

**ECHO OF THE MISSIONS N° 77- January 1927**  
**Cause of Venerable Jean-Marie Robert de la Mennais**  
**Exhumation and Examination of the Body of the Venerable**

On Wednesday, December 1, 1926, the ecclesiastical Tribunal, responsible for the preparation of the cause of the “héroïcité des vertus” of the Venerable Servant of God, started the exhumation and examination of the remains put, on August 6, 1900, in the chapel of the Mother-House, at Ploërmel.

The Tribunal has the same President as in 1900: Canon Emmanuel Dieulangard, Vicar General, delegate of Bishop Gouraud, Bishop of Vannes. The other members of the Tribunal are: - Canons E. Le Garrec, A. Guilloux, J. Le Monnier, F. Colmou, judges;  
Father A. Davalan , notary;  
Father H. du Boisrouvray, promoter of the Faith;  
Father E. Camaret, postulator of the Cause;  
M. E. Bachelot, cursor.

The work would be done in private and begin at 8 o'clock in the morning. Were present: Dr. Guillois, senator, and Dr. Lorieux, the same people who had worked for the exhumation in 1900; and the workers: the masons, a joiner, a plumber, many of them had worked at the exhumation in 1900; finally the required witnesses. The Superiors of the Congegations founded by the Venerable Founder of the Brothers of Christian Instruction and of the Daughters of Providence were also admitted to attend the ceremony.

At 8 o'clock sharp, the masons begin to work and to remove the stone, made of Belgian stone, covering the tomb. The casket is removed. The wooden reliquary, very humid, falls into pieces and the lead casket appears. It is taken to the sacristy and placed on a table. They open it. The corpse appears, and no smell is given off. Although it is in less good condition than in 1900, the mask is still well preserved, and the main features of the Venerable Father may be recognized. Only some bones of the feet are separated; they are placed in a tin can and placed in the casket near the lower part of the right leg.

To the right of the head, a metallic tube containing the documents of 1900 and, to the left, the box containing Father Deshayes's thumb; they put them back at the same places.

The doctors agree on not moving the corpse, fearing to seperate parts of them. They make a statement, after taking an oath, and decide to close the lead casket they put, after that, into a new chestnut reliquary. They put a strap around it and, in many places, affix the bishop's seal on red wax. Finally, they replace the casket in the burial vault which is again covered with the tombstone and sealed. The sawdust which had been put around the corpse, the sawed boards of the old casket and the pieces of linen that had been found, are inserted into two boxes. They also put a strap around them and set red-waxed seals, bearing the bishop's seal.

As you can see, this ceremony is done in extreme privacy, and nothing can be compared to that of 1900. However, it took six long hours.

4

At the end of the meal, the Reverend Brother thanked, in a few words, the Tribunal members who, after having spent a great many long sessions to hear the witnesses, imposed on themselves this exhausting day. He promised them that the children of Venerable de la Mennais would pray for them. It's an obligation all will eagerly meet, we are sure of it.

After all the reports of the sessions have been recopied, the Tribunal will have to meet again to hear the reading of these reports.

The documents will then be taken to the Sacred Congregation of the Rites where they will be examined by the members of this first Congregation. The whole life of our Venerable Founder, the witnesses' statements will be examined in three successive assemblies: 1st that of the Consultants of the Sacred Congregation of the Rites; 2nd that of the Cardinals; 3rd that of the Consultants and Cardinals, the Pope being present.

After this 3rd assembly gives a favorable verdict, the Supreme Pontiff will be able to publish the decree on the "héroïcité des vertus". This is the most important proceeding for the cause of beatification.

They proceed in the same way for the examination and recognition of miracles. May we double our fervor so as to obtain some miracles and, if our prayers are answered, may we take care to collect doctors' certificates and to inform, without delaying, the Superiors who will ask, if needed, the ecclesiastical authority to conduct an inquiry.

To our prayer, let us join our holy and very regular life. Children's fervor and holiness may largely contribute to our Father's glorification.