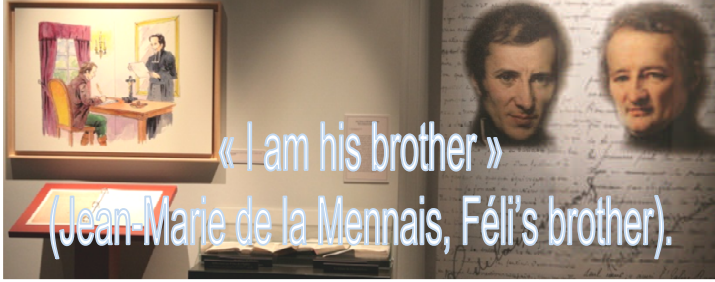


NOVENA - OCTOBER 2016



Introduction to novena in October 2016

"Since I am his brother"

"You are all brothers." It is true, we are universal brothers, we are brothers in God the Father of all; but Providence places us alongside the brothers who are "more of brothers" again: the brothers of our family, the brothers of our community, the people we meet in our daily life.

Jean-Marie de la Mennais also had "more brothers," especially his brother Félicité. A brother of great talent, a good soul promising renewal of the Church, a brother of great spiritual sensitivity, a brother who had started a fruitful collaboration ... and then a complete collapsing of all these promises. At the point of reaching a complete break, a total remoteness, a coldness of feeling and almost an aversion.

What could John Mary do towards his beloved brother? "Since I am his brother," the brotherhood of the heart, in the faith, had remained the only good to practise. And Jean-Marie loved his brother with brotherly love, hoping in him until the end, never resigning himself to desperation, by trying to establish all possible links, direct and indirect, and by loving him up to the end. Bro.

*Dino De Carolis, Postulator
postulatore@lamennais.org
Rome, 1st October 2016*

GUIDELINES FOR THE NOVENA

1. Read the proposed thoughts for the day .
2. The intercession for each day can be followed by personal intentions.
3. Pray for the known sick people who recommend themselves to the Founder (you can name them) .
4. Say together the prayer for the beatification.
5. Finish with an appropriate song adapted to the theme .

18th October, 2016

After the first condemnation of Féli by the Pope and the dispersal of the Congregation of Saint-Pierre, Jean-Marie wrote to Msgr Bruté who wanted a more severe accusation against Féli, following the publication of « Words of a believer » :

"True, we agree on everything else, but not on what we should do to the unfortunate Féli whom we love so dearly, and for whom we wish at any cost eternal salvation. You would like to go there with all your might, those are your personal expressions; personally, I fear that by striking the already severe wounds, we would make them worse, and render them incurable. I fear that such use of force would entrench our unfortunate straying person deeper into the wrong paths where he is walking and act more as an obstacle to his return rather than as a means of bringing him back."

To Bruté de Rémur, 1835

Lord, make us brothers by patience.

19th October 2016.

(Letter to Bruté continued)

"I love him too much to hide my tears from him and at no time did I withhold the truths of which I had to remind him. Still, I confess, my zeal was gentle: I kept the caution which charity demands of us all, and from me more than anyone else because I am his brother; but if I had acted differently, you would blame me yourself, and my conscience would reproach me today, thank God, it does not." To Bruté of Rémur 1835

Lord, make us brothers by faithfulness.

20th October 2016

Jean-Marie de la Mennais who was refused by his brother Féli, tries to maintain ties with him, through mutual friends.

"... The news that you are breaking to me is sad. It is absinthe hardly mixed with a few drops of honey. No doubt, faith is not completely extinguished in the heart of the one for whose errors we mourn, but what is left of it?

But please, do not give him up. I'm afraid your charity gets tired; it is hard to see loved ones insist on getting lost, despite everything we do to save them.! To Miss De Lucinière 1836

Lord, make us brothers by trying to find every means not to break the bonds.

21st October, 2016

After the publication of the book « Affaire de Rome » which was followed by harsh judgements of condemnation by the Church:

"Mine would be more severe, and I do think it just; but, my God, how painful is it for me to say so! Today throughout the poor Féli's writings there is a lot of sophism and indescribable words of bitterness that afflict. All this is not only written with infinite art and with a prodigious talent; but it is an evil and an additional danger! This is no longer our Féli of the past. Nevertheless, let us love him still as before and even more if possible ..." To Miss de Lucinière of 1836

Lord, make us brothers, beyond any judgements.

22nd October 2016

Jean-Marie de la Mennais tried to make a visit to his brother, but was spurned by him and his friends. He leaves him the following note:

"My dear Féli I leave Paris with great regret at not having seen you. You did not have to fear, however, that I have told you a word that could make you the least trouble. Be sure that nothing in the world can ever alter my friendship for you, that I will always be, whatever happens, your tenderest and most devoted friend." Jean-Marie to Féli 1840

Lord, make us brothers beyond even the refusal on the part of those we love.

23rd October 2016

Jean-Marie de la Mennais still continues to stay in touch with his brother by means of old friends of Feuillantines.

"Courage and patience, my great friend. Do not be discouraged. St. Monica obtained through prayer the conversion of his beloved Augustine only after eighteen years. However, Féli's health status worries me because the accidents he experiences are very serious, five months in captivity will be so long, so painful for him! Let us pray with more ardour than ever! "

To Miss De Lucinière 1840

Lord, make us brothers without ever getting discouraged and without putting an end to our contacts.

24th October 2016

Jean-Marie de la Mennais goes to meet his brother by giving him the heritage of La Chesnaie.

"I agreed with everything he wanted, he confessed to Miss De Lucinière, September 10, 1842. I offered him free use of La Chesnaie. I predict that he will ignore this delicacy and he will not even think of thanking me. But it is a souvenir that I throw into his heart. Perhaps one day I will meet it there? "

To Miss De Lucinière 1842

Lord, make us brothers even to the point of foregoing our reason and our rights

25th October 2016

The first thought after the stroke goes to his brother as soon as he recovers. It is a union that nothing can destroy in the heart of Jean and which becomes more and more spiritual.

"My dear Féli before yesterday, I was struck, at the altar by an attack of apoplexy and paralysis that almost killed me. I am better now, but still a small distance from the gates of eternity. I really thought of you, at the moment that I believed to be the last. I felt the need to tell you that my friendship for you, which has never altered or weakened, is more alive than ever, and my heart is full of desire for us to be together one day in heaven, as we have been so long and so happily on the earth by the same faith. I embrace you cordially. Your brother, Jean."

To Féli, 1847 after the stroke of Guingamp

Lord, make us brothers by hoping until the end through prayer and perseverance.

26th October 2016

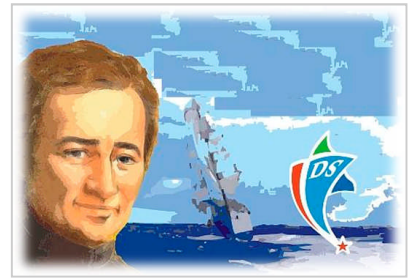
Until the end, Jean-Marie de la Mennais tries to meet his sick and ageing brother. He wants to go to Paris to find Féli and make him return to the faith.

"For three weeks, I can not sleep any more; the most painful worries torment me. I most ardently desire to go to Paris, and I can not. Say to my poor Féli on my behalf all I would say to him if I was there. Beg him, nay beseech him on my behalf to think of his soul, of the Church he loved so much, of his poor elder brother who loves him more than ever, and who begs him to call close to him a friendly priest full of faith and charity that he may be for him as another brother. "

To Féli, 1854.

Lord, make us brothers in hope against despair.

**Prayer
for the beatification
and canonization
of John Mary de la Mennais**



O God, our Father!
You have aroused Jean-Marie
de la Mennais

and You gave him a fiery zeal and iron courage
in the service of the Gospel.

Through him, you have given birth in the Church
to two congregations devoted to Christian education
of the little ones and of the poor.

Grant us to be faithful to the spirit of our Father.
May his charism of founder be constantly deepened
and developed in our religious family
and throughout the Mennaisian family.

By his prayer, grant us the gift of a new Pentecost
that transforms our hearts and make us bolder

to make Jesus Christ

and his Gospel known to the children
and the young people of today.

For the glory of your Name,
let the holiness of our Father

be recognised and proclaimed by the Church.

Hear also the prayer we address
to you now through his intercession ...
(time of silence)

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

*Brother Dino De Carolis,
Postulator
postulatore@lamennais.org
Rome, the 1th october 2016*

*Brother Provincial / Visitor
Brothers and the Laity of the Mennaisian Family.
Find enclosed herewith the presentation of the Novena of
the month of October, 2016.*

*Every two months, a complementary bulletin will be
attached to the novena as it was done for the month of
September.*

*The Provincials / Visitors are invited to nominate a
correspondent who will be responsible for giving me the
names of people for whom the Province or District has
decided to pray.*

*I shall compile a list of these people and each month I
will select 2 or 3 of them to be included in the Novena.*

*Looking forward to your cooperation,
Union of prayers for the beatification of our Venerable
Father de la Mennais.*

*Bro. Dino De Carolis,
Postulator*

