

Gracious God, your providence is ever at work
for the good of all peoples and nations.
You inspired Jacques Dujarié
to found the Brothers of St. Joseph
as a force for good and channel of grace in the world.

As a model and by his message
Father Dujarié called the Brothers
“to sanctify themselves,
to be zealous for the salvation of others,
and to acquire the spirit of Christ.”

This is our heritage, this is our mandate.
Living the heritage and accepting the mandate
require that we “always walk ahead,
until we are in possession of the glory of God.”

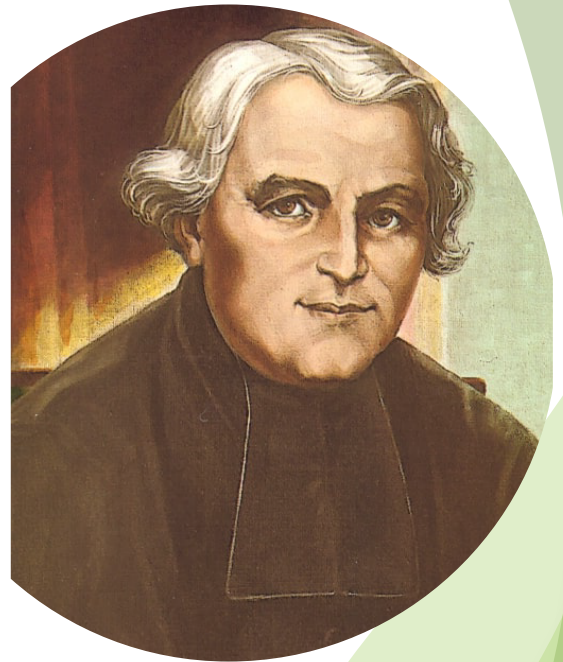
May our lives, as model and message,
invite others to follow Christ as religious Brothers,
to live as Jesus lived, to love as he loved,
and to serve others with courage and conviction.

May we live with such integrity that we, too,
will be “among those to whom the Lord
promised eternal life
because of our fidelity to the end.”

We ask this, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Brother Joel Giallanza, C.S.C

PRAYER FOR THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE BROTHERS OF ST. JOSEPH



“Always Walk Ahead”

FR. JACQUES-FRANÇOIS DUJARIÉ

1767 – 1838

Fr. Jacques-François Dujarié, the founder of the Brothers of St. Joseph, helped lay the groundwork for the mission of Holy Cross throughout the world.

Fr. Dujarié was born in Rennes-en-Grenouilles, France, on December 9, 1767. He became a seminarian in Angers when the French Revolution broke out in 1789. After his seminary was disbanded, Dujarié eventually resumed his studies for priesthood covertly under the tutelage of the pastor in Ruillé-sur-Loir. On December 26, 1795, he was clandestinely ordained a priest in Paris.

Refusing to take the oath of fidelity to the state, Fr. Dujarie ministered in secret and at great risk to his own life.

After relations between the Church and state were finally regularized, Fr. Dujarié was appointed pastor of the church in Ruillé-sur-Loir in 1803.

Recognizing the need for education and evangelization, Fr. Dujarié assembled a group of young women in a nearby village to teach the young. These women became the Sisters of Providence. A few years later in 1820, he gathered a group of men for the same purpose, whom he called the Brothers of St. Joseph.

Faced with poor health and the many demands of a growing community of brothers, Fr. Dujarié, with the bishop's consent, selected Fr. Basile Moreau to continue his good work.

Fr. Moreau moved the brothers to Sainte-Croix, a neighborhood of Le Mans, in 1835. Two years later in the Fundamental Act of Union, the Brothers of St. Joseph were formally united with Fr. Moreau's group of auxiliary priests, thus creating the Congregation of Holy Cross.

At the invitation of Moreau, Dujarié lived the last years of his life in Sainte-Croix until his death on February 17, 1838.