

CARISMA MENNESIANO



Dio + Solo



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What is missing to the Cause of Jean-Marie De La Mennais? A miracle recognized by the Church.

It has been over a hundred years since 1955, the second being recent. The first healing concerned a little girl, formally introduced (March the 21st 1911). Josette Poulain, from Combourg (France) Fifty years have gone by since the proclamation of the Decree of the Heroic Virtues (December the 15th 1966). A lengthy period which could tempt us into giving way to discouragement and giving up on a commitment which seems to produce no tangible results. How is it that we have not moved further? The only reason lies in the fact that we have not managed yet to secure the formal recognition of a miracle attributed to the direct intercession of Jean-Marie. For that purpose, two cases of miraculous healing have been submitted to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. The first, now ancient, dates back to 1955, the second being recent. The first healing concerned a little girl, Josette Poulain, from Combourg (France) who was suffering from head injury following an accident. As she was pronounced to be in her terminal stage, she was transported to the Daughters of Providence hospital. The surgeon summoned for an operation that should have saved the little girl's life saw that there was no need to carry out a surgery (trepaning) as Josette appeared in perfect health. The prayers of intercession by the Daughters of Providence, the presence of an image of the Father De La Mennais under the pillow, testify to the explicit appeal to the Founder to intercede. The postulator at the time, brother

Hyppolyte-Victor, has gathered the various new documentation so as to complement the testimonies and he has requested the diocese of Rennes to open a diocesan process. It was held near the diocesan curia of Rennes according to the rules of procedure. The formal copy of the Deeds was sent to the Sacred Congregation of Rites in Rome. This copy (called *transunto*) was examined by the Congregation whose seal it bears, under the responsibility of the notary, Monsignor Cocchetti. An informal consultation was made then with three Italian doctors recommended by the Sacred Congregation of Rites. They did not come up with matching conclusions. As a result the dossier was registered as «non open» in the archives of Rome on grounds that remain unclear: one was reluctant to deal with the recognition of the heroic virtues with the dismissal of a miracle, the documentation was incomplete, a few doctors denied the inexplicable character of the healing. The truth is that the dossier Josette Poulain has been lying dormant in the archives of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome ever since.

The first dossier. Then we will comply with the wishes of the leaders of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

The second healing case concerns the young Argentine Enzo Carollo. We all know that in January 2016, the consultation of the doctors resulted in an unfavourable verdict (two experts issued a positive verdict against five with a negative one). This dossier seems to be closed; however the leaders of the Congregation for the causes of Saints were favourably impressed by the magnitude of the task undertaken by the two postulators who worked on this healing case: brother Delfín López and brother Gil Rozas. So it has been suggested to us to have the dossier examined by another doctor who could give another pronouncement.

This is how things stand to this day: the situation of the cause as regards the «miracle». But apart from this work which is under the responsibility of the postulation (it does not rule out the search for documents and testimonies by brothers or people who can do so on the place where the healing was obtained). What can we do? Here are a few indications that are worth considering for all, brothers, sisters, laypeople of the Mennaisian Sisters of Providence, are trying to prepare a family:

At the moment we are trying to take up this dossier, being counselled by authorized members of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Together with a few brothers and Sisters of Providence, are trying to prepare a family:

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1 - The prayer to obtain the miracle through the intercession of Jean-Marie

A miraculous healing is an intervention by God. "Ask and it will be given to you". God is all powerful. Faith in him makes us small and trustful. It is true that medicine has made huge progress, but if a healing depends on the will of God, his «inexplicable» intervention can always happen. To pray for a healing is not a magical rite, but the simple invocation of a son to his father who wants the good of his children. A physical healing is always a fitting deed from God and an act of confidence from us his children. It is a gift from God which we must regard as a sign and a call for our inner healing.

The prayer is also our way to express the love we bear to the sick people: what more can we give them? It is true that the ways of God are mysterious but his will can also include the restoration of health for the good of the people.

2 - To persevere in the intercession of the Father De La Mennais

We ask ourselves; is the intercession of Jean-Marie that powerful ? But perhaps the

³ question is rather; «Do we really believe that the intercession of the Founder is strong enough to obtain a miracle?» The Church has recognized his heroic virtues: so he is in heaven close to God. He can do everything through God. But it is up to us his «children» to ask for his intercession.

We have to ask, we have to ask for more: it is the sign of our faith . Then let us pray through the intercession of Jean-Marie; with the novena, the customary invocation, by using the image of the Founder, by spreading the knowlege of our Founder. We must pray together and for all to see, so as to testify that our prayers have had an explicit reference to him. He is indeed our protector and we are his beloved children.

3 - Finally, if the Lord grants us such a magnificent «grace», let us search for all the documents and let us report this new healing to the Postulation.

Fratel Dino De Carolis.



Blessing? Healing? Miracle? granted through the intercession of Jean-Marie De La Mennais

(Willimantic, Connecticut, USA, on October the first, 1977).

The person concerned tells about her healing:

«At the age of 6 or 7, I had whooping cough. I was very ill for several weeks. In the last few days, I was racked with a terrible cough, even spitting blood during those exhausting coughing-fits. The doctor treating me finally told my mother that the end was near and that most probably I would not live through the night.

«In our family we had the image of the venerable Jean-Marie de la Mennais, we all felt an extraordinary confidence in his powerful intercession with God.

«The evening the doctor told my mother that the end was near and that I would not live through the night, my mother was so distressed that she forgot about the image of the Venerable de la Mennais. I was coughing so much that I could not sleep. Suddenly I remembered that we had forgotten to place the image under my pillow. I called mother, who was then busy with the other children. «Try to take the image yourself and ask for your healing». I was very weak and this simple gesture was almost beyond my strength. Finally I managed to do it. Holding the image in my hands, after kissing it, I begged the good Father that he would intercede with God for my healing. I placed the image under my pillow and fell asleep immediately. I did not cough of the night, thus relieving my father and my mother who in turns were sitting up with me giving me comfort. The following day, the doctor called as he was accustomed to and found me sitting in my bed, smiling, holding the image of Jean-Marie de la Mennais in my hands. I had been healed.

«The doctor affirmed that this was a miracle, for he was firmly convinced that I had neither the strength nor the resistance to endure other crises for a whole night. »

(testimony gathered by brother Jean-Charles Bertrand, page 61)