

# Bulletin of October 2019

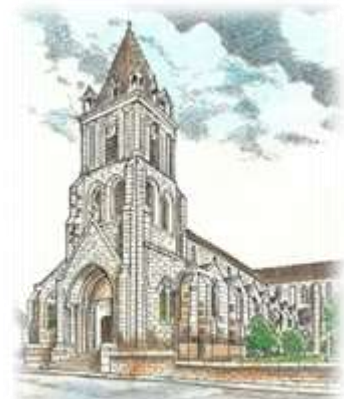
## THE ECHO OF THE ALLEGEDLY MIRACULOUS CURE OF JOSETTE POULAIN

The cure of little Josette Poulain immediately had a very important echo, especially in the two institutions of Combourg, the clinic and the school, both headed by the Daughters of Providence of Saint-Brieuc. The unpredictable, rapid and obvious healing, the stupor of the physician who had followed the event from the beginning, as well as the people present, the conviction and the fervor of prayer through the intercession of Father de la Mennais, were all elements that persuaded the witnesses to feel particularly favoured.

Here is how the Parish Priest of Combourg, Father André Jehannin, diocesan priest, presents this event: *"I only got to know the facts after the accident, and I did not attribute any great importance to it. It was only when I passed at the clinic a few days later that I was told about it... I think it was the school Sisters who told me about it first, then the Sisters of the clinic, but especially those of the school who were impressed by the facts; they remained stunned. The Sisters spoke of a miracle obtained through the intercession of Father de la Mennais. They prayed because she was one of their students. They had brought Jean Marie de La Mennais' picture to the girl."*

Indeed, we saw the fervour of the prayer of the Sisters of the school community, especially of Sister Madeleine and of the Superior. In the same way, all the children of the school were involved in the prayer through the intercession of Father de la Mennais, in favour of one of their little friends in danger. After the healing we had the feeling of having obtained a grace from heaven. "The next day, I told the children:" Thank Father de la Mennais for what we got." Likewise, Marie-Ange Guitton who had followed the whole process, from the accident to the healing, made this observation: *"I know that the Sisters of the school prayed Father de la Mennais for the little girl. I found the healing really singular. I did not talk of the miracle to the Mother, because she would have made fun of me; in fact she is not practicing."* Similarly, Mrs. Lambert says: *"My daughter (Marie-Ange Guitton) was surprised that the girl healed so quickly. I too was surprised by such a quick recovery and by the fact that this accident did not leave any scars."*

*"At the clinic itself, the sequence of events and the attention paid to the girl's health had not prevented her from praying with confidence to Father de la Mennais. The children of the school had to pray too. I knew that at the clinic the Mother Superior had also prayed."* Thus the Superior, Sister Stanislas-Kostka, concludes: *"We (the Sisters of the clinic), saw that there was a favor from Father de La Mennais."* The conviction of having witnessed an extraordinary event in the cure of the girl is confirmed by this episode: "These events were reported to our Mother General who came to the clinic during the days following the cure. And it was she who had to telephone the Postulator."



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The Mother General at that time, Sister Mary of Carmel, was also surprised by the exceptional nature of the event, she discerned something miraculous, which, in any case, deserved to be studied more thoroughly. She immediately contacted the postulator of the cause of Jean-Marie de la Mennais. In those years, Brother Hippolyte-Victor Géréux was the postulator of the Brothers of Christian Instruction of Ploërmel, a Congregation founded in 1819 by Jean-Marie de la Mennais and Gabriel Deshayes. Brother Hippolyte-Victor had taken very seriously the cause of the Servant of God, opened in 1911 in the diocese of Vannes, France, and brought to Rome after the diocesan process, the examination of writings and the decree of *non cultu*.