



**Founder's Week**

**18 - 26 November 2024**

Dear brothers,

A few words to introduce this Founder's Week animation booklet.

The theme chosen is the Congregation's annual theme: **Pilgrims on the Way of Prayer**.

The various headings have been arranged according to the plan for the office of Vespers, but they can be used at other times of the day... It's up to you to adapt them to your community's situation.

**Every day, you'll find..:**

- **A psalm** taken from **the Pilgrim Psalms** (Psalms of the Ascents) to remind us of our situation as pilgrims throughout this year... This psalm sets our hearts to meeting God in prayer.
- **The Word of God** in harmony with the words of Jean-Marie de La Mennais. These texts are taken from the *book "Mennaisian Spirituality"*... Founder's Week is an opportunity **to taste the source of our Spirituality**.
- **The Word of Jean-Marie de La Mennais** takes up one of the themes of our Spirituality throughout the week.
- **Echoing the biblical text** that underpins our theme for the year (Luke 11: 1-4), we propose for our reading and meditation **a commentary on the Our Father by Pope Francis**, delivered on May 31, 2019 during his visit to Romania in the New Orthodox Cathedral of Bucharest... and for the 26th, an extract from the **message addressed to the members of the General Chapter** on April 22, 2024 in the Vatican.
- This meditation can **be extended by listening to a song** of the Our Father... On the application, in the Media section, a musical extract is proposed each day... **The Our Father in 9 languages** throughout the week, a way of living in communion with our brothers and sisters around the world.
- Finally, **a short prayer to say together** is proposed. It is taken from the Our Father composed by Brother Hervé Zamor, Superior General.

Mennaisian Week is an important time of animation in our communities and schools... May it also be a time of renewal, a retreat in life.

Happy Founder's Week to all.



## Prayer for the beatification

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 the courage 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 recognized and proclaimed by the Church.  
Deign to grant us, O Lord,  
through his intercession, the healing of the persons recommended....

**(Silence for a while).**

*The month's intentions and the names of people recommended  
to the intercession of Jean Marie de la Mennais can be read at  
this time... sent by Brother Faby.*

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O Lord Jesus, glorify your Servant, Vénérable Jean-Marie de la Mennais

## Monday, November 18

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Breviary hymns for Monday

Pilgrim Psalm : Psalm 121 (Breviary, p. 842)

### Reading : Ephesians 1

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and without defect before him in love, <sup>5</sup> having predestined us for adoption as children through Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his desire, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of his grace, by which he freely gave us favor in the Beloved.

### Responsory (Text from Jean-Marie de La Mennais)

*« Sublime vocation! It is that of Jesus Christ himself. He left the bosom of the Father to do what you are going to do, following his example.»*

### Canticle of Mary...

### Commentary on the Our Father by Pope Francis

**Our Father** : Each time we say “Our Father”, we state that the word Father cannot stand on its own, apart from Our. United in Jesus’ prayer, we are also united to his experience of love and intercession, which leads us to say: “My Father and your Father, my God and your God” (cf. Jn 20:17). We are invited to make my become our, and our to become a prayer. Help us, Father, to take our brother or sister’s lives seriously, to make their history our history. Help us, Father, not to judge our brother or sister for their actions and their limitations, but to welcome them before all else as your son or daughter. Help us to overcome the temptation to act like the elder brother, who was so concerned with himself that he forgot the gift of the other person (cf. Lk 15:25-32).

### Listening to the Lord's Prayer (Confer application)

### Prayer for the beatification

**Let's pray together:** God, our Father, you who give us the gift of brotherhood, we thank you for calling us to be Brothers in community.

Breviary hymns for Tuesday

Pilgrim Psalm : Psalm 122 (Breviary, p. 921)

**Reading : Philippians 2**

<sup>2</sup> Make my joy full by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind; <sup>3</sup> doing nothing through rivalry or through conceit, but in humility, each counting others better than himself; <sup>4</sup> each of you not just looking to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this in your mind, which was also in Christ Jesus.

**Responsory** (Text from Jean-Marie de La Mennais)

*“You will continue to fight valiantly for the holy cause of Jesus Christ, walking with Him in the practice of holy humility, perfect obedience and complete detachment of earthly things, and the generous virtue of poverty that the Divine Master ardently embraced during His mortal life.”*

**Canticle** of Mary...

**Commentary** on the Our Father by Pope Francis

***Who art in heaven:*** To you, Father, who art in heaven, a heaven that embraces all and in which you make the sun rise on the good and the evil, on the just and the unjust (cf. Mt 5:45), we implore the peace and harmony that here on earth we have failed to preserve. We ask this through the intercession of all those brothers and sisters in faith who dwell with you in heaven after having believed, loved and suffered greatly, even in our own days, simply for the fact that they were Christians.

**Listening** to the Lord's Prayer (Confer application)

**Prayer** for the beatification

**Let's pray together:** With the heavens before you, in majestic display  
From an infinite grandeur, to the smallest of things  
With the star-covered splendour of the sky's vast array  
And with Brother Sun, Father we praise you.

## Wednesday, November 20

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Breviary hymns for Wednesday

Pilgrim Psalm : Psalm 123 (Breviary, p. 873)

### Reading : Luke 2

<sup>8</sup> There were shepherds in the same country staying in the field, and keeping watch by night over their flock. <sup>9</sup> Behold, an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup><sup>T</sup> he angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be to all the people. <sup>11</sup> For there is born to you today, in David's city, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This is the sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a feeding trough." <sup>13</sup> Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will toward men."

### Responsory (Text from Jean-Marie de La Mennais)

*"You have nothing; you are nothing! Therefore Jesus Christ sends you like the Father has sent Him and that all power has been given to you in heaven and on earth. He chooses the weakest when he wants to accomplish great things so that His hands alone may appear. Consider the example of the apostles."*

### Canticle of Mary...

### Commentary on the Our Father by Pope Francis

**Hallowed be Thy Name:** Together with them, we wish to hallow your name, placing it at the heart of all we do. May your name, Lord, and not ours, be the one that moves and awakens in us the exercise of charity. How many times, in prayer, do we limit ourselves to asking for gifts and listing requests, forgetting that the first thing we should do is praise your name, adore you, and then go on to acknowledge, in the brother or sister whom you have placed at our side, a living image of you. In the midst of all those passing things in which we are so caught up, help us, Father, to seek what truly lasts: your presence and that of our brother or sister..

### Listening to the Lord's Prayer (Confer application)

### Prayer for the beatification

**Let's pray together:** Grant that we may sanctify your name  
by learning to support one another as we walk together towards you.

Breviary hymns for Thursday

Pilgrim Psalm : Psalm 124 (Breviary, p. 873)

**Reading : Romans 8**

<sup>28</sup> We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For whom he foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> Whom he predestined, those he also called. Whom he called, those he also justified. Whom he justified, those he also glorified.

**Responsory** (Text from Jean-Marie de La Mennais)

*“All Christians, my Brothers, have received this vocation: none of us would enter the bosom of the Father, unless he has become conformed to the image of his Son; it is in his Son, as he told us himself, that he has put all his pleasure. To raise all these miserable creatures to himself, he must find in them the traits, so to say, the stamp, the living imprint of the One that he engendered before all ages.”*

**Canticle** of Mary...

**Commentary** on the Our Father by Pope Francis

***Thy Kingdom come:*** We wait in expectation for your kingdom to come. We ask for it and we long for it, because we see that the workings of this world do not favour it, organized as they are around money, personal interests and power. Sunken as we are in an increasingly frenetic consumerism that entices us with glittering but fleeting realities, we ask you to help us, Father, to believe in what we pray for: to give up the comfortable security of power, the deceptive allure of worldliness, the vain presumption of our own self-sufficiency, the hypocrisy of cultivating appearances. In this way, we will not lose sight of that Kingdom to which you summon us.

**Listening** to the Lord's Prayer (Confer application)

**Prayer** for the beatification

**Let's pray together:** May your kingdom come  
as we strive to become, in community and around us,  
builders of peace, justice, solidarity, joy and brotherhood..

## Friday, November 22

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Breviary hymns for Friday

Pilgrim Psalm : Psalm 125 (Breviary, p. 882)

### Reading : Matthew 18

<sup>10</sup> See that you don't despise one of these little ones, for I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> For the Son of Man came to save that which was lost.

### Responsory (Text from Jean-Marie de La Mennais)

*"Then, my Brothers! Your glory, understand it well, is to make Christians of these children who without you would never be; these children who can only become Christians if teach them, not by your words, but by your examples, to be humble of heart; these children whom you must resemble in order to possess the Kingdom of heaven.."*

### Canticle of Mary...

### Commentary on the Our Father by Pope Francis

***Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.***: Thy will be done, not our will. "God's will is that all be saved" (SAINT JOHN CASSIAN, Spiritual Conferences, IX, 20). We need to broaden our horizons, Father, lest we place our own limits on your merciful, salvific will that wishes to embrace everyone. Help us, Father, by sending to us, as at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit, source of courage and joy, to impel us to preach the good news of the Gospel beyond the confines of the communities to which we belong, our languages, our cultures and our nations.

### Listening to the Lord's Prayer (Confer application)

### Prayer for the beatification

### ***Let's pray together:***

**Help us to carry out your will by grounding our fraternal life in You alone and surrendering ourselves to your Providence..**



Breviary hymns for Saturday

Pilgrim Psalm : Psalm 126 (Breviary, p. 892)

Reading : Colossians 3

<sup>14</sup> Above all these things, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body, and be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.

Responsory (Text from Jean-Marie de La Mennais)

*“This book (the cross) is not like other books that are written or explained laboriously by human beings. It is open to all, and everyone can read therein, in a certain way, the secrets of God, without necessarily straining one’s mind to understand them. By casting a glance at the cross, the least of the faithful sees at once to what extent God has loved him.”*

Canticle of Mary...

Commentary on the Our Father by Pope Francis

***Give us this day our daily bread:*** Each day we need him, our daily bread. He is the bread of life (cf. Jn 6:35.48) that makes us realize that we are beloved sons and daughters, and makes us feel no longer isolated and orphaned. He is the bread of service, broken to serve us, and asking us in turn to serve one another (cf. Jn 13:14). Father, as you give us our daily bread, strengthen us to reach out and serve our brothers and sisters. And as we ask you for our daily bread, we ask also for the bread of memory, the grace to nurture the shared roots of our Christian identity, so indispensable in an age when humanity, and the young in particular, tend to feel rootless amid the uncertainties of life, and incapable of building their lives on a solid foundation.

Listening to the Lord's Prayer (Confer application)

Prayer for the beatification

***Let's pray together:*** Give us this day the bread of fraternal communion,  
of never-ending formation, fidelity to the Eucharist,  
of personal and community prayer, so that we may not falter along the way.

## Sunday, November 24

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Breviary hymns for Sunday

Pilgrim Psalm : Psalm 127 (Breviary, p. 893)

Reading : Mark 14

<sup>35</sup> He went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass away from him. <sup>36</sup> He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Please remove this cup from me. However, not what I desire, but what you desire."

Responsory (Text from Jean-Marie de La Mennais)

*"Jesus Christ, our Savior, has himself given us the same example of this entire, perfect and absolute trust. Let us try to imitate Him and when he deigns to invite us by His side in the Garden of Olives, let us unite our voice to His and say to God: "Father, let not my will but yours be done."*

Canticle of Mary...

Commentary on the Our Father by Pope Francis

***And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us:*** Each time we pray, we ask that our trespasses, our debts, be forgiven. This takes courage, for it means that we must forgive the trespasses of others, the debts that others have incurred in our regard. We need to find the strength to forgive our brother or sister from the heart (cf. Mt 18:35), even as you, Father, forgive our trespasses: to leave the past behind us and, together, to embrace the present. Help us, Father, not to yield to fear, not to see openness as a threat, to find the strength to forgive each other and move on, and the courage not to settle for a quiet life but to keep seeking, with transparency and sincerity, the face of our brothers and sisters.

Listening to the Lord's Prayer (Confer application)

Prayer for the beatification

**Let's pray together:** Teach us to forgive our Brothers as you forgive us,  
so that our communities be places of welcome, forgiveness  
and healing of wounds, islands of mercy  
that our world so desperately needs.

Breviary hymns for Monday

Pilgrim Psalm : Psalm 128 (Breviary, p. 1032)

**Reading : Matthew 6**

<sup>25</sup> Therefore I tell you, don't be anxious for your life: what you will eat, or what you will drink; nor yet for your body, what you will wear. Isn't life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> See the birds of the sky, that they don't sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns. Your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you of much more value than they?

**Responsory** (Text from Jean-Marie de La Mennais)

*"Providence of my God, O my Mother whom I have adored many times, Providence who is always so good, so wise, so full of mercy and love for your poor creatures, we adore you, we bless you, we surrender ourselves to you unconditionally: Do whatever you will, we have no other will than to fulfill your will in all things, in humiliation, in greatness, in poverty, in wealth, in health, in sickness, in life and in death."*

**Canticle** of Mary...

**Commentary** on the Our Father by Pope Francis

***And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:*** And when the evil that lurks at the doorway of our heart (cf. Gen 4:7) makes us want to close in on ourselves; when we feel more strongly the temptation to turn our back on others, help us again, Father, for the essence of sin is withdrawal from you and from our neighbour. Help us to recognize in every one of our brothers and sisters a source of support on our common journey to you. Inspire in us the courage to say together: Our Father. Amen.

**Listening** to the Lord's Prayer (Confer application)

**Prayer** for the beatification

**Let's pray together:** Do not let us succumb to the temptation of individualism, jealousy, silence, sadness, resentment, slander, calumny, anything that hurts people and hinders the fruitfulness of our life as Brothers in community..

Tuesday, November 26

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## FOUNDER'S Day

Breviary hymns for Tuesday... or a song about Jean Marie de La Mennais

Pilgrim Psalm : Psalm 131 (Breviary, p. 883) + Psalm 134 (Breviary, p. 1035)

### Reading : Hebrews 10

<sup>23</sup> let's hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering; for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> Let's consider how to provoke one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

### Responsory (Text from Jean-Marie de La Mennais)

*"O my God, I have chosen You as my portion, and this portion will not be taken away from me; You alone are something to me, and forever You alone, my God, will be everything to me: life, reputation, knowledge, health, wealth are nothing, God Alone! God Alone!"*

### Canticle of Mary...

### Commentary on the Our Father by Pope Francis

**AMIN!**: Your vocation drives you to go where others do not, in the periphery, towards people who form the category of the rejected, those who are wounded by life, and victims. May your presence be a wellspring of hope for many. In your spirit of fraternity and welcome, may they recognize another face of the humanity disfigured by wars, indifference and rejection of the weakest. Those children, those youngsters, those people also have dreams, but nowadays, for many reasons, those dreams are shattered. May you help them to revive their dreams, to believe in them and to fulfil them!

### Listening to the Lord's Prayer (Confer application)

### Prayer for the beatification

**Let's pray together:** God Alone in time!  
God Alone in eternity!  
Amen!









**La Mennais**