



In view of the celebration of the second century of the founding of the Brothers of Christian Instruction and the Daughters of Providence, in agreement with the Superiors of the Congregation, the Postulation wants to give a more direct contribution to the development of the devotion to our Founder, Jean Marie de la Mennais.

In what does this “devotion” consist, a word of ancient flavour, but full of content of affection, of trust, of paternity and affiliation? The devotion to the Founder consists in basing our filial relationship on him, on his person, and on his heart. It means having a genuine affection in him, like a son to his father; to know that he has a special love towards each one of us his children; to have trust in him at all moments; to ask for his protection, his comfort in difficult times; thank him for having given us his spiritual paternity: to have in him such a confidence as to have recourse to his intercession towards the Father, the only giver of gifts and even in impossible requests.

Why is this devotion so beautiful and important?

The answer is simple: because our “Father”, as the first Brothers used to call him, loves us and he has given up his life for us. His words are full emotion.

« I only dream of Brittany, of friends and of the children I left there (...) and at this sweet memory, my tears flow in abundance. » Never did I feel how dear you were to me and how far my happiness was connected to yours (...) For you I sacrificed my tastes, my affections and my rest” (to the Daughters of Providence)

And for the Brothers he writes: The only regret I feel is that I cannot live near them, or rather with them and like them.”

If the Father loves us thus, and if from heaven he always manifests this paternal relation to us, our response consists in loving him in turn like sons: to think about him, to have him before our eyes, to imitate him, to have recourse to him at all times, to renew our impetus of the response to our vocation, to work for the good of the Congregation with this sweet filial confidence.

In this perspective, we shall seek to develop the devotion to the Founder especially at the occasion of these particular year.