

***Mennaisian  
Novena  
N<sup>o</sup>. 31***

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

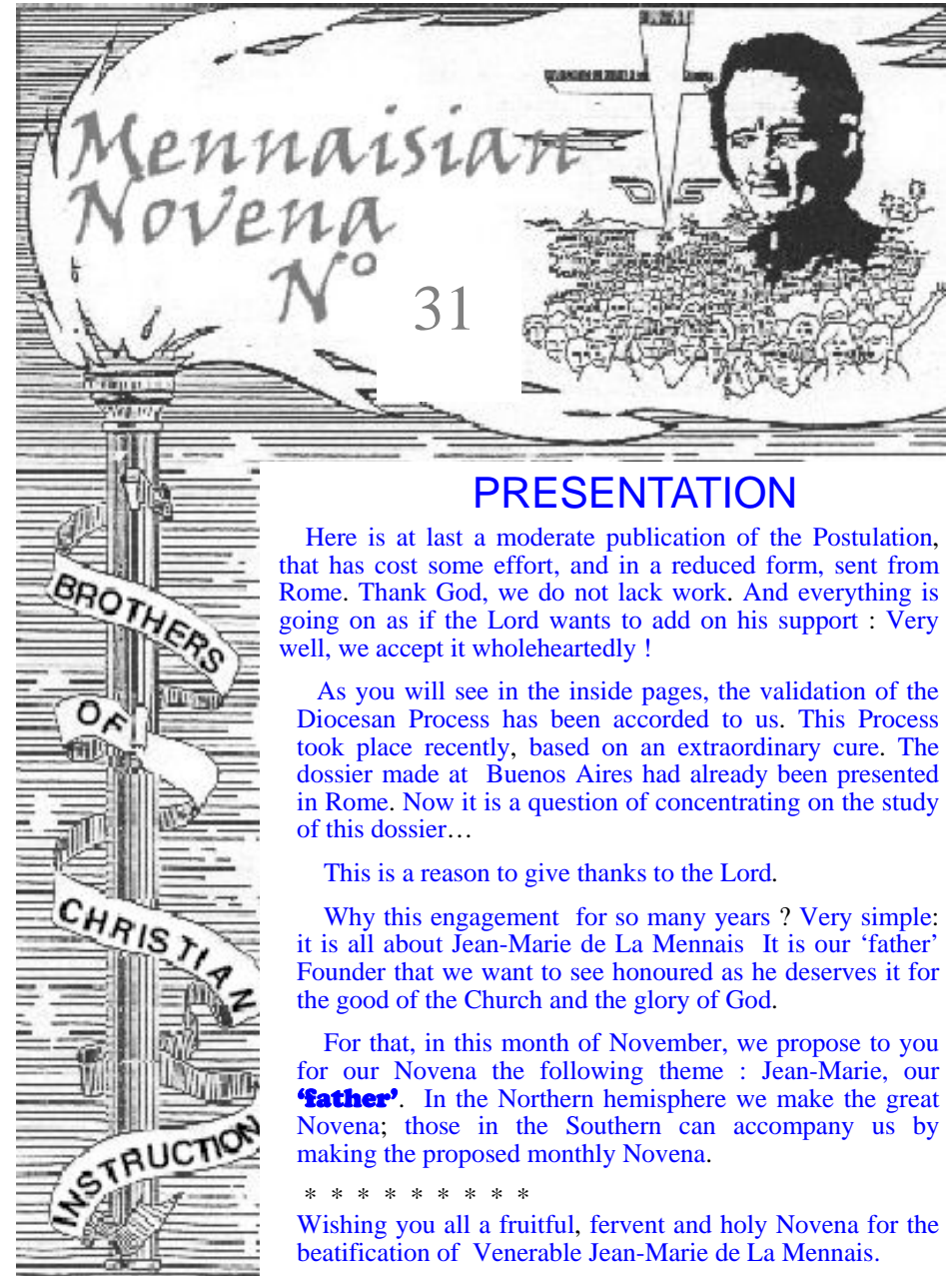
---

"MENNAISIAN NOVENA" N°.23 – ROMA – 1.IX.2009

---

Tel.06 66 41 56 18 - Casa Generalizia FIC - delfinlopez03@yahoo.com  
Via Divina Provvidenza. 44.  
00166 – Roma (Italy)

At



## PRESENTATION

Here is at last a moderate publication of the Postulation, that has cost some effort, and in a reduced form, sent from Rome. Thank God, we do not lack work. And everything is going on as if the Lord wants to add on his support : Very well, we accept it wholeheartedly !

As you will see in the inside pages, the validation of the Diocesan Process has been accorded to us. This Process took place recently, based on an extraordinary cure. The dossier made at Buenos Aires had already been presented in Rome. Now it is a question of concentrating on the study of this dossier...

This is a reason to give thanks to the Lord.

Why this engagement for so many years ? Very simple: it is all about Jean-Marie de La Mennais. It is our 'father' Founder that we want to see honoured as he deserves it for the good of the Church and the glory of God.

For that, in this month of November, we propose to you for our Novena the following theme : Jean-Marie, our '**father**'. In the Northern hemisphere we make the great Novena; those in the Southern can accompany us by making the proposed monthly Novena.

\* \* \* \* \*

Wishing you all a fruitful, fervent and holy Novena for the beatification of Venerable Jean-Marie de La Mennais.

*Suggestion ?* Print the cover in yellow.

Rome, 1st November 2010  
Bro. Delfín López, Postulateur

## *The Cause of Beatification of Jean-Marie de La Mennais :*

The beginning of November, The Congregation for the Causes of Saints informed us that the validation of the Diocesan Process had been granted to us. This Process took place at Buenos Aires (Argentina) in 2009 – 2010. The corresponding decree will soon be issued to us.

It is about an extraordinary cure in favour of a little boy Enzo Carollo, four years ago. He had been struck down by an acute disease called “encephalitis” and the Mennaisian community recommended him to the intercession of Jean-Marie de La Mennais.

\* What can we say about it? – That that had no tangible consequence, but that it was a necessary step. Without it the case would have been classified as incoherent.

\* And now? Well, now begins the study of the case. We ought to present a “**Summarium**”, a synthesis of the facts, with the convincing evidence. That implies an enormous, prolonged and meticulous work. Evidently, no delay is envisaged. This could take years, with an unpredictable success at the end.

In reality, everything is in the hands of God.

That’s why we should address ourselves to Jesus, our Lord and Master, and confide all that to Him. The life of Jean-Marie and his work have been and still is : an engagement to “**make Him known and loved**”.

**Let’s not forget !  
In 2010 – 2011 we celebrate the**

**150°**

**of the death of Jean-Marie de La Mennais:**

**The most important celebrations:**

**26 -27- 28 November 2010 : Opening of the Mennaisian Year.**

**20 June 2011: Closing of the Mennaisian Year**

**14 to 19 July 2011 : International Mennaisian Pilgrimage in**

**Lourdes:**



## *The Great Novena to Jean- Marie de La Mennais*

**18 to 26 November in the Northern hemisphere  
30 August to 7 September in the Southern**

The Great Novena to Jean-Marie is one of the major events of the school year in our schools. In some, it corresponds to the busiest time of pastoral work : it involves all the aspects, with a determining repercussion on the whole school during those days.

This year it takes on a very special meaning. We celebrate the 150th anniversary of the death of Venerable Jean-Marie de La Mennais :

on 26 December 1860 at Ploërmel.

Also we are going to put special emphasis on some of the recommendations during the Novena :

- The sick and other persons recommending themselves to his intercession ;
- Continue working to bring his project to its fulfilment :  
“To make Jesus Christ known and loved”.
- That the Lord blesses us by the beatification of Jean-Marie and bless the efforts made to obtain it.
- That we conform to the orientations that our ‘father’ Founder Jean-Marie de La Mennais left us.

### **For reflection**

...Before reflecting on the following questions, you should read the thoughts of Jean-Marie and their explanation on page 5...

- 1. A fact, a trait, a word by which Jean-Marie shows himself ‘father’ of the Brothers.*
- 2. God is our ‘father’, our Creator... Each one has a ‘father’ in the family... And Jean-Marie is the ‘father’ of the Mennaisian Family. How do I envisage this reality ?*
- 3. Do I feel Jean-Marie as ‘father’ ? I explain myself ...*
- 4. Let’s share a prayer of thanksgiving to Jésus for having given us as ‘father’ Jean-Marie de La Mennais.*

## INTENTIONS RECOMMANDEES

### JEAN MARIE DE LA MENNAIS “FATHER” of the Mennaisian family He shows it by his life, by his words...

**J**EAN-MARIE ROBERT DE LA MENNAIS... Such is the name of our Venerable Founder. But from the first years of the foundation, the Brothers began to call him **“the Father”, “not Father”**, with all appearances of affection, of love, and of respect.

Jean-Marie was respected because he was straightforward, and he was loved because they knew and felt ... that he was good and devoted. Also the Brothers loved him... He also loved them and knew how to tell it to them, as he would to children.

And this preoccupation for them, - that of a father- was not only spiritual ; it concerned also their physical health, their studies, their work, their meals : their entire life !

He paid a visit to each Brother every year, at his place of work, in his small school; and wrote to him periodically. More than 1650 of these letters have been preserved... A veritable treasure ! In each one of them he would encourage and console them; he would advise and give them his recommendations. He preoccupied himself with their affairs ...as a father!

One of them, Brother Paulin, recently arrived in Guadeloupe wrote to him :  
*“My dear Father,*

*You cannot imagine what I felt on leaving a father so tender and to whom I owe all that I am ! Yes ! My dear Father, if I have persevered in my vocation, I owe it to you and to your paternal advice..”*

And, how has he exercised this paternity ? In a very particular way. We could say in a charismatic way. Towards the Brothers and the future Brothers, - the Novices -, as well as towards children, the youths, and families... We are completely justified to be able to call him

**Our “father” founder.**

He left us Mary as **Mother and Patroness.**

*As a good father, he consecrated his whole life to us and left his work to us ...*

\* That on listening to what Jean-Marie tells us, and following his example, we strived to know and love Jesus Christ more and more.

\* For all the youths who feel themselves called by God to follow Jesus Christ as Mennaisian Brothers.

\* For the recommended sick people:

\* *Mr. Godin, on the request of Bro. Albert Côté (Canada).*

- Teihotu TAMARII, pupil of Tahiti.

\* *Natalia Cubillo, stricken with a cancer (Madrid- Spain).*

- Adela Pertierra, disease in the throat. Nanclares de la Oca (Spain)

\* *Fred Karema, seriously sick, brother of Bro. Eugène (Philippines)*

- Patrick Lebeau, tumour of the œsophagus (France).

\* *M<sup>a</sup>. Carmen Vélez Martín, stomach tumour. Aguilar de Campóo (E)*

\* Olivier Meunier (12 years), spinal amyotrophies (Canada).

- José A. García Martínez, multiple sclerosis - Bilbao (Spain)

\* *Guadalupe Morales: congenital osteoarthritis - Luján de Cuyo (Argent.)*

- Luz María Land, cancer - Reinosa (Spain)

\* *Marcos Sosa: leukaemia – Luján de Cuyo - Mendoza (Argentina)*

- Bro. Louis Le Guichet, back-ache - Béthanie (France)

\* Clara García Roig, special intention.- Buenos Aires (Argentina)

- Bro. Pierre Tousignant, seriously stricken with a cancer.- Canada.

\* Mercedes A. Alvarez, advanced cancer.- Luján de Cuyo-Mendoza (A)

- Jeannine Robert, sister of Bro. Jean Malo:deforming arthritis (France)

\* Itaata TEIKITUNAUPOKO, cancer of the knee.- Marquesas Island

- Lesage Dessalines.- (Haïti)

\* Giorgio Mucci: trombosis cerebral.- Roma (Italy)

... And those placed on the tomb of Jean-Marie, at Ploërmel, as well as the local intentions.

### To be noted

*We notice that the intentions for the Novena are on the increase. That means a lot regarding the trust and the value given to the intercession of Jean-Marie..*

*Those who wish can express their gratitude in the heading : ‘Letters from our readers’ , as it is already being done. They can also send an alms or an offering, that will be encouraging for us at this crucial time of the Cause*

*Thanks!*

**JEAN MARIE DE LA MENNAIS,**  
**our “FATHER” founder**  
**Here are his words**

✘ 18 - XI

\* (To Fr. Deshayes, co-founder) My venerable and saintly friend: both of us are nearing the end of our course ; we shall soon disappear from the midst of these sons; but, from the depth of our tomb, we could still guide them. Then, later on, they will join us. Let's say to them: See you soon, in heaven !

*- I do not want to conceal it from you, my dear sons : my strength is declining each day . After the Lord and his Holy Mother Mary, my thought goes towards you. Live always united heart and soul, to the Holy Church and to your Congregation...*

✘ 19 - XI

\* The annual retreat is a big feast of the Congregation ; on this happy occasion, I see all of you again ; we find ourselves again in this house where you have been born again in Jesus Christ and who served you as a cradle... Yes ! How good, how sweet it is for Brothers to live together under the same roof !

*- As long as we remain united we shall be strong, we shall be happy; yes, this holy union will be the charm, the grace and the strength of our society.*

✘ 20 - XI

\* I had the great pleasure of reading the good things you say about me. You know me well even without having seen me, since you are profoundly convinced that I love you very much. Yes, my dear children ! : I always think of you and my greatest consolation is to hear that you are making progress in the most important science and the most necessary : religion...

*- Dear children ! Let's go to heaven, let's go to heaven... Let's sing with one heart and with one voice the song of the eternal mercy of Jesus Christ our Saviour... Goodbye, my dear children !: don't forget the one who is and will be until his last breath, your friend...*

✘ 21 - XI

\* (Advice to a youth) Go dis always near you, in these struggles to live in a state of grace and he will never permit that you be defeated, if you take the means that I am showing you.

*- Never fear to show that you are a Christian, even before those who are not.*

✘ 22 - XI

\* My God ! You know it : I often contemplate the immense harvest of which the Gospel speaks; I ask you for the labourers to harvest ; and I ask you also, Lord, to choose among a thousand, those whom you will send to do your work.

*- We need mature minds, capable of a resolution, who know how to decide ; who, once they know the right way, do not stray from it, even if they feel a certain distaste or if they are given imprudent advice.*

✘ 23 - XI

\* (To a sick, absent Brother).- We do not forget you at Ploërmel : each day I pray to the Lord for you; the Brothers also do the same. It will be a pleasure for them and for me the day when we shall see you here again.

*- Take courage and be patient, my dear child ! : I embrace you with a paternal heart.*

✘ 24 - XI

\* Yes, my children ! However fragile, poor or guilty you may be, don't fear to speak to Mary, to invoke her help and to place yourselves in the rank of her faithful servants. Offer her your regret of having acted badly and the resolution of living better.

*- Mother of my God : is it true that you are my mother also ? – Yes ! It is quite true, you are. Thus I'll approach you with trust. I'll show myself to you as I am : weak, poor, sinful and, because of that, worthy of all the pity of your maternal heart.*

✘ 25 – XI

\* I offered to God all that I possess, my time, my freedom, my reputation, my body, my soul, my life ; I gave him everything, yes, everything without exception. May he therefore dispose of me and of all that I belongs to me, without exception, according to his good pleasure.

*- I have no other thought or other desire except that of contributing to his glory in the measure of my means and of my strength.*

✘ 26 - XI

\* When God will take me away from this world, you will have a Brother as Superior. By his wisdom and zeal, he will prolong the work that I founded.

*- You will not forget the one who has been your Father and who loves you so tenderly.*