

## The follow-up to the recognition of the healing

Substantially, brother Hippolyte-Victor Géréux understood that it was better to wait until the consultants of the Sacred Congregation of Rites could make a judgment, in view of the new clarification on the spiritual and human personality of the Servant of God: the moment had therefore, not yet come.

He therefore embarked on completing the historical research work of which he was convinced of its necessity. Meanwhile, Josette's dossier remained in the Archives awaiting either a more favorable moment or the arrival of a new miracle essential for the beatification, according to the requirements of the time.

What happened then? Those years were not easy for the Church. After the great renovation of Vatican Council II, came difficult years and great upheavals: disorientation, decline in religious practices in an increasingly secularized context, crisis of Religious Congregations and decline in vocations. Despite everything, thanks to the deepening of the charism and to the return to the origins, thanks to the proclamation of the new blessed and saints by the Popes, in particular John Paul II, the reality of holiness was brought to light, as a multiform action, founder and fruitful, of the Holy Spirit in the Church. In the Congregations founded by Jean-Marie de la Mennais, there was also a return to the origins of the charism, a rediscovery of the spirituality of the Founder and of its actuality. Prayers, signs of devotion, novenas, pilgrimages... have developed in the various parts of the Congregation.

Holiness was no longer seen as something superfluous, reserved for exceptional souls, but the sign of God acting, of his wisdom, of his love: a call for all, "the eminent model of Christian life". The word "devotion" to the Founder has been given new meaning. The saints have once again become a call for all to follow the "Only Saint", Jesus. Devotion has spread to the laity of the Mennaisian Family who have discovered the importance of the Founder.

Pictures and souvenirs multiplied. The places of origins were also valued; devotion spread not only to Consecrated Persons, but also to Lay people who were inspired by the Charism and who made part of the Family. Thus, the figure of the founder took on greater depth and weight of witness!

We find an echo of this change in a "Letter from the Postulator" written in 1990 by Brother Vincent Guillerm, postulator at the time, in which reference is made to the difficulty of recognizing the healing of Josette Poulain as miraculous. It is justified by relying on the informal judgment of a "member of the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints:" on the grounds that it lacks indisputable proof of the true nature of the evil, that is to say, an x-ray of the skull fracture." There are, however, intracranial hematomas in which the fracture of the skull bones is not verified, either because of the type of fall in the specific context, or because of the very young age of the child. "

Then the postulator explains the merits of the glorification of the Founder: "This is not an essential element for holiness and for the work of education and evangelization of our institutes. We know how to recognize with simplicity that it can be a way to give thanks to God for what he has accomplished in them, a way also to create a new impulse of faith and generosity in the context where the Founder acted and gave the example: institutes, parishes, various places... We must not refuse these means, under the pretext of avoiding triumphalism."

Pope John Paul II himself shows us the models, witnesses and intercessors whose role is important for those who still militate on earth. Let us therefore renew our confidence and our prayer that our founders de la Mennais and Deshayes be proposed for veneration and set an example for the whole Church. » (Br. Vincent Guillerm).