

***Mennaisian
Novena
N° 33***

**Clôture de
The Mennaisian Year**

**150th Anniversary of the death of
JEAN-MARIE DE LA
MENNAIS**

at **larantuka** (Indonesia),
on 20 June 2011.

Will be present : * Br. **Yannick Houssay**, Superior General;
* the Brothers of the General Council ;

* the Brothers, **Novices, Postulants ...**

Will participate : **LThe Ordinary of the diocese**, with the
clergy, the

Religious men and women and the **Mennaisian laity**.

Will take place: The **Eucharistic Celebration and the
Reception**

* * * * *

We are in Indonesia since 2000.

We run two houses of formation (noviciate and postulate),
plus a vocational training Centre; it houses 150 youths.

God blesses the work with two Novices (cf. photo, with their
Formators), and two Postulants.

Five Brothers run the work.

May God continue to bless them!

(on behalf of Br. Gildas P. A.g.)

**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 MENESIANA" N°. 33 – ROME – 1.VI. 2011

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“Sow generously!”

These words were written and sent to the Brothers by Jean-Marie de la Mennais in 1860 as a Christmas greeting. And that, a few days before his death. A symbol for us!

These words were chosen as reference for the pastoral work of the Mennaisian family in this year's 150th Anniversary.

And we wanted to illustrate them with the poem by the Lasallian great artist and friend, Br. Fermin Gainza, who died recently.

We worked shoulder to shoulder much of the time that our presence in the intercongregational Novitiate lasted at Cárdoaba (Argentina): 25 years! May these words also serve as homage.



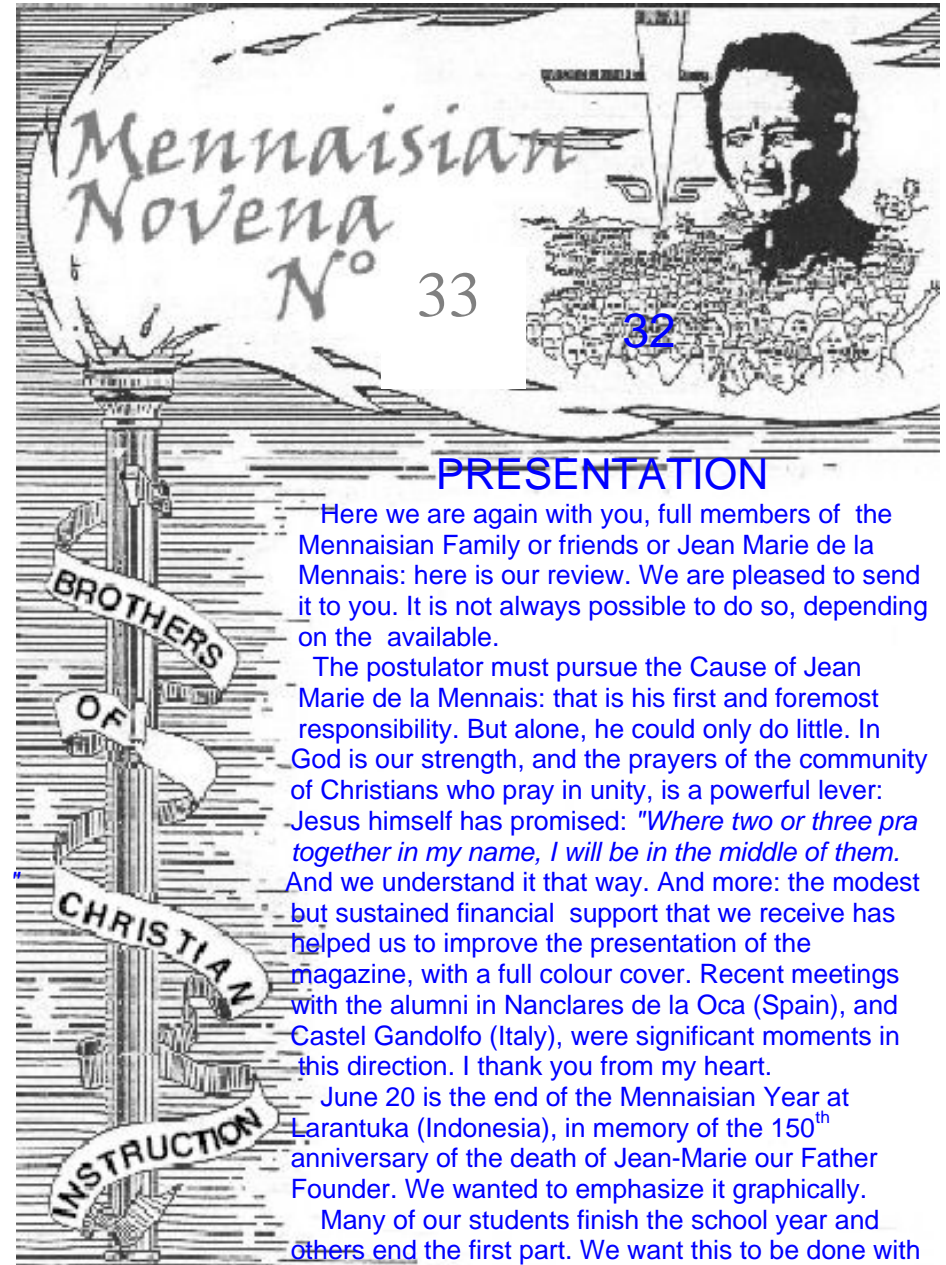
*Lord, you send us to sow,
and we feel our heart poor:
we cast the seed received from you,
then uncertain, we watch for the harvest. guettons*

*Apparent loss of time for us
sowing with this timid hope.
And what is this little seed
in our vast fields?*

*Your mandate makes us despair,
faced with our little strength.
Yet faith makes us understand
that you continue your work with us.*

Br. Fermín Gainza

(On behalf of Br. Guillermo Dávila)



PRESENTATION

Here we are again with you, full members of the Mennaisian Family or friends or Jean Marie de la Mennais: here is our review. We are pleased to send it to you. It is not always possible to do so, depending on the available.

The postulator must pursue the Cause of Jean Marie de la Mennais: that is his first and foremost responsibility. But alone, he could only do little. In God is our strength, and the prayers of the community of Christians who pray in unity, is a powerful lever: Jesus himself has promised: *"Where two or three are together in my name, I will be in the middle of them."* And we understand it that way. And more: the modest but sustained financial support that we receive has helped us to improve the presentation of the magazine, with a full colour cover. Recent meetings with the alumni in Nanclares de la Oca (Spain), and Castel Gandolfo (Italy), were significant moments in this direction. I thank you from my heart.

June 20 is the end of the Mennaisian Year at Larantuka (Indonesia), in memory of the 150th anniversary of the death of Jean-Marie our Father Founder. We wanted to emphasize it graphically.

Many of our students finish the school year and others end the first part. We want this to be done with joy.

Rome, June 1, 2011.
F. Delfín 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 Founder, the Brothers, the FIC history, etc.

Important!

So that our readers know ...

We desire to help the Brothers and friends of Jean-Marie – the whole Mennaisian family -. We try to send our review to the largest possible number by mail. But we know: its operation is random and unpredictable.

When you do not receive it on time, use a previous one: we have sending it to for seven years!

And ... watch out! for August-September, there will be only one number, but very beautiful! and it may arrive late. I am preparing myself for a surgical operation. Thanks! The Editor.

The Superior General had found before taking a decision on this enterprise the unconditional and enthusiastic support of the Ordinary of the diocese, Mgr Bécél and that of the Archbishop of Paris, Cardinal Richard, a close friend of Jean-Marie in his youth. On October 6 1897 the Council of the Institute appointed as Postulator of the Cause Father Nicolet, of the Marist Fathers, Procurator, in Rome, of his Congregation. He began to work immediately and wrote the ‘articles’ of the Cause. There were 260. Thus began the Diocesan Process.

An event, not exactly part of the Process itself, but related to it, was the transfer of the mortal remains of Jean-Marie de la Mennais from the Community cemetery to the Chapel built fifty years before by the Founder himself. In connection with this, Brother Cyprian, the architect of the Chapel and in concert with the Brothers had wanted to reserve, unknown to the Father, a suitable place to deposit his remains.

Now, the latter, having smelt a rat, changed the visiting schedule one day and found them digging ... »I want to be buried among my Brothers in the cemetery of the Community,” he said.

This did not constitute an obstacle to the transfer taking place one day, once the ecclesiastical permission was obtained.

We will discuss it in the next issue.... *(to be continued)*

For reflection

...Before we reflect on the following questions we should read all the thoughts of Jean-Marie (p. 8 and 9) and their explanation on p. 5...

- 1 On the basis of the words and life of Jean-Marie, I ask myself : How is my life relationship with God: do I see him as a father, as a judge?...
2. What principles guide my relationships with others: Gospel principles or simply human, of solidarity, of selfishness?
- 3 Have I set aside in my life a special moment for my devotion to the Virgin? What does she represent for me: a mother, a guide, or someone unknown ?

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



Note -In the previous issue of our review, - n°32 -, we started a new topic, very dear to all: the history of the Cause of Jean-Marie de La Mennais, since its beginnings in 1902, until 1966 when the heroicity of his virtues was declared by Pope Paul VI. We now continue with the:

Preliminaries

Once past the 30 years before introducing the Cause of a Servant of God, as was then the rule, Brother Cyprian, Superior General and successor of the Founder, put his hand to the work.

Intimate connoisseur of the Founder, he was convinced of his holiness. During the retreat of 1895 he explained his project to the Brothers. Three months before, the General Council of the Congregation, by a unanimous vote, approved the plan of introducing the Cause and begin the process

What reasons then were advance for doing so?

- 1).-The exaltation of the Church in one of her most selfless servants.
- 2).-The honour of the Institutes founded by the Venerable.
- 3).-The interest of missions.
- 4).- The edification of the Clergy: Jean-Marie was a priest and worked hard as such....

5).- An urgency: prevent the death of important witnesses who had known him.

THE PRAYER OF JEAN-MARIE

It is not so easy to perceive depth, intimacy and inner strength of prayer in the human person : it is the echo of his relationship with God. It is not even easy in the saints and servants of God.

However, the prayers they have made and with which they spoke to God, to the Lord Jesus... can give us a track. If we feel familiar with his spirituality, and with his charism, we shall be pleased to make them our own.

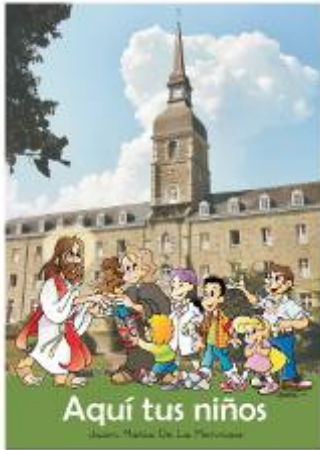
It is by means of many themes that Jean-Marie de La Mennais expressed his relationship, his trust and his love of the Lord in prayer... As a novelty we present to you a sample of his prayer in connection with three very important themes in the life of Jean-Marie, or in his personal relationship to the Lord --- or to the Virgin Mary-, or in his own way of living this relationship, as “father” of the Mennaisian Family, the Brothers, his spiritual sons...

Here are the three themes:

Providence of God – Classic theme in Jean-Marie. He had many a reason to confide in Her, judging by the work he has done and the assistance he provided to those around him. But he knew also how to help Her. In the words of that wise man, Brother Carmelo Rizzo, “he waited outside the Offices of Ministers, while saying the rosary... But first he had provided himself with the necessary papers.”.

The Community – the fruit of his life shared with the Brothers, he speaks to the Lord for them.

The Virgin Mary – Is there any need to explain why?



Our dual page 601⁵

The cover *is intended a graphical representation of the response of Jean-Marie to the words of Jesus: “Let the little children come to me”, in his own words: “My schools are made to make Jesus Christ known and loved”. And indeed, in what did the life of Jean-Marie consist if not in this: to bring the children to Jesus, to make him loved by them..., and to prepare his Brothers so that they, in their turn, do it for centuries (?)*

The House of Ploërmel serves as a background, referring to the 150th anniversary of his death. It's where he was buried. **It is our Mother-House.**

The painting is the work of an artist doing pastoral work in Buenos Aires: Hector Freire. Thank you, friend Freire!



And **the back cover?** It reproduces the “logo” of 150 years, as established at the Generalate in Rome, in fluorescent colours.

The number **150** is highlighted and the letters **JMLM**, form the initials of our Father. The D.+ S. refers to the motto he has bequeathed us.

The compass symbolises the pastoral orientation of the year: Jesus was the Compass that guided the life of Jean-Marie. The compass as well as the ears

of wheat are allusions to the “**La Mennais**” family and to the town of **Saint-Malo**, where the Father was born.

The grains spread are seeds that will grow in Spring... a stimulating programme for our lives: don't be afraid to spread

the good seed for a new Spring bloom in the Church, the world and the Mennaisian Family

The Jesuits of Alaska had asked Rev. Bro. Abel for a Brother to help them in the mission of the Holy Cross along the Yukon River. There will live for 5 long years, one Brother of Christian Instruction (the nearest Community was at 3,500 km). There he gives his full potential and all his virtue. He did not teach because they considered him insufficiently trained in English. The supervision of a score of boarders of Indian origin or Eskimo occupied his days and nights. He lived with his students, gave them work, taught them to pray and gave them lessons in catechism.

His Director, a certain Father Markham, was an authoritarian Jesuit, harsh in his words, and contemptuous of Brother Constantine. Loneliness, humiliations, and a certain cold indifference on the part of the Jesuit Community, was the daily bread of Brother Constantine. He wrote to Brother Abel : I am only a supervisor – translate: “I'm a nobody” (today we'd say: a nullity). And he added in conclusion: *“I think nobody here is aware of the terrible moments that I'm living, but I have never let out of my mouth a word of complaint. My pain is all inside...”*

In 1909 Bro. Constantine was appointed Master of Novices. His virtue and his qualities were completely recognised. He will be Master for 11 years, first at Fulland, in the district of Taunton and finally at Biterne-Park, near Southampton. “He was an incomparable Master,” wrote one of his Novices.



He was appointed Assistant at the Chapter of 1921. However his health was impaired. He suffered from “Pott's disease.” He died at Ploërmel on 2nd January 1926, at the age of 52. Brother Jean-Joseph, the then Superior General, on hearing the news of his death wrote :

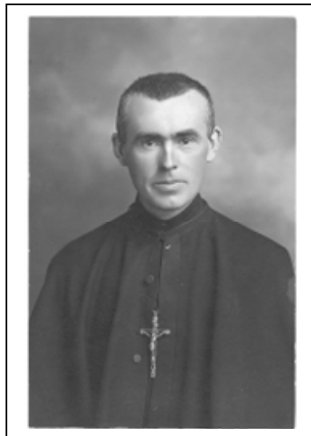
“We all mourn this religious ; let us bless God for giving us so beautiful a

model on earth and a protector in heaven.”

Bro. Constantine dressed as Eskimo in front of his residence

Some “holy” Brothers! ¹¹

Brother Constantine Marie Roulin,



The hero of Alaska

Among « the holy Brothers » of the Congregation, - and they are many-, there are surely Brothers Hyacinth and Arthur. But we can add another without hesitation, Bro. **Constantine Marie Roulin**

One of his last Novices who died fifteen years ago, responded to this question: “*What do you think of your*

Master? – He is a saint, I pray to him often”.

Désiré Roulin was born on 19 May 1874 at Néant-sur-Yvel, 12 km. from Ploërmel. He was the tenth and last child of the family. His early years were surrounded by a lot of affection from his mother and all his brothers and sisters. At the age of 10 he joined the boarding school of Saint-Armel, at Ploërmel and four years later, the Brother Director asked him about religious life: “Yes, I want to be a Brother like those of Father De la Mennais, and nothing else!” he replied.

In 1904 the Congregation found itself in the middle of a storm and Brother Constantine did not hesitate to volunteer for missions. He is 29 years.

He embarks on 4 July 1903 with 6 other Brothers. Destination: Rocky Mountains, to the Mission of Saint-Ignatius, in the State of Idaho. He stayed there one year

RECOMMENDED INTENTIONS

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* So that by praying to Jean-Marie, we *intensify* our relationship to God and make it more personal and more confident.

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

* **For the sick recommended:**

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

- Teihotu TAMARII, student of Tahiti.

* *Natalie Cubillo, with cancer (Madrid - Spain).*

- Patrick Lebeau, tumour in the esophagus (France).

* *Olivier Meunier (12 ans): spinal amyotrophie (Canada).*

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

* *Guadalupe Morales, congenital arthrogripale affection - Luján de Cuyo (Argentina)*

- *Luz María Land, with cancer - Reinosa (Spain)*

* *Marcos Sosa, leukemia – Luján de Cuyo - Mendoza (Argentina)*

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

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

- *Bro. Pierre Tousignant, a severe cancer case.- (Canada).*

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

- *Jeannine Robert, sister of Bro. Jean Malo: deforming arthritis– France.*

- *Lesage Dessalines, in a coma, nephew of Bro. Lamy D. (Haïti)*

* *Giorgio Mucci: cerebral thrombosis cérébrale.- Roma (Italy)*

* **... And the demands placed on the tomb of the Father at Ploërmel... and those specific to each location.**

Intentions Box

The devotion to Jean-Marie is spreading fast: demands are pouring in from people of all continents who commend themselves to his intercession. All the people do not have a cure, for sure. But there have been some extraordinary ones. We have just presented one of them.

In addition to asking for prayers, you can express your gratitude to Jean-Marie, so that we may publish it to encourage others. And if you

wish you can also send gifts or offerings to finance the costs of the Cause which is currently going through a very interesting phase. The Editor

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THE PRAYER OF JEROME DE LA MENNAIS **Here are some examples**



To the Providence of God

✘ 18 - VI

* Providence of God, O Mother we love so much! Providence always so good, so wise, so full of piety and love, we adore you, we bless you
- We surrender ourselves to you, without reservation. Make us what thou wilt.

✘ 19 - VI

* We have no other will than to accomplish yours in all things- In humiliations, in greatness, in poverty and in wealth, in health and illness, in life, and in death.

✘ 20 - VI

* Providence of God, watch over your children, strengthen them, direct them, be their advocate and their guide, their light and their counsel, their consolation and their treasure, their joy and hope.
- God alone in time! God alone in eternity!

For the Community, the Mennaisian Family

✘ 21 - VI

* Lord Jesus! On this day, we offer all our lives.
Let fraternal love reign among us who make up this community.
- Let everyone rejoice at the joy of others and suffer with those who are

suffering.

May we all know how to practise mutual aid to go to God, and to realise
Hius work each day.

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✘ 22 - VI

* That disputes or rivalries, secret desires or evil words never happen between us.
- Take away from us, Lord, anything that hurts, everything that divides, and everything that affects charity.

✘ 23 - VI

* Grant, O Lord, that today and always, we strive to help each other!
- ... May we spend the day in gentleness, patience, humility and faithfulness to our commitments!

To Holy Virgin Mary

✘ 24 - VI

* Most Holy and August Virgin! It is with these fiery words that one of your most faithful servants consecrated himself entirely to you as his Patroness, his Queen and his Mother.
-... by plunging into the sweet love of your virginal heart which, with that of your Son, constitutes, in the heavenly abode, **his joy, his delight and his**

✘ 25 - VI

* Grant that these poor sinners, united less by blood than by the desire to surrender themselves to you and be solely yours, and through you, to belong to Jesus Christ our Lord, let them put at your feet this testimony of love and this humble and sweet commitment of eternal slavery.

-- Receive it, O Lady!, with that ineffable goodness which is the perpetual wonder of Heaven and **the consolation of the Earth.**

✘ 26 - VI

* If we could, O beloved Mother, offer something more worthy of you! But alas! We have only our hearts, our weak and miserable hearts.

- At least they are for you without reservation, and your love - as we hope - your love so tender and compassionate, will not refuse this small offering of these poor creatures who are engaged and dedicated to you forever, O very pure, O sweet Virgin Mary!