

In order to be able to follow up the case of Josette's cause in France, Brother Michel Bouvais was appointed Vice-Postulator. He started by making sure Josette was still alive. Before being able to meet her and explain the situation regarding the cause that was under investigation, it was necessary to find out where she now lived, but also to plan how to raise the matter of the cause with her. It was known that she had returned to Combourg after having worked practically all her life in Paris as a domestic servant and in cleaning companies. She had remained single and had no children.

Meeting her would not be easy, because it meant reminiscing with her about a childhood that had been difficult both economically and emotionally. The Vice-Postulator's first actual contact, on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017, did not go particularly well. Josette contented herself with only opening the door enough to say that her mother was in the cemetery opposite the house, and that she didn't want to know anything about the story of the healing. An alternative tactic would have to be put in place.

To this end, a search was undertaken for people who had remained in contact with her in one way or another. The Daughters of Providence were also contacted as they knew her well.

This avenue of investigation proved to be particularly successful with a number of Sisters being able to help: Sr. Jean, the former Superior General, Sr. Maryvonne, who had worked in the Saint-Joseph clinic where Josette's healing had taken place, Sr. Bouilliou, Sr. Saint-Augustin who had known her at the school for domestic servants, Sr. Saint-François de Sales, the only direct witness, and other Daughters of Providence who had remained in contact with direct witnesses of the event.

This essential work of contacting people was largely undertaken by Bro. Michel Bouvais who accompanied the postulator to various Mennaisian places in Brittany between the end of December and the beginning of January 2017. Others who assisted with arranging a meeting with Josette included various inhabitants of Combourg who knew the Poulain family well, Mr. Joucan (a member of the local parish), Mr. Pierre Plusquellec (former director of the Saint Gilduin school who proved to be particularly valuable, being the architect of the merger of the Brothers' school with that of the Daughters of Providence in 1974), Bro. François Quéménéur and Mr. Loaec. It is thanks to these people that we were able to finally meet Josette properly on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

This time the meeting proceeded far more peacefully. Josette received Bro. Dino and Bro. Michel on the ground floor of her modest house. They were accompanied by Sr. Jeannette Bouilliou, Yves Joucan and Pierre Plusquellec. She quietly listened to information relating to the revival of the Cause in which she was personally involved. She agreed to collaborate by answering the Postulator's questions, while apologising for not remembering anything at all. However, as the conversation progressed, memories started to come back.

When Bro. Dino showed her the traditional image of Jean-Marie she reacted because this image reminded her of something. She remembered that a similar picture had been put under her pillow the day of the accident. Her visitors left without seeking any further information from her for now. Her initial mistrust had given way to the start of a promising collaboration. Other visits would follow, allowing the Brothers to keep in touch with her.

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Bro. Dino and Bro. Michel Bouvais were received by the Archbishop of Rennes, Mgr. D'Ornellas to inform him of the resumption of the examination of the presumed miraculous healing of Josette Poulain which had occurred in his diocese. He was very happy to learn of this initiative which he believed could stimulate a renewal of faith in Brittany and also allow a fresh look at the controversial figure of Féli Lamennais.