

The Church is particularly anxious that this society should allow free expansion to her treasure, ever ancient and ever new, namely faith, and that your souls may be able to bask freely in its helpful light. She has confidence that you will find such strength and such joy that you will not be tempted, as were some of your elders, to yield to the seductions of egoistic or hedonistic philosophies or to those of despair and annihilation, and that in the face of atheism, a phenomenon of lassitude and old age, you will know how to affirm your faith in life and in what gives meaning to life, that is to say, the certitude of the existence of a just and good God.

"It is in the name of this God and of His Son, Jesus, that we exhort you to open your hearts to the dimensions of the world, to heed the appeal of your brothers, to place your youthful energies at their service. Fight against egoism. Refuse to give free course to the instincts of violence and hatred which beget wars and all their train of miseries. Be generous, pure, respectful, and sincere, and build in enthusiasm a better world than your elders had."

### The Word of Jean-Marie de la Mennais

With these words, Jean-Marie was addressing the seminarians to exhort them to become holy priests. These are precious recommendations to all: he specially recalls the secret to follow Jesus: to stand by Him in the shadow of the tabernacle.

*"Frail hope of the clergy, you are dear to us, my children. Oh, that you could feel all the greatness, all the value of your budding vocation and respond faithfully without fail! If you want to persevere, begin at an early age to acquire the virtues that will one day open the door of the sanctuary. Be fervent Christians at an early age, if you want to become holy priests one day... We want to bring you up under the protection of Jesus in the tabernacle"*

Inauguration of the minor seminary of Treguier. Ant. p.317

**Lord, help all young people to have a personal and intimate relationship with you, that you may be for them the Way, the Truth and the Life.**

### Prayer for the beatification and canonization of Jean-Marie de la Mennais

God our Father,  
you gave Jean-Marie de la Mennais,  
a generous heart and an unwavering zeal  
to make known and loved your Son Jesus  
and his Gospel.

Grant us to follow his example.

Give us to build united  
and fraternal Communities.

Help us to proclaim your Gospel  
to the youth of today.

For the glory of your Name,  
grant that the holiness  
of Jean-Marie de la Mennais  
may soon be recognised  
and proclaimed by the Church.

Deign to grant us,

O Lord, through his intercession,  
the healing of the persons recommended ...

Through Jesus Christ,  
our Lord. Amen.

O Lord Jesus,  
glorify your Servant  
the Venerable

Jean-Marie de la Mennais



The works of Jean-Marie were mostly aimed at little children in primary schools or at teenagers in a few schools established in town. But his most frequent contacts were with young people. It is with them that he had his first-hand experience as an educator and a teacher, at the College of Saint-Malo; in the Marian Congregations he would meet young people mainly, whom he prepared to embrace a form of Christian life that was demanding.

At this age, young people, once they are trained to a solid and fervent spiritual life, turn to make the choice to follow Jesus a reality in their personal life; that is to say they embark on a search for the will of God on them and discern their own vocation. One of the most delicate and precious services which Jean-Marie offered, particularly through the animation of groups, was to help them in their search for their vocation. This should be the ultimate objective of all Christian formation: Jean-Marie carried it out with special care.

### Sunday June the 18th 2017

Jean-Marie implements a pastoral approach to the youth that is quite down-to-earth. The ultimate objective being the discovery and choice of their vocation by each one, because this calling embodies the will of God in every human life. Each person through their own calling discovers their own mission and their personal and unique identity.

*«Remember that your salvation depends on the choices you will make now concerning your state of life. If you do not follow the one chosen for you by God, he has the right to abandon you and refuse the special protection that he grants those who have no other desire but the accomplishment of his holy and adorable will. To the «Congreganists» of S-Brieuc; Ant. p 328*

**Jesus, help the young people we encounter discover their own vocation, that is to say the dream of God on each of them**

### Monday June the 19th 2017

Jean-Marie points out, as the primary means to discover one's own vocation, the trustful and filial prayer. It is through silence, listening, inner life and availability that the discreet and respectful voice of God who invites us to follow the road he points to can be heard.

*«How will you discover the will of God for you? My children, this is how: Address yourself to him with tender and lively trust. Say as David did: «Show me, my God, the road I must walk», or as Samuel: «Speak, Lord, reveal to me the*

designs that you have on my soul for I am ready to hear and obey you regardless of the sacrifices you will require of me.» Ant p 328

**Lord, help young people discover the joy and beauty of prayer, through which we enter into the heart of our being as sons of God, infinitely loved by the Father and ready to do his will.**

### Tuesday June the 20th 2017

Beyond the first stage of prayer, Jean-Marie gives us a variety of ways to discover our own vocation: It is a path of experimentation which consists in self-giving, ministering to the poor, partaking in sacraments, self-denial and the joy of love.

«Join prayer to your good works, and practise penance. And especially offer Holy Communion for this intention and rest assured that God would not refuse to enlighten you.» Ant p 328

**Lord, help us with young people to walk the road of service, mercy and self-giving, that they may depart from the Eucharist, sacrament of love to the extreme, and return to it.**

### Wednesday June the 21st 2017

One practice that has often been overlooked, which Jean-Marie, a great «connoisseur» of the soul of young people, invites us to rediscover is the spiritual accompaniment (spiritual counselling). Young people need guides on their road of initiation and above all they need fatherly support, because faith and vocation are transmitted through generation, as life is.

«After having fulfilled this first duty

2 towards God, consult the ministers he has chosen as guides and bearers of his counsels. (...) Too frequently, we consult them only to confirm resolutions already taken, and the confessor does not dare contradict the one who asks counsel only as a formality and not to learn if the decision were contrary to an irrevocable action already taken.» Ant p 328

**Lord, help us be true fathers to young people, pass on to them the treasures of our heart and our faith, guide them not only towards what pleases them but towards the great and luminous plan the Father has on them.**

### Thursday June the 22nd 2017

The vocation grows within the family. Jean-Marie attaches great importance to young people having exchanges with their parents, to this exchange between generations which helps young people refer to the experience of those who love them, and which helps parents steer their children not towards prestige and worldly efficiency but towards their real good.

«You should secondly consult your mother and father because they are your first superiors. It is true that if they were not so taken up with worldly occupations, you could tell them like the apostles: is it correct that we should obey you rather than God? You must at least listen to them, think over their reasoning, and obey when you have no stronger arguments to present.» Ant p 328

**Lord, bless our families, let them be filled with faith and love; help parents make their children grow in the service of God and the others.**

### Friday June 23rd 2017

Jean-Marie has no hesitation in proposing with courage the choice of states of life: for each of them to realise the vocation that is suited to their talents and potential. No vocation is excluded and the state of consecration features in this choice.

«Finally, you must test yourself, that is, seriously examine which state is the one in which you could best glorify God; the one in which you could best assure your salvation; the one that is better suited to the qualities of your spirit and heart.» Ant p 328

**Lord, help us and the young people we encounter give our life for the glory of God that his mercy glow and for the salvation of all that each be blessed with the gifts of his grace.**

### Saturday June the 24th 2017

To complete his vocational proposition, Jean-Marie exhorts us to follow a great master of spiritual discernment: Saint Ignatius of Loyola. Let us heed his counsels which bring us back to the true and eternal core of great decisions

«If after all this you are still uncertain, St Ignatius recommends that you ask yourself these two questions: What would I recommend to another if he were in my place? Towards which kind of life would I direct him? What would I say to another is what I should tell myself. Which state of life would I have wanted to be in at the moment of my death? At that moment I will see things the way they are, and neither my passions nor my prejudices of the world would influence my reasoning. I want to live in the state where I would be comfortable at death.» Ant p 328

**Lord, help all young people with their choices of life. Make them find references with the features of the genuine good and the challenge of eternity.**

### Sunday June the 25th 2017

The ultimate choice, Jean-Marie reminds us, will be made in the heart-to-heart dialogue with Jesus. He calls us by our name to follow him. He looks at each young one with love and has on them a life plan which will fill their existence with fruit, with good and true happiness.

«I will not tell you more, my children; it is up to the Lord to tell you the rest. You will be comfortable wherever he will have placed you, if you are faithful to your vocation.» Ant p 345

**Jesus, you who call your disciples by their name, You who have looked with kindness in the eyes at the young man in search of direction to his life, make each young one hear your voice, sow into their heart the desire of the infinite that they may follow you on the road of the great adventure of love.**

### Monday June the 26th 2017

**The Word of God** (Mk 10, 17-21)

17 He was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?'

18 Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.'

19 You know the commandments: You shall not kill; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not give false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.'

20 And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these since my earliest days.'

21 Jesus looked steadily at him and he was filled with love for him, and he said, 'You need to do one thing more. Go and sell what you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.'

**The Word of the Church** (Message of the Vatican Council to the youth of today, December 8, 1965)

«The Church is anxious that this society that you are going to build up should respect the dignity, the liberty, and the rights of individuals. These individuals are you.