

## Atmosphere of the retreat:



We recall some elements that were important in Auray's retreat. The Motto: God Alone, the habit of the Brothers marked by the crucifix at the center of the chest, the Rule of Life, dictated and accepted by each one by the profession of obedience that closed the retreat

Three symbols are presented: FIC, Motto: GOD ALONE, Crucifix and Rule of Life. We pray with them in union with the Brothers and the entire Mennaisian Family spread throughout the world, asking the Lord to help us to be faithful to the intuitions of John Mary de la Mennais and Gabriel Deshayes, always seeking the ways of the Lord in today's world.

We thank the Lord for the two hundred years of existence of the Congregation. We remember a foundational moment, the Auray Retreat, held in September 1820 in Auray, in the Chapel of the Eternal Father. There the Brothers from the group of Jean Marie de la Mennais met for the first time with those of Father Gabriel Deshayes. They received the motto "God Alone", the name of Brothers of Christian Instruction, the religious habit and

the Rule of Life. There the first profession of the vow of obedience took place. Some historians say that while two groups of different aspiring and excited young men entered the retreat, it was a Congregation of the Brothers of Christian Instruction that came out.

Today we thank the Lord for the history, past and present, for all the wealth of love of God that this initiative of two people has taken all the places where the Mennaisian education continues to make sense today, hope and faith.

As we begin this time of prayer we listen to the Bicentennial Song.

**The Auray's retreat, what changed?** H.-C. Rulon (*Petite histoire des Frères de l'Instruction chrétienne 1816-1860*):

### 1°) The name and the Motto

From hereafter they will be called the **Brothers of Christian Instruction**

As for the motto "**God Alone**", which shall remind the Brothers of the central foundation of their spiritual life and the sole reason for their professional activity.

### 2°) Promulgation of the Rule:

The Founders gave them a real Rule. "the fundamental part of the current Statutes" as Brother Julien specified. "The reading was carried out in the chapel and the Rule was received as a true gift from heaven."

### 3°) Taking the religious habit:

The founders gave relevance to the readings and the liturgy, making the taking of the religious habit a great ceremony. In the same spirit of detachment, the Postulants who did not yet have a religious name received it, as was the case with Brother Augustin.

### 4°) Profession of the vow of Obedience.

The closing of the retreat was marked by a much more important solemnity, such as the religious profession of the vow of Obedience made by those who were considered ready and capable to take it.

**ROMPIENDO BARRERAS. Menesianos 200 AÑOS. [BREAKING BARRIERS. Mennaisians 200 YEARS. ("Click" on the title to listen)]**

One thousand seven hundred and eighty here began, a story that sprang from the heart. A path that a French boy took, Britanny beginning of revolution.

A life ready to help others, a destiny that God will only know. To the children who set out to help, and he continued with his revolution, through education.

He broke barriers he approached the one that did not have. Angel who accompanies us, and is passionate about his life, making paths, following in his footsteps, sharing ties, we are all Mennaisians.

A different look Jean Marie showed. The reality that lived to him moved him. Their values forged the bonds of union, of the children and youth that God gave him.

A project of life, service and love, where the least young man always counted. Our attentive angel who accompanied us, in Brothers, teachers thank you for your enthusiasm, and make our hearts shine.

He broke barriers he approached the one that had nothing. Angel who accompanies us, and is passionate about his life, making paths, following in his footsteps, sharing ties, we are all Mennaisians (2)

**1<sup>st</sup> Psalm 46 – GOD ALONE**

**ANTIPHON:** My God, I have chosen you as my inheritance and this inheritance will never be taken from me, only You are everything for me, and forever You alone, my God, you will be everything for me; life is nothing, reputation is nothing, knowledge is nothing, health is nothing, fortune is nothing, God alone! God alone! (Memorial p. 90)



**Psalm 46: GOD, REFUGE AND STRENGTH OF HIS PEOPLE**

**1** God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.  
**2** Therefore we will not fear, though the earth  
give way  
and the mountains fall into the heart of the  
sea,  
**3** though its waters roar and foam  
and the mountains quake with their  
surging.<sup>[c]</sup>  
**4** There is a river whose streams make glad the  
city of God,  
the holy place where the Most High dwells.  
**5** God is within her, she will not fall;  
God will help her at break of day.

**6** Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;  
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.  
**7** The LORD Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.  
**8** Come and see what the LORD has done,  
the desolations he has brought on the earth.  
**9** He makes wars cease  
to the ends of the earth.  
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields<sup>[d]</sup> with fire.  
**10** He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth."  
**11** The LORD Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

## Canticle: Philippians 2, 6-11 – Confidence in God the Father

**ANTIPHON:** “Without a doubt we will have to suffer in these trials, God be blessed! After all, we are disciples of this poor Jesus Christ, who was humiliated and condemned to the torture of the cross; Let us consider ourselves happy when God calls us to bear the image of his divine Son betrayed, outraged, and crucified; let us live only by pure faith ”(S II, 529)

### Phil. 2: 6 – 11 - Confidence in God the Father

**6** Christ Jesus, His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God

**7** but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are,

**8** He was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.

**9** But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names

**10** so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee[\*b] at the name of Jesus

**11** and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Psalm: 133 - Fraternal Life

**ANTIPHON:** Let brotherly love reign among all members of the same community. Let each one feel happy with the joy of the others and suffer with their sorrows, and that all lend themselves, to go to God and fulfill his work, mutual support, (Rule 1825)



### Psalm 133 Fraternal Life

**1** How good, how delightful it is for all to live together like brothers:

**2** Fine as oil on the head, running down the beard, running down Aaron’s beard to the collar of his robes;

**3** Copious as Hermon dew falling on the heights of Zion, where Yahweh confers his blessing, everlasting life.

## Word of God (Lk 4: 17b-19)

**17b** Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

**18** “The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free,

**19** to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour.”

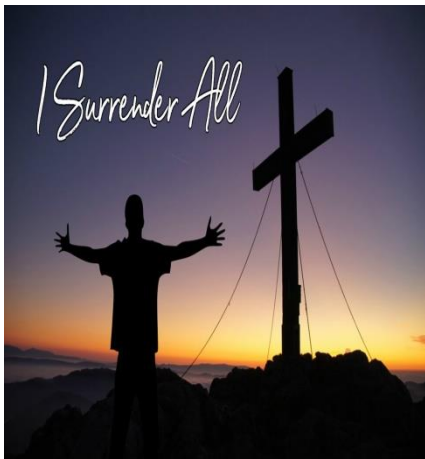


**Response to the Word:** We respond to the Lord's call to be His witnesses by renewing our consecration just as the first Brothers did in Auray.

*Note: Those who have not yet made their final profession will remain silent at the words in brackets*

## FORMULAR FOR THE RENEWAL OF VOWS

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In the name of the Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, under the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, after having already committed myself *(for ever)* to the imitation of Christ in the way of life by the practice of the evangelical counsels, and in His mission by the Christian education of youth, I pray God to strengthen me in my holy vocation, and declare anew my complete submission to the Rule of Life of the Brothers of Christian Instruction.

Therefore, relying on the bounty of God, freely and voluntarily, I renew my *(perpetual)* vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, according to the Constitutions of the Congregation and in the spirit which animated our venerable Founders, May God and His holy Mother help me.

### Magnificat (Lk 1: 46-55)

**ANTIPHON:** “ Do you want to share the glory of Mary? Imitate her virtues and remember that by her deepest humility she has reached the highest elevation to which a simple creature can aspire.”  
(S II, 439)



“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.

Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.

He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart. He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.

He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy according to the promise he made to our ancestors-of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

*Magnificat may be sung using the usual common texts.*

## Prayer of intercession

*Pray one for  
Another*

*- James 5:16*



- Reader 1:** At Auray the Brothers received a **motto** to guide their lives. Since then, **God Alone** has been the beacon that illuminates the way of the Brothers and the Lay Mennais. Help us, Lord, not to be seduced by other "lights" that disfigure our path.  
**Reader 2:** We need your help to trust you.  
**ALL:** *Help us, Lord, to be faithful.*
- Reader 1:** At Auray the Brothers received the **Rule of Life** that gives life to fraternal life, which places the Congregation as part of the Church, marks its mission and specifies its charism.  
**Reader 2:** We need your help to know how to work within the Church.  
**ALL:** *Help us, Lord, to be faithful.*
- Reader 1:** At Auray the Brothers received **the habit** and **the crucifix** that these would be the memory of your constant call to self-giving, humility and to witness.  
**Reader 2:** We need your help to continue being witnesses  
**ALL:** *Help us, Lord, to be faithful.*
- Reader 1:** At Auray the Brothers received their **Being Brothers**, so as to be worried about each other, to support each other and form a united body for mission and in dedication.  
**Reader 2:** We need your help to continue being united.  
**ALL:** *Help us, Lord, to be faithful.*
- Reader 1:** At Auray the Brothers were united in seeking the will of God by **professing obedience** to the superior.  
**Reader 2:** We need your help to continue being faithful.  
**ALL:** *Help us, Lord, to be faithful.*
- Reader 1:** Today the entire Mennaisian Family is placed in your hands, Lord, we ask you to accompany us, that we will be able to discover your ways so as to be signs of your love, of your affection and to be close to the young people of today, and be concerned for each one.  
**Reader 2:** We need your help, Lord.  
**ALL:** *Help us, Lord, to be faithful.*

*We can freely add other intentions....*

*We pray the **Our Father**.*



## Final Prayer.-



Lord Jesus, 200 years ago,  
Jean-Marie de la Mennais and Gabriel Deshayes  
saw the distress of children and of young people,  
“who were like sheep without a shepherd.”

Today, enlighten us and let us hear the cry of those  
who are still waiting for pastors with a generous heart.

Grant to all members of the Mennaisian family  
to rely on your mercy, in the unity of the same family.  
And give us the joy and the faith of writing a new page for the  
mission.

May the prayer of Mary  
help us to walk together in the paths of peace,  
and to announce with joy the Good News to the poor.

God Alone in time!  
God Alone in eternity!

***We end with a hymn to Jean Marie de la Mennais***



*Le 9 septembre 1820, dans cette chapelle,  
JEAN-MARIE de la MENNAIS  
( Vicaire Général de Saint-Brieuc )  
et GABRIEL DESHAYES  
( Curé d'Auray )  
donnent aux Frères de Ploërmel leur nom:  
FRÈRES de l'INSTRUCTION CHRÉTIENNE,  
leur devise : << DIEU SEUL >>  
et leur RÈGLE DE VIE.*

