignacio Ferro Terrén of the Curia of Bs.As;

\* Promoter of justice: F. Guillermo Vidal, curate ;

\* Notary: Dr. Escribana Ana Rabuffetti;

\* Accredited Doctor : Dr. José Luis Calcagno.

The Postulator had prepared everything and followed the Process day by day. But he did not participate in the sessions, except on the opening and closing days, open to the public...

## **For reflection**

**Before reflecting on the following questions, it is necessary to read all the thoughts of John Mary and their explanation on page 4...**

- 1.- Did John Mary de la Mennais live the motto 'God Alone'... that he gave to the Brothers ? Shown by facts, gestures and words...
- 2.- Can we say that Jesus Christ himself lived this motto ? In which way ? Is there anyone else who has ever lived it so intensely ?
- 3.- What is God for the man of today? Seeing the complexity of the subject, make the distinctions that you think timely to answer it.
- 4.- And me, do I live for, with, and by ... God alone ? Which idols want to prevent me from living for God ?
- 5.- Do I entertain a personal idol ? Which one ? Why ?

### RECOMMENDED INTENTIONS

\* That in our life we may have as point of reference to orientate our march and give us the strength to reach our final goal : God Alone.  
\* For all the young who feel themselves called by God to follow Jesus Christ as Mennaisian Brothers.

\* For the sick recommended :

- Romain Delenne, 6 year old : canalisation of his energy (Oppede – Fr.)
- \* Mr. Godin, on the request of Bro. Albert Côté (Canada).
- Teihotu TAMARII, a pupil of Tahiti.
- \* Dominique BLIN, nephew of Bro. Michel (France).
- Natalia Cubillo, struck by a cancer (Madrid - Spain).
- \* Adela Pertierra: affection of the throat. Nanclares de la Oca (Spain).
- Fred Karema, seriously ill, a brother of Bro. Eugene Mwesigye (Philippines)
- \* Gonzalo Tolosa: hemiplegia – Buenos Aires /Argentina)
- Patrick Lebeau: tumour in the œsophagus (France)
- Father Nicolas Guillou.- Fougères (France)
- M<sup>re</sup>. Carmen Vélez Martín: tumour in the stomach. Aguilar de Campóo (Spain).
- \* Olivier Meunier (of 12 years): amyotrophie (Canada)
- Emanuela Guerra, sick.- Rome (Italy)
- \* Luis Fernando Nogales: brain tumour .- San Borja (Bolivia)
- Guadalupe Morales: congenital osteoarthritis - Lujan de Cuyo (Argentina)
- \* Jean- Noël Tourcotte: cancer of the pancreas – Longueuil (Canada)
- Jules X.X. : (27 month old child): tumour in the right eye (France).
- \* \* \* \* \*

... and other local intentions.

**GOD ALONE is our motto,  
Received from JOHN MARY DE LA  
MENNAIS**



✘ **18 - II**

\* We must be decided to renounce the world entirely ; without that we would be unworthy of being members of a Congregation which has taken as its motto these two expressive words : GOD ALONE

- **When shall we be** all for God ? Why do we refuse to offer him the small sacrifices he requests of us ?

✘ **19 - II**

\* It is easy to say that we want to belong **entirely** to God ...

*-But it is rare that we want it fully, strongly and without letting our will waver from one side to another, which, on one part rises to heaven and fights against the other which falls to the earth.*

✘ **20 - II**

\* For today, I content myself to telling you to have nothing else in mind but **God** in your smallest actions.

*- Look only for his glory and not that from men; beware of their praises and if you have any success, attribute it to the One from whom all things proceed and from whom all grace flows.*

✘ **21 - II**

\* God warns you, in a certain way, and at every moment, of your weakness, of extreme misery : he shows it to you, he makes you feel it painfully, so that you may count on Him alone.

- **The true Brothers, whether you place them here or elsewhere, it does not matter much to them :whether the world praises or condemns them : they do not mind much :God alone is their motto.**

✘ **22 - II**

\* The most reasonable person would be the one who would nourish his mind on a single thought : **God** alone. But is only the Christian heart that hears this word : God alone.

*- Our freedom, our body, our life, all is for the Lord. We no longer belong to ourselves, we are for God alone.*

✘ **23 -II**

\* Yes ! Let us be entirely for God : God alone. What ! Would God not suffice for us ?

*-Let us look for only the glory of Jesus Christ and let us support with our efforts all those who work to obtain it.*

✘ **24 - II**

\* **We are waiting from God alone** the success of our enterprise. We know that he always uses what is the weakest to confound the strongest.

*- O my God ! I have chosen you for my inheritance. And this inheritance will not be taken away from me. You alone are something for me and you always be my All.*

✘ **25 - II**

\* Finally, whatever happens, let us be resigned to the holy **will of God**, and let us not have any other.

*-It is precisely when he was undergoing the bitterest pain, the cruellest anguish, that Jesus Christ said to his Father : **Father, not my will, but thine be done!***

✘ **26 - II**

\* **Count on God alone** for the success of your new and so beautiful a mission that you have received. It is He who entrusts it to you ; that is why you should have trust. He will support you in your tiredness

- Be humble always and put in practice our beautiful motto : God alone, God alone !