

1819 - 2019  
Una nuova pagina



## FEBRUARY 2018 BULLETIN THE DEVOTION TO THE FOUNDER A LONG LIVING TRADITION

Everyone is born into a family. We, Mennaisians, are also born into a family with people who gave birth to our charism and founded our religious communities.

At the very beginning, God opened to our founders, Father Deshayes and Father de la Mennais, a new path in the Church: a mission, a spirituality, a fraternity and especially a presence, many are those who responded and embraced this vocation in a personal way.

All this forms a living tradition which, like a river, has made the history of the Mennaisian Family fruitful to date.

This leads us to refer often to our origins, not only for historical research or interpretation of the charism, but for personal contact, through the heart, prayer, listening and imitating our founders. Father de la Mennais and Father Deshayes are those whom God has chosen to open this path. They responded above all by their personal holiness and they accompanied this Mennaisian Family with wisdom, gentleness and firmness.

So many consecrated Brothers and Sisters, and Laity, then took up the inspiration of the Founders, introducing it to new historical periods and new lands. We know the difficulties encountered on this path: the expansion in Brittany, the missions on the various continents, all this through obstacles and dangers of all kinds, the persecutions that almost put an end to the Congregation, new impulses of evangelization, the contexts of secularization ... And yet we know that the Mennaisian Congregations are still alive. Even today, after these two centuries of a glorious past, we have, as John Paul II affirmed, a great history before us.

Faced with the danger of discouragement - the increase in old age, the decline of vocations in Western countries, the difficulties of evangelization in the field of education ... we are certain that the Mennaisian tradition is still alive. Alive because it was and is still willed by the Holy Spirit. Alive because the Charism left to us by our Founders is alive in the hearts of the Brothers and Sisters, Lay people and Students. Alive because the signs of vitality, the seeds of holiness and apostolic mission are obvious and always stronger among young people and children. Alive because our Founders and our brethren in heaven guide us, protect us and accompany us with their prayers. Alive because the Mennaisian Charism is alive in each of us, the members of this great family.

*fratel Dino De Carolis*