



Chronology of Events

Fr. Jacques-François Dujarié and the Brothers of St. Joseph

1766	31 July	Marriage of Jacques Dujarié and Françoise Leroux
1767	9 December	Birth and Baptism of Jacques-François Dujarié
1787		At 20 years old, Jacques seeks admission to the Seminary in Angers
1791	January	Gathered round their bishop, canons, Sulpicians, pastors, and curates of the city of Angers, all except five, refuse to make the oath to civil authority.
	19 March	The constitutional bishop enters the city; the seminary is closed and Jacques returns home.
	November	One of the first decrees of the legislature considers priests without the oath as suspect and they are forbidden to enter churches.
1795	26 December	Ordination in Paris of Jacques Dujarié by Bishop Maillé de la Tour Landry
1796	Beginning of January	Fr. Dujarié is appointed assistant of Fr. Jacques Delahaye in the parish in Ruillé
1801	15 July	The Concordat with Napoléon and Pius VII is signed.
1802	Easter	Public Catholic worship is reopened in churches.
1803	27 May	Msgr. Pidoll, Bishop of Le Mans, officially appoints Fr. Dujarié pastor of Ruillé.

1806		Fr. Dujarié recruits two laywomen and has a small house, <i>La Petite Providence</i> , built for them. They set up a school to teach young children and a dispensary to provide medical assistance to the poor of the neighborhood. This was the beginning of the Sisters of Providence.
1818	July	Zoé du Roscoät arrives at the rectory in Ruillé and enters the young community of approximately 18 sisters. Zoé eventually becomes Mother Marie-Madeleine, the first Superior General of the Sisters of Providence.
	Summer	At a clergy retreat at the Le Mans Seminary, Bishop de Pidoll invites Fr. Dujarié to consider founding a group of religious men.
1820	15 July	Pierre Hureau, the first recruit, arrives at the Ruillé rectory to become a Brother of Saint Joseph. He does not persevere. He is eventually followed by Louis Duchêne, who also leaves the community.
	22 October	André-Pierre Mottais (Br. André) arrives at the Ruillé rectory.
	16 November	Etienne Gaufre (Br. Etienne) arrives at the Ruillé rectory.
1821	February	Br. André opens a school in Ruillé
	December	Br. André is sent to the Brothers of Christian Schools in Paris to be formed in religious life and educational methods.
1822	June	Br. André returns from Paris
		The first habits are given to André Mottais and Stephen Gauffre
1823		The Brothers of St. Joseph open ten schools
	20 January	In a letter written to Amédé du Roscoät, the brother of Mother Marie Madeleine, Fr. Dujarié writes of his desire to form a society of four missionaries whose main objectives would be to preach in rural areas and give spiritual counseling to his two congregations
		The Brothers of St. Joseph are recognized as a charitable association but without a civil personality, meaning that the congregation cannot own property.
1824		The Brothers of St. Joseph open ten schools.

	11 November	The official opening of <i>Le Grande Sainte-Joseph</i> , the first novitiate for the brothers
1825	8 January	Etienne Mérianne (Br. Rémi) enters
	Spring	Fr. Dujarié abandons the idea of forming a society of Missionaries
	15 September	Pierre Guittoger (Br. Leonard) enters
1827		The Sisters of Providence ask Fr. Dujarié to separate the goods of <i>Le Grand Saint-Joseph</i> from those of <i>La Providence</i> . The Founder does not answer this request. Loans in 1830 come to 25,000 francs. Legally, only the sisters can be held responsible for loans.
1828	November	Boarding school opens in Ruillé
		At the end of the year, Br. André considers for the first time the possibility of three societies in one: brothers and priests united, but not merged, and a third society of pious lay teachers.
1831	21 April	Sisters of Providence and the Brothers of St. Joseph separate finances at the request of Bishop Carron.
	1 September	As a means to preserve the congregation in the midst of internal and external tensions, Fr. Dujarié and 13 brothers sign a “Pact of Fidelity” at a retreat where Fr. Basile Moreau served as confessor. This “Pact of Fidelity” was encouraged by Fr. Moreau. Additional members sign the Pact later on.
1835	18 April	The three Brother Directors (Vincent, Léonard, and André) write to Bishop Bouvier informing him of the dire state of government in the community.
	31 August	At a retreat at Le Grand Saint-Joseph and in the presence of Bishop Bouvier, Fr. Dujarié resigns as Superior General and entrusts the direction of the Brothers of St. Joseph to Fr. Basile Moreau. At this time, the brothers were 64 in number (<i>out of a total of about 350 candidates in the previous 15 years</i>). Twenty-five schools were still in operation (<i>out of a total of 95 established from 1820</i>).
	31 August	The brothers are transferred from Ruillé to Le Mans.
1836	25 August	After much debate about permitting brothers to take final vows, Br. André Mottais makes his perpetual profession of vows as a Brother of St. Joseph at the Le Mans Seminary, the first brother to do so.

	31 August	Le Grand Sainte-Joseph is sold.
	26 October	After resigning as pastor, Fr. Dujarié leaves Ruillé and assumes residence at Notre-Dame de Sainte-Croix in Le Mans.
1837	1 March	The Fundamental Act of Union is signed by 54 brothers and seven clerics uniting the Brothers of Saint Joseph with the Auxiliary Priests of Holy Cross, thus creating the Congregation of Holy Cross.
	June	Fr. Dujarié returns to Ruillé for the last time to spend one month at La Providence surrounded by his spiritual daughters.
1838	17 February	Fr. Dujarié dies and is buried at Notre-Dame de Sainte-Croix in Le Mans.
1844	16 March	Br. André Mottais dies.
1873		The remains of Fr. Dujarié are transferred to the crypt of the chapel of the motherhouse of the Sisters of Providence in Ruillé.

Adapted from *The Brothers of St. Joseph* (iUniverse 2019).