

BULLETIN OF NOVEMBER 2018

After a postponement of dates, Josette Poulain's healing process will take place in November, the traditional month of the great Mennaisian Novena of the Northern Hemisphere. We must pray a great deal for this healing to be officially recognised by the Church: it will give a new impetus to the ever-living charism of the Mennaisian mission and spirit.

The November novena will be the first great novena after the General Chapter of 2018 and the beginning of the various events planned as part of the bicentenary of the founding of the Congregation. The central goal of this celebration is summarised in the expression "*Open a new page*".

Focusing on our Founder, we would like to draw our attention to the "first page" of our charism, which has lasted for two hundred years, a sign of its vitality in the Church and society. Already in 1819, this page was "*new*":

- *New*, because there were no religious teachers in the world, except the small group of de la Salle Brothers.

- *New*, because the educational mission of the Brothers and the Daughters of Providence was to adapt to the new demands of the mission, in a Europe which was already starting to move away from the Christian faith, to build a society in which the Church and Christian culture were increasingly marginalised and condemned to insignificance.

- *New*, because new were the means to evangelisation: not only a catechesis within the Christian people, but an evangelisation within the structures of society through a culture and a civilization inspired by faith.

- *New*, because the Holy Spirit renews everything and is full of God's creativity: a novelty that has given rise to the Mennaisian charism, incarnated in Jean Marie, with the consistent contribution of Fr. Deshayes, his brother Féli, and the first Brothers and Daughters of Providence .

Now it is a matter of opening a new page, as it has already been done in other dramatic or glorious times of our Congregations. Today is the time for the "new evangelisation" and this is what needs to be done. A "*new*" mission:

- *New*, because now society is no longer guided by Christian values, and it is a question of assuming a missionary attitude of "going out", of announcing faith to the peripheries, which are often existential peripheries.

- *New*, because it is necessary to invent new ways and styles, to announce the Gospel of Jesus to young people, through the rediscovery of the meaning of life, culture, daily life, vital experiences, forms of self-giving and so many paths illuminated by faith.

- *New*, because new people are needed, who know how to translate the Gospel by means of knowledge and education, and who enthusiastically put themselves into the great adventure of accompanying today's youth, who are fragile but always generous and full of big dreams, to the long, patient and fraternal faith..

It is necessary to pray a lot to the Master of the harvest because the field of the mission is great and the workers are few. But it is also true that, if the charism is strong and clear, young people will feel called to "give a hand" and to enthusiastically commit themselves to this mission. They will see there an exciting adventure, for which it is worth to offer one's life.

At the time of Jean-Marie the young people were attracted by the beauty of the Mennaisian dream and so it is today. For this reason, let us pray together, with conviction, for these two intentions: the recognition of the holiness of Jean-Marie and the birth of new vocations.