



QUOTES FROM AND ABOUT FATHER JACQUES-FRANÇOIS DUJARIÉ,

FOUNDER OF THE BROTHERS OF ST. JOSEPH

Education

“Insist that the Brothers teach the students religious virtue, and that they bring them to the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ.”

“You will find it easier to love the students if you recall that Jesus Christ loves them; the most difficult of your students is perhaps the most lovable in his eyes.”

“Insist that the Brothers teach the students religion and virtue, and that they bring them to the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ.”

Personal Vocation

“I am a priest to be the consolation of the widow, the father of the orphan, the support of the poor, and the friend of those who suffer.”

“It is in following Jesus Christ, himself abandoned by his own, which sustains me.”

“How happy I should have been to sacrifice my blood and my life for the salvation of souls. Many times I offered up this sacrifice during the three years that I spent almost at the foot of the scaffold in order to bring spiritual help to souls so sorely in need.”

“May I fulfill with zeal the duties to which I have committed myself.”

“I have sought only to contribute to the glory of God and others’ salvation”

“I have lived only for those I serve.”

“May nothing turn me aside from your service.”

“What an account I shall have to render! Oh, how much happier I would have been if I had died after being a simple brother.”

“I have exercised my ministry among them and that at all times I gave no thought to myself or to my own interests in order to think of theirs; in a word, I have only lived for them.”

“I ask the people of Ruillé not to forget that since the day of my installation as their pastor, I have sought only to contribute to the glory of God and their salvation.”

“Lord, be pleased to bless my vocation, to assist me in my work and to clothe me with the spirit of strength, charity, and humility. May nothing turn me aside from your service.”

Encouragement of the Brothers in their Vocation

“With a little good will you will succeed in doing things well and becoming a good and holy Brother, but you must become very humble, docile, and fervent, and renew your courage. Never look back. Always walk ahead, until you are in possession of the glory of God.”

“You should not forget the principal aim of this assembly, which is to sanctify yourselves more and more, to renew your soul and to fill it with new ardor for the service and glory of God.”

“You know how devoted I am to you and you know the love that I have for all those who belong to me. I embrace you and love you in Christ Jesus.”

Prayer

Lord, you have said: “Let the little children come to me.” You have inspired me with the desire to bring them to you, be pleased to bless my vocation, to assist me in my work and to clothe me with the spirit of strength, charity, and humility. May nothing turn me aside from your service. In fulfilling zealously the duties to which I have devoted myself, may I be among those to whom you have promised eternal life because of their fidelity to the end. Amen. *(Prayer composed for Brothers in education - undated)*

“Look under the crucifix. There, you know, is where all wonderful things are found.”

“I am unwilling to allow myself to be discouraged by difficulties.”

“Let us have recourse to God; God alone will be our consolation.”

Community

The spirit of the congregation is the spirit of peace and charity; the members will live together in perfect union, loving one another and helping one another reciprocally. *(Rules of Conduct, 1820's)*

Obedience

True obedience is not merely obedience in action, but also in heart and mind. (*Rules of Conduct, 1820's*)

Retreat

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the gifts of the Holy Spirit be always with you! As you see the time of our annual retreat approaching, you should rejoice in our Lord and prepare yourselves to profit by the very special graces, which will be offered to you during these holy days. Do not wait for the opening of the retreat to get ready for it. Start to do this today, by more fervent prayers, by a serious examination of your long-standing faults and of the actual state of your conscience, by more careful watchfulness over yourself and over all your actions, that not a single one of them may be contrary – I do not say to this or that article of your Rule – but still more to its spirit. (*Circular Letter, 1824*)

Faithfully examine your obligations that you may derive more benefit than in preceding years, which if not abundant was because you did not prepare yourself well. The first and principal end of the retreat is to sanctify oneself and to add new zeal for the salvation of others and for acquiring the spirit of Christ. (*Circular Letter, 1825*)

Begin now to examine yourself carefully on the manner in which you have observed the Rules, fulfilled the general and particular duties of your state, and lived up to the general obligations of your vows. By doing this you will be able during the retreat to counteract all that prevents you from advancing in the way of virtue and from becoming a new person. (*Circular Letter, 8/1/1827*)

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A letter written to Father Dujarié, signed by 35 brothers and Father Moreau after the brothers relocated in Le Mans from Ruillé

Reverend and Venerable Founder,

Removed from you by a distance of some thirty miles at a time when it is our privilege to surround you with our love and our respect, it is most agreeable to us to carry out the suggestion of Abbé Moreau, who urges us to put on paper the expressions of our sentiment.

These sentiments have not changed, notwithstanding the various circumstances, which impelled you to resign from your office as Superior, in favor of a priest whom you esteem and who venerates you as a father.

That is why we come today, to lay at your feet the homage of our respectful attachment, and our gratitude for all the kindnesses, which you had for us up until the present time. Never shall we forget the tender fatherliness with which you spoke to us on the last occasion, in the little chapel which saw the birth of our Congregation, nor shall we forget the generous sacrifices

which you daily make to maintain our tottering foundation depriving yourself of your property and authorizing the sale of what we had to dispose of in order to establish the Congregation at Le Mans on a broader and more solid foundation, conformably to the designs which you had formulated yourself from the beginning, when you wanted to unite the foundation of the Brothers with that of the Auxiliary Priests.

We like to think that, with the assistance of your prayers, we shall be faithful to what you are expecting of us, and that these days of retreat will renew in us the spirit of the Congregation, which cost you so much labor.

Such are the dispositions in which we shall always remain, reverend and venerated Founder, your respectful and sincerely devoted children.

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Reflections on Father Dujarié by Blessed Basile Moreau

“Jacques-François Dujarié was among those men whose lives reveal one of the most striking characteristics of the workings of Providence. In all ages, Providence has delighted in humbling the great and the proud of this world by choosing as its instruments those who to all outward appearances are the weakest and the most unknown.”

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“Dujarié was marked by Providence to accomplish the designs of divine mercy for the salvation of many.”

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“Everything leads us to believe that this noble soul, who did and suffered so much for the glory of God, has found in the bosom of Divine Mercy the reward of all his labors. We cannot think otherwise when we consider his long career of seventy-one years, so full of good works; his lively faith, which sustained him in the midst of so many trying circumstances without allowing him to be frightened by the prospect of persecution; his unshakable confidence in God’s merciful Providence, which impelled him to undertake two important foundations with hardly any human means; and his spirit of love, which suggested to him pious projects for the glory of his Divine Master, the sanctification of his flock, and the salvation of youth by the founding of truly Christian schools.

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In truth, God must have extended a glad welcome to this priest after His own Heart, whose memory is held in benediction by the little ones of Christ’s flock and revered by the sick who are tended by his Sisters of Providence and whose benefits to you, my dear brothers, will be worthily appreciated only in eternity.”

(Father Basile Moreau on the death of Fr. Dujarié, 19 February 1838)

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From Father Dujarié's last will and testament

If, unfortunately for myself, I have not done enough for their sanctification, if I have not worked for the glory of God with sufficiently pure intentions, if I have scandalized even the least among them, then I humble myself most sincerely before God and, with a heart broken with sorrow, I ask him to have regard not to my iniquities, but to the multitude of His mercies. I expect confidently from the detachment and charity of the inhabitants of Ruillé that they will obtain for me this grace from the God of all mercy and all goodness, into whose hands I commit my soul, and from the intercession of the Blessed Virgin, the Refuge of Sinners and the Mother of Mercy, as well as from my good Guardian Angel and my holy patron...

More than ever I shall beg for them the mercies and graces of the Lord in order that all the inhabitants of Ruillé may be eternally happy, so that we may all sing together the canticles of praise in the heavenly Jerusalem."

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From the Circular Letter of Mother Marie, announcing the death of Father Dujarié, 23 February, 1838

In giving you, my dear Sisters, this afflicting news, we can perceive the pain that shall torture your sensitive and grateful hearts; we then offer to your pain the only relief that can ease it, it is the thought that our good Father has carried out to God's tribunal whom he always loved a life full of zeal, of good works and of crosses; and that his works of mercy have earned him favor with God.

We are writing with painful impression, do not expect us to describe the details of his virtues that embellished his soul. Moreover, his generosity, his devotion, his tender and paternal concern he had for each of his daughters, are above all praise.

Let us go at the foot of the altars, so as to pay in front of God, the tribute of our tears and of our gratitude. Let us pray to the God of all sanctity not to charge, in a life so full of merit, the mistakes of human frailty."

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Excerpts from Father Dujarié by Tony Catta

The life of a founder does not stop at the grave. More often than not, it is only after his death that, along lines hitherto unforeseen, his foundation reaches it full stature. A kind of radiance breaks forth from his tomb. Thus, the expansion of religious congregations, and not only the growing numbers of their subjects and their houses, but still more their influence and the effectiveness of their works, are intimately connected with fidelity of the founder's successors to walking in the footsteps of their first Father.... The original imprint remains, which...will distinguish one congregation from another....These religious communities reproduce the spirit, the virtues, the hoy tendencies of their founders, in somewhat the same

ways the human families carry the marks of their ancestors. But, here the similarity centers on the soul and consequently, it goes much deeper.

Thus, it is of the utmost interest to attempt to reconstruct the moral features of a founder. For a long time, those of Fr. Dujarié remain somewhat vague. The absence of any writings, the disappearance of contemporary witnesses, and the silence, which settled over his work, had made people lose sight of a figure, which was engulfed in the mists of time. Nevertheless, some essential traits have been preserved in the traditions of the Sisters of Ruillé and in those of the first Brothers of St. Joseph.

People referred to him, and still do, as “good Father Dujarié.” This was his first characteristic and the one, which undoubtedly suited him best: kindness and a very great heart. In a parish, which had been torn down by the troubles of the Revolution, the priest of Ruillé-sur-Loir won respect by a charity, which won over even those who were at first opposed to his appointment as pastor.

Another distinctive feature was Father Dujarié’s simplicity, the simplicity of a child. He always sought out the good for its own sake, and without complication. He saw children sunk in ignorance, and he began by teaching them himself. He gathered together some good souls whom he trained to conduct little classes, and to teach catechism and to care for the sick, for the love of the good God, making them walk always in the simplest of paths.... He had them pray, practice mortification, and work without self-seeking.... In the whole of his attitude, if we may so speak, he showed that he was founder without ostentation.

Nevertheless. This humble man was gifted with a certain *finesse*. One who opposed him remarked that the “penetrating eye” searched the thoughts of the visitors. Perhaps he frightened them a little but, according to the same witness, they nonetheless sensed the cordiality of his welcome.

Some might say that he was unduly sensitive....The truth of the matter is that his heart, which was extremely sensitive and delicate, suffered as he watched the first steps towards a separation of the Brothers and Sisters from his direction, of which he did not know the genuine motives and which he even regarded as disastrous. All these traits build up the moral features of a man with a heart, who was just and straightforward, and gifted with exquisite kindness. We must also add, with zeal for the cause of good.