



3

**For life**  
They're committed



3

**Summer**  
Key dates



**CHAPTER 2024**  
**They bear witness  
to shared hope**

63 Brothers and lay people attended the General Chapter in Ariccia, Italy, from March 25 to April 25. New Rule of Life, orientations for the Congregation and the Mennaisian Family, projects and explanations. They tell us about it. Find out more on P. 9

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## Editorial

## A Chapter to be lived day by day!

The 2024 General Chapter was a high point and a moment of grace for our Institute and the Mennaisian Family. We listened to each other and to the Holy Spirit. Thanks to Mary's presence, prayer and intercession, we experienced a new Pentecost, where the fire of the Spirit transformed our frailties into solid fraternal communion, and our shyness into courageous daring to step out and embrace the future with confidence and hope.

Magnificat, because God continues to be at work in our Institute and the Mennaisian Family. His Spirit has given us the gift of listening to one another, of seeking consensus and of listening to the cries, sometimes barely audible, of those who cry out for help.

What a wonderful experience of synodality our Chapter has been! What a marvellous feast of fraternity we have lived and celebrated!

May we put this Chapter into practice every day, responding to the call :

- from Pope Francis, who invites us to be fathers to those to whom we are sent, fathers who reflect the loving and compassionate face of God, and to cultivate a passion for service, humility, trust in God and the joy of being servants of his tenderness and mercy;
- of the Capitulants, who encourage us to keep starting afresh, to keep refocusing on what's essential: Jesus Christ, and to make our Rule a way of life, a way we can live together every day.

Let us learn, at Mary's school and invitation, to do whatever the Lord asks of us through this Chapter. This is the call to live each day, with joy and fidelity, if we want to be servants of hope!



**Bro. Hervé Zamor, s.g.**  
superioregenerale@lamennais.org

## 4 Canadian Centenarians in the Congregation

Brother LEBLANC Roger turned 105 on November 30, 2023

Brother DOUCET Emilien will be 102 on August 7, 2024

Brother Marcel E. MATTE will be 101 on July 5, 2024

Brother Normand DESSUREAULT joined the FIC centenarians' club on March 3.

**La Mennais**

VIEW PHOTOS



**Bro. Roger LEBLANC** continues his momentum and sets the record for the entire history of the Congregation: 105 years!



**Bro. Normand DESSUREAULT** joined the Congregation's centenarians.

## Inter-congregation meeting. 'All brothers'

Over 60 Brothers from 14 religious congregations took part in the annual 'Tutti Fratelli' meeting held in Rome on November 25 at the Generalate of the Comboni Missionaries. The meeting focused on «our synodal experience».

Three Superiors General who participated in the 1st part of the Synod in October were invited to share their experiences and reflections: Brother Mark Hilton of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, Brother Ernesto Sánchez of the Marist Brothers and Father Tesfaye Tadesse of the Comboni Missionaries.



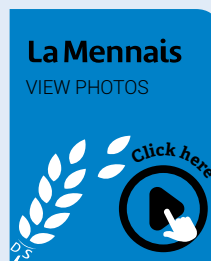
**Bros. Jean-Paul PEUZE, Hervé ASSE and Claude GREGOIRE** took part in this meeting between Brothers' congregations.





## Vows taken and renewed

Bro. Gaston KOUMBOUM, a native of Togo, pronounced his perpetual vows on December 28 at the Saints Pierre et Paul parish in Mango, northern Togo.

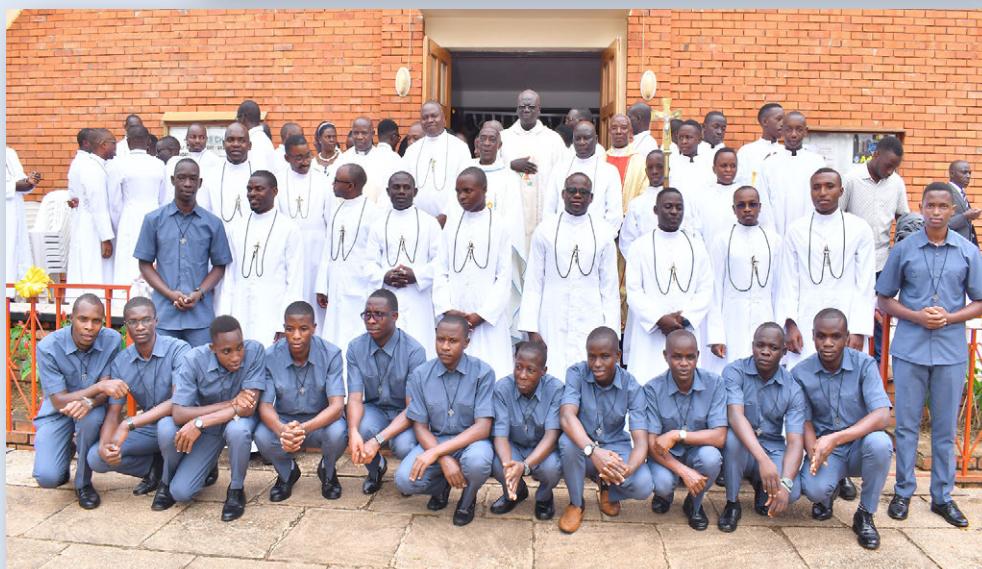


In addition, brothers from the Province of St. Theresa in Uganda pronounced their first vows, and other brothers from the same Province renewed their vows. Jubilarians were also honored.

*At the end of the novitiate, the Brothers of the Province of St. Theresa of Uganda take their 1st vows.*



*On the first two rows, the Brothers making their 1st profession and the new novices of the Province of Uganda. Photos via Bro. Rogers Michael Kazibwe.*



## 200 years of the Ploërmel Mother House

September 14 and 15 mark the launch of the anniversary of the Mother House. Father de la Mennais arrived there in November 1824. The new Motherhouse Welcome Center was inaugurated on this year March 16. See P. 7

## Summer events

3 Brothers at the Paris Olympic Games. Holy-Games delegates for the diocese of Quimper et Léon, France, Bro. James HAYES will be one of the chaplains in the Olympic Village, while Bro. Jean-Yves HAMON will be a signaller for cycling and triathlon races and Bro. André CADORET will be driver.

24 young Brothers are expected to attend a session of preparation for perpetual vows from July 13 to August 13. It will take place at the Mother House in Ploërmel.



# ASIA



## Life in pictures!

### Indonesia



Bro. Faby rehearsing singing with the children in Kupang.



At the SDK La Mennais school in Larantuka, there's no shortage of activities.



At Pusat, computer and sewing courses continue. Here at the graduation ceremony.

**La Mennais**

WATCH THE VIDEO



### Philippines



At Pandan Bay Institute, PBI, in Pandan, meetings involving alumni and families.





# AFRICA



## Togo

### Women in training at Carto

The CARTO agricultural center based in Dapaong, Togo, has just welcomed former trainee couples from the 37th promotion, which took place from March 11 to 14. The aim is also to teach the women how to carry out income-generating activities -AGR(sic.)- in the fields of liquid soap production, soybean processing into cheese, fritters, couscous and milk, and cassava processing into gari, tapioca and causettes.



The women's group is committed to learning income-generating activities.

## Rwanda

### A trade school in Ruyange I

Since January 2021, 1,041 pupils have been attending the RUYANGE I school group in Kirambo, run by the Brothers. Many changes have been made since then, and the school will now become a trade school, helping young people in the CONSTRUCTION and ELECTRICITY sectors. This training will take place over a three-year period. Work has begun on preparing the site and delivering the building materials.

Informations via Bro. Fulgence TURIKUMWE



Preparing the site where the 4 classrooms and 2 workshops will be built.  
Info via Bro. André Bilodeau

## Inf+

### Doctorate

Br. Wilfried FARA, Director of the Scholasticate in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, brilliantly defended his doctoral thesis on October 12 at the Gregorian University in Rome. The subject of his work? «The Trinity as a hermeneutical key in the anthropology of H.U. Balthasar and J. Moltmann». Congratulations!



The group of Brothers from Rwanda, during last December's meeting.



## AMERICAS



## Haiti



*The CENA strives to continue its educational work despite the tense situation.*

### The Centre Notre Dame des Anges (CENA) continues its work

The CENA convoy has been moving since September, with 72 children: raising the flag, prayer, breakfast, training, a hearty lunch, workshops... However, we've been hit by clashes between bandits in Cité Soleil, and we've had to close our doors twice. The war between the gangs has erupted. Despite the difficulties, we had three happy events: the school fête on October 2, the closing of the Founders' Novena on November 24 and the presentation of report cards with parents on December 19, in the presence of Brothers Lauture, Lamy, Valmyr and Charles.

News from Mrs Islande LAGUERRE and Bro. Marc Daniel NOEL

## Canada-USA-Mexico

### News from the 20 Brothers in Laval

How are the 20 senior Brothers at Laval's Résidence De-La-Salle? In all, the house is home to 80 religious and priests representing a dozen congregations. Mario Houle, Provincial Jean de la Mennais - Canada-USA-Mexico.

The first group leads a regular day-to-day community life. They include the creative and available Bros. Gilles Ménard and Georges Gouron, Merville Gagnon, Florent Dumais, Normand Dessureault who makes visits to other people, Jacques Lemire, Marius Tanguay, Guy Gervais, happy to welcome to listen and exchange with others, Jean E. Thibeault and Roger Gosselin with his marvelous courage, Marcel Matte - 100 years old - and Roland Leduc - 97 years old - both of them being quite alert and fond of communication.

A second, more fragile group. It is made up of Bros. Émilien Doucet, Camille Tardif, Julien St-Laurent, Venant Paquette, Claude St-Amant, Fernand Poudrier, Paul-Émile Tardif. They need a little help and, above all, presence and supervision. The atmosphere is joyful, and F. Roger Bourassa has a lot to do with it! Thanks to these confreres for their luminous testimony, and to the staff who take care of them! Our fraternal spirit, the sharing of our animations, and the courtesy of some bring color, life and dynamism to the whole».

*The 20 Brothers of the Résidence de la Salle de Laval: «Thank you for your luminous testimony! Mario Houle, Provincial.*



## EUROPE



## France

## The new reception center at the Motherhouse

«We love the Mother House for the solidity of its foundations and its depth». Brother Yannick Houssay, Provincial, underlined how much this house wants to be a source for the multiple Mennaisian realities in France and the whole Congregation. With the creation of a reception area at the entrance to the building, the configuration of 29 rooms for a total of 37 beds, the layout of 5

meeting rooms and a new parking lot: these are all new features for the welcome center. The work was financed by the Province through the sale of several houses in France and England.

Contact : [accueil.ploermel@mennaisien.org](mailto:accueil.ploermel@mennaisien.org)



## La Mennais

READ THE ARTICLE



Fr. Ivan Brient,  
Appointed Vicar  
General of Vannes  
blessed the new  
premises.

## 70 directors explore patience and perseverance

The school directors and their deputies experienced a journey on October 24 in the footsteps of Gabriel Deshayes in Beignon and on the 25th at the Lycée La Touche in Ploërmel, on the theme of patience and perseverance. Exchanges, celebration, meal and concert with 85 members of the orchestra class of the Collège Ste Marie de Fougères punctuated the meeting. **Br. Régis LEFRERE, Guénaëlle HALGAND, Aurélien PASQUIER, Betty ROLAND, Br. Olivier MIGOT** and the Tutelle La Mennais France team moderated the meeting.

**"Build  
together".  
Numerous  
achievements**

## La Mennais

WATCH THE VIDEO



## Spain

## SAL helps 100 young people from the Antawara center, El Alto, Bolivia

The Antawara Center continues to welcome young people aged 6 to 11 in El Alto. This is possible with the collaboration of the Portugalete City Hall, the Provincial Council of Palencia, and the help of Solidarity with Latin America- SAL.

*Social and educational  
assistance is given  
to children and  
young people at the  
Antawara Center with  
the action of SAL.*





# OCEANIA



## Marquesas. The 4 and 3rd year agricultural students on video and in the kitchen

A special week at the Lycée St Athanase des Marquises from March 11 to March 15.

The 4th year agricultural students prepared a cocktail party to inaugurate the students' new convivial venue. The aim was to use products from the farm. They chose to design a piahi, a banana cake and coconut sweets. As for drinks, a mint lemonade and another made with turmeric syrup were prepared.

Let's also have a look at the video presentation of the 4th/3rd grades of the agricultural Lycée Te Henua Enana. Our special congratulations go to Constantine from 4th grade and Edwin from 3rd grade, who put their voices to the images. Well done to all the students in this section!



Would you like to try a piahi or some coconut sweets?



The 4th-3rd grade team from the Lycée St Athanase des Marquises' agri program work hard in the kitchen for the inauguration of the students' new hangout.

La Mennais

WATCH THE VIDEO







# Young Brothers. Lay people and guests. They bear witness.

At the General Chapter held in Ariccia, Italy, from March 26 to April 25, capitulants and guests shared their experiences in truth and depth. The final proceedings document will be available this summer.

## Words from the 6 young brothers

### « Let us not be afraid! We are led by Providence »

«We were called and summoned to take part in the 28th Chapter. The spiritual, fraternal and joyful atmosphere that reigned among us is the first reality that challenges us. Brothers and lay people, we have created and lived a family spirit. Above all, it's about being brothers together. With the concern to have a rule that is for everyone, we have felt all the Brothers participating in the process.

## Let's review our way of life

For the future of each Brother, each community, each Province or District, it's a question of looking at ourselves with lucidity before God, to identify our frailties and offer them to Christ. We know how to live as pilgrims of hope today, giving each other mutual support to go to God, and pooling our resources to care for the fraternity, manage our patrimony well, and form and accompany each Brother, especially the youngest.

We have revised our Rule of Life. Let's revise our way of living religious consecration, guided by the Rule to reflect our desire to start afresh from Christ, accompanied by Mary. Let's not be afraid, let's be men of faith! We are poor and fragile, but we are also rich in God and in the experience of being led by Providence. God bless us all and bless our congregation!»

The 6 young  
Brothers invited.  
From left to right:  
Bros. Olivier IGIRANEZA,  
Paul MWITI,  
Rony PIERRE,  
Aiden RUKUNDO,  
Philippe DOUTI and  
Franciskus GUA MAKING.





From left to right: Mr John Bosco DDUNGU, Ms Victoria DRAPER, Ms Yvette MEUS, Ms Bélen CORUÑA MOZO, Ms Françoise LE BRETON, Ms Luz Matha de LA CRUZ ROMERO.

### 6 lay members of the Mennaisian Family

## «We will grow thanks to the Virgin Mary».

The six-member team of the International Commission of the Mennaisian Family presented a proposal for a new reference text with guidelines for the next 6 years. The team is made up of Ms Victoria DRAPER from Uruguay, Ms Luz Matha de LA CRUZ ROMERO from Mexico, Ms Yvette MEUS from Haiti, Ms Melen CORUÑA MOZO from Spain, Ms Françoise LE BRETON from France and Mr John DDUNGU from Uganda. Bro. Miguel ARISTONDO, assistant, has accompanied this team over the years.

We reaffirm our motivation regarding the importance of this Family,» emphasized the lay people present, «and we are optimistic: our Family will grow thanks to the blessing of the Virgin Mary.» Proposals were made for the organization of the Family at local, national - or province or district - and international levels. Training formators, encouraging new missionary presences, accentuating the presence of young people with proposals for spiritual experiences and services, and supporting formation courses are among the priorities.»

### Bro. Dino de Carolis, postulator of the Cause of J.M. de la Mennais

## «The Cause is truly spiritual»

«As a postulator, I have to admit that the Cause is a truly spiritual matter: it's the Holy Spirit who will give the right indications to doctors to enlighten them in their work. We need to pray hard to obtain the moral, spiritual and material cures presented, and ask Providence to «glorify» our Father.

Let us recall the motivations for implementing this Cause: pastoral reasons, the repercussions on the animation of our educational works, the positive effects on shared mission and our houses of formation.»

### Sister Louise Touchette, Superior General

## «We continue the service of hope!»

«Our two Institutes have embraced the service of hope for over 200 years, and the call still continues to ring out. The Daughters of Providence today number 33 sisters, between 78 and 103 years of age, including 12 in France, 4 in England and 17 in Canada.

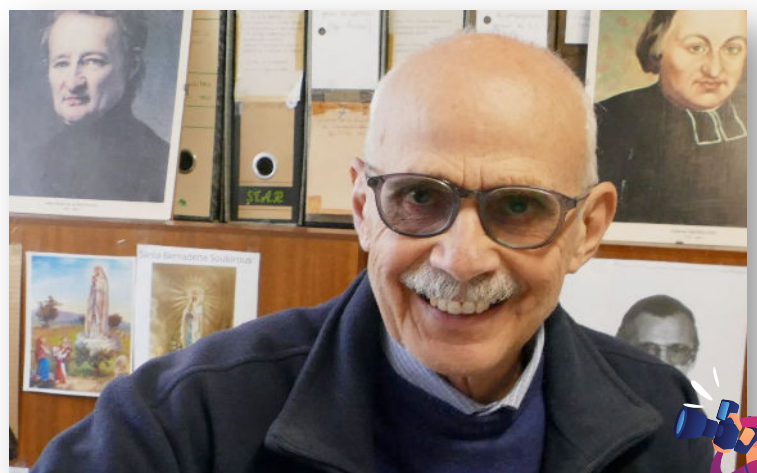
In this year 2024 we also celebrate the 10th anniversary of the foundation of the Daughters of Providence from Nebbi, DOPN. We have 9 sisters who have made their private vows and 12 young people in formation. The DOPN are recognized as a Public Association of the Faithful, with the potential to become a religious institute under diocesan and possibly pontifical law.

### Bringing hope to young people

The Association's mission: «To be a presence of Christ among the poor and to bring hope to young people». We see a strong similarity with the mission entrusted to his Daughters by Father de la Mennais! Thank you, dear Brothers, to your Associate members, to the whole Mennaisian Family. Providence is always ahead of us: from this confidence is born our Hope!»



Sister Louise Touchette received the new statue of Fr. de la Mennais presented at the Chapter.



Bro. Dino de Carolis. «Let us pray for the moral, spiritual and material healings presented.







**1. USA.** Anniversaries follow one another at the Brothers' mission on Shaker Hill in Alfred, USA. Here, the 92nd birthday of Brother Raymond FORTIN. Information via F. Walter ZWIERCHOWSKI. <https://www.facebook.com/BrothersofChristianInstruction>

**2. France.** Blessing of the Sacred Heart statue at Collège of Lamballe. A statue of the Sacred Heart donated by the Maison Saint-Hervé in Hennebont was installed and blessed by Fr. Pierre Emmanuel DORE last November at the Collège Sacré-Coeur in Lamballe, directed by Jean GUEGUEN. This follows on from actions undertaken by Yann BARBOTIN, former principal, and Br. Rémy HAREL, in connection with the Maison St- Hervé.

**3. Argentina.** The 19th meeting for the promotion the Mennaisian School held in Biale Massé in February brought together nearly 50 educators from the educational works present in the towns of Llay Llay, Culiprán, Biale Massé, Villa Gobernador Gálvez, Luján de Cuyo, Buenos Aires and Montevideo. Knowing our history, sharing experiences, reflecting on our educational practices, praying together and celebrating so much life present in our District. Vicky Draper

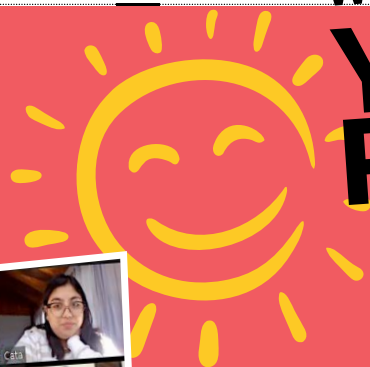
**4. France.** Mennaisian evening at St-Malo-Cancale. At the initiative of the brothers, associates and friends of the St-Malo community, some twenty people gathered on February 8 for a Mennaisian evening. Headmistresses from the Jean de la Mennais school and the Lycée des Rimains in Saint Malo, the Collège Saint Joseph in Cancale, pastoral assistants, teachers, members of the APEL parents' and management associations, friends and Father Hervé Huet, the parish priest, accepted our invitation. Celebration, meal and quiz delighted the participants. Bro. Yves Pichon



# Initiatives flourish

WORDS FROM

# YOUNG PEOPLE



## 40 young people from the Southern Cone strengthen their ties with the Mennaisian Family

«This Saturday, March 16, we had our first virtual meeting with young people and companions from all over the Divina Providencia District network -Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Uruguay- who said yes to starting the «METANOIA MENESIANA 2024» process, as a journey of transformation. There are more than 40 young people who wish to deepen their charisma and strengthen their belonging to the Mennaisian family, through service to the kingdom». **Susana Quintanilla**



## Ploërmel 24 : young people from Spain meet from July 2 to 7

Ploërmel is set to host a meeting of young people from Spain from July 2 to 7. Discoveries, services, activities, creations.

Contact : [menejovent@menesianos.org](mailto:menejovent@menesianos.org)

La Mennais  
WATCH THE VIDEO



The Menejovent team will be in Ploërmel from July 2 to 7!



The group of 13 young people and two chaperones are shown here visiting the Vision Jeunesse Nouvelle trade school with some of the students and their director Bro. Adrien.

## Rwanda-France. 14 young people experience an educational stay

5 male and 9 female students from the Lycée St-François-d'Assise in Savenay, France, spent last February in Kirambo and various other places in Rwanda, including a training school for future teachers, accompanied by Brother Olivier Migot and another companion. Discoveries and mutual contributions were the order of the day.





## 75 years since the arrival of the Brothers in Tanzania

Canadian missionary Brothers first arrived in Tanzania in 1948. In 1972, the Tanzania and Kenya sector was incorporated as a vice-province of Uganda. In 2009, this sector became a Province under the name of «Saint-Michel Archange». Today, it includes some forty Tanzanian and Kenyan brothers.

Dar-es-Salaam, since 1967, and Moshi since 1979, have two major secondary schools run by the Brothers. The Brothers also run a vocational center in Moshi. In Babati, the arrival of the Brothers at Singe Secondary School in 2001 has enabled the school to expand. A little further west, the Brothers took over the management of

a secondary school in Nzega, while the community of Duluti, near Arusha, sold most of the coffee plantation and opened a secondary school.

In 2010, the new province of St Michel Archange took charge of two new schools, one in Rombo in the diocese of Moshi, the other in Mbeya in the south of the country. Financial and human difficulties have forced the Brothers to withdraw from Rombo and the Majengo Secondary School in Moshi. However, the Brothers continue to run the Province's administration, the Postulancy and a La Mennais Technical Center.



*The Brothers run 6 schools in Tanzania, in addition to the postulancy in Moshi.*



*In Mbeya, Pandahill secondary school welcomes over 1,500 young people.*



## 1. Completion of reconstruction and inauguration of a new building

One year ago, on June 9, 2023, the Institution Saint-Louis de Gonzague in Delmas, Haiti, inaugurated a second building in the third cycle, marking

the end of reconstruction of the infrastructure destroyed 13 years after the devastating earthquake of January 2010. Bros. Lauture, Lamy and Alphonse praised the Alumni Foundation, the work of the Métayer company with the help of Charles Hygin Raymond and numerous collaborations.



## 2. The community house is renovated

The St. Mary's College community in Kisubi, Uganda undergoes a complete renovation.

Information via Br. Rogers Kazibwe



## 3. New laboratories

St. Edward's SS Secondary School in Bukuumi, Uganda, has just completed the commissioning of new science laboratories.

Information via Bro. Rogers Kazibwe



## 4. A new chapel

The second phase of construction of the community's «chapel» in Gisenyi, Rwanda, is now complete. All that remains is to purchase the furniture. It will serve as a place of worship as well as a residence for the Central African Joint Council. Four new bedrooms will be added to the existing residence, along with a meeting room.

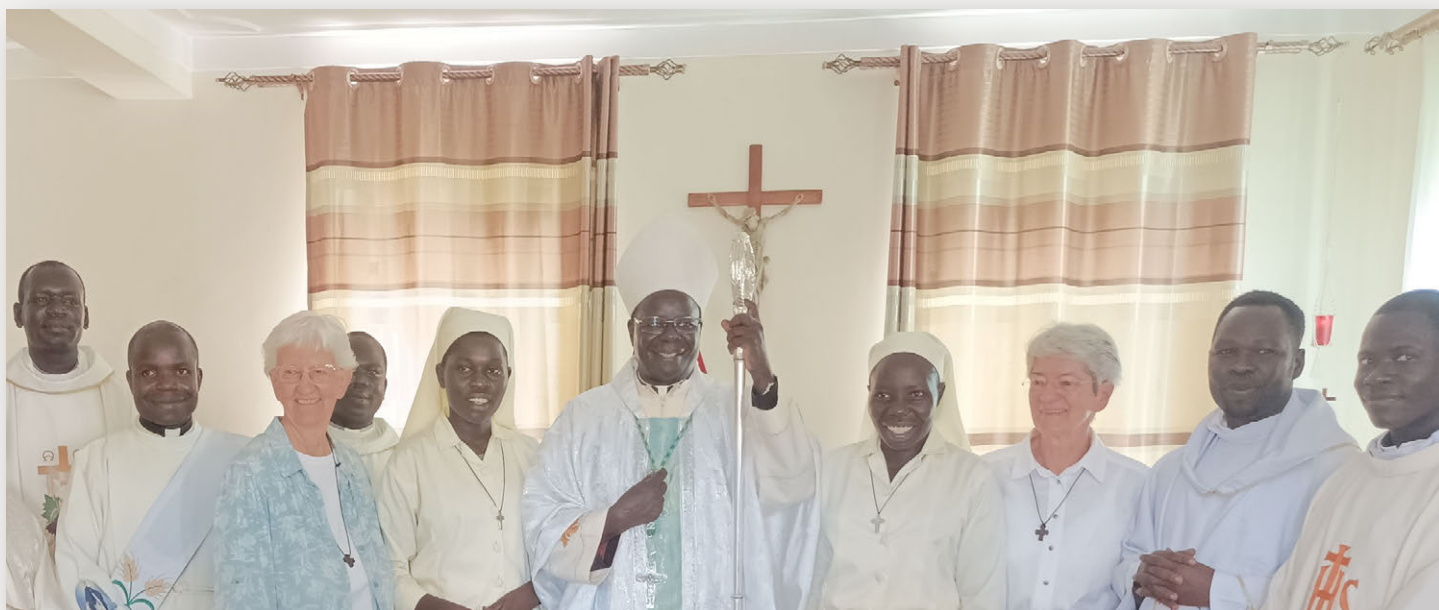
Information via Br. André Bilodeau



## Daughters of Providence. 8 Nebbi Sisters take private vows

«On December 8, during the retreat, the two novices, Christine and Jude, expressed their vows for one year to continue the journey with the Daughters of Providence of Nebbi, informs Sr. Louise Touchette, Superior General of the Daughters of Providence of St-Brieuc. The six Sisters in temporary vows also renewed their vows for one year: Sabina, Felicity, Loice, Cecilia, Gloria, Vicky - Sr Maria is already in perpetual vows.

At the end of the retreat, a brief ritual marked the passage of our 5 Aspirants to the Postulancy stage. These young women have been with us for 6 months or a little longer. Since the beginning of November, we have welcomed 4 new young women as aspirants. Finally, the Dicastery for the Evangelization of Peoples has sent a letter to the Bishop of Nebbi recognizing the Association of Daughters of Providence of Nebbi, DONB (sic). We welcome this news with joy and gratitude!



Sis. Christine and Jude, surrounded by Sis. Louise Touchette and Emma Mudrick, around Bp. Raphaël P'Mony Wokorach and the concelebrants.

PUBLICATION

## Father Pierre RUAULT, friend and right-hand man of Father de la Mennais



Portrait of Fr. Pierre Ruault.  
«During the Superior's frequent travels,  
he was responsible for the running  
of the Ploërmel house and, to a large  
extent, for the general direction  
of the Institute.

In the March issue of Recherches Historiques, through the article of Br. Arsène Pelmoine, we were led to discover the figure of Father Pierre RUAULT. Born in Bonnemain, Ille-et-Vilaine, in 1791, he died in 1863. He met the two La Mennais brothers at college in St-Malo. After serving as vicar at Combours, he became principal of the college at Dol, then Vitre. He became a member of the St-Pierre congregation founded by the two La Mennais brothers. From November 1831, he joined the Mother House as chaplain. He became Fr. de la Mennais' private secretary, considered his right-hand man and chief of staff. Father de la Mennais would also have considered him as his successor. An endearing figure.

Let us learn, at Mary's school and invitation,  
to do whatever the Lord asks of us through this Chapter.

This is the call to live each day, with joy and fidelity,  
if we want to be servants of hope!

Brother Hervé Zamor, s.g.



1st and 4th cover. 63 Brothers and lay people attended the General Chapter in Ariccia, Italy. March 31, 2024.