

January 2020 Bulletin

The presentation of the Healing of Josette POULAIN

While he was intent on this rather substantial and demanding work of historical research, the postulator received the communication from the Mother General, Sister Marie du Carmel. It was in the year 1955, at the end of January. He too soon realized that the case of Josette could have the possibility of a particular intervention. He was so convinced of this extraordinary event that he immediately gathered extensive documentation. He requested all the witnesses of the event to write their memories, to answer a series of questions he had prepared, to provide medical documentation and to report the prayers carried out on that occasion. In the following months he received various written responses that persuaded him even more to carry out the examination of this healing. Brother Hippolyte-Victor also asked for a piece of advice from the Sacred Congregation of Rites, which gave him the addresses of some Doctors to consult: Doctors Capocaccia, Sympa and Scarafoni. Their opinions were rather encouraging, especially those of the first two. The answers came quite early in the year 1955.

The postulator devoted himself to finding witnesses and written documents, to make contact with the Archbishop of Rennes (diocese of which Combourg is part), Cardinal Roques. A vice-postulator was appointed, Father Emmanuel Tanguy, of Rennes, who followed closely the various phases of the diocesan canonical process "super miro". After sending the "supplex libellus" the ecclesiastical court was established in the curia of Rennes. The first session was opened on the 17th January 1957. 13 witnesses were heard from Sessio II to Sessio IX. Various written documents and medical reports with x-rays were presented.

The closing session took place on the 24th June 1957.

The dossier was collected in three copies. The original remained in Rennes in the diocesan archives of the curia; the "transunto", duly approved as conforming to the original, was brought to Rome to the Congregation of Rites, through the "bearer" delegate, Emmanuel Tanguy. The public copy was deposited at the Postulation of the Brothers of the Christian Instruction of Ploërmel, in Rome, at that time residing in via Colautti, n.9; now Via della Divina Provvidenza, 44.

The last two copies of the Josette Poulain of Rennes Dossier were received by the Chancellor of the Congregation of Rites, O (Horatius). Cocchetti. The public copy and the transunto were translated into Latin for the procedural parts, in Italian for the parts of the testimonial and documentary evidence. In the appendix, in addition to the medical card and radiographs, we find the findings of the Doctors in the original French. The final date of the public copy is November 21, 1962. We recall that in the meantime, Brother Hippolyte-Victor Gèreux had died (1958) and the new postulator, Brother Potier Gabriel, was above all busy preparing for the proclamation of the heroic nature of virtues, the proclamation which took place on December 15, 1966, while Cardinal Larraona was prefect, by Pope St. Paul VI.