



**NOVENA  
FOR PERSONAL  
PRAYER  
COMMEMORATING  
THE 200<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE  
FOUNDATION  
OF THE  
BROTHERS  
OF ST. JOSEPH**



EDUCATORS

PIONEERS

DISCIPLES



ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE  
**BROTHERS OF ST. JOSEPH**

1820 - 2020



## DAY 1 – EVANGELIZER OF THE GOSPEL



Father Dujarié began his ministry during one of the most dangerous periods of the French Revolution. Even though his life was often at risk, he continued to serve the people, so the gospel would be preached and the sacraments celebrated. He became part an underground church, forced to work clandestinely, often disguised, all for the sake of the gospel. He chose to do this; it was God's call. After the Revolution, when he was pastor at Ruillé, his service intensified and expanded through the two communities he founded, the Sisters of Providence and the Brothers of St. Joseph. All for the sake of the gospel. He could say with integrity, "You know how devoted I am to you and you know the love I have for all those who belong to me. I embrace you and love you in Christ Jesus." Such is the evangelizer, such is one who never loses sight of gospel teachings, such is one who lives and preaches the gospel at all costs, such was Jacques Dujarié.

Lord God, as the family of Holy Cross we praise and thank you for inspiring Fr. Jacques Dujarié to found the Brothers of St. Joseph of Ruillé and to entrust its leadership to Blessed Basile Moreau. As a courageous evangelizer of the gospel, Fr. Dujarié worked for the salvation of souls amidst hardship and the persecution of the Church; he founded the Brothers of St. Joseph to aid in the mission of rebuilding the Church. Fill our hearts, O Lord, with a courageous love for the work of evangelization. Do not allow the challenges we face in ministry to discourage us. May your Holy Spirit make of us Evangelizers of the Gospel not only through the words we profess and the charity of our works, but also through our love for one another. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Silent Reflection:** *In which ways do I experience my life and my ministry as evangelizing, as continuing the mission of Jesus, as proclaiming the gospel?*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the Brothers of St. Joseph of Ruillé, deepen within us and within your Church appreciation for the gift of religious brothers. Grant to all the Brothers of Holy Cross joy in their consecration as vowed men in community, and as faithful ministers to your people. Through the intercession of St. Joseph, Blessed Moreau and Saint André draw to life and ministry in Holy Cross religious brothers, who will witness by their lives and ministry that the Cross is our only hope. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## DAY 2 – EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY



“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 lived only for them.” Father Dujarié included this statement in his last will and testament. It reflects a long life of humility, a life that accomplished much but often pointed to others as being responsible for whatever had been achieved, a life which understood that everything depended upon the work of Divine Providence, a life willing to be forgotten as long as the communities he founded and the parishioners he served could flourish. In his biography of this humble priest, Father Moreau wrote, “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.”

Lord God, as the family of Holy Cross we praise and thank you for inspiring Fr. Jacques Dujarié to found the Brothers of St. Joseph of Ruillé and to entrust its leadership to Blessed Basile Moreau. As your humble servant, Fr. Dujarié cared for those you entrusted to his care without regard for personal gain or wellbeing. Fill our hearts, O Lord, with a humble spirit as we minister in your name and in our relations with one another. Do not allow pride or the desire for recognition to unravel our commitment to serve you with steadfast and faithful love. May your Holy Spirit make of us humble servants not only through our recognition that all is your gift, but also through our charitable embrace of the gifts our confreres in community offer us. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Silent Reflection:** *How have I experienced my life in Holy Cross as a call to humble service in mission and in community?*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the Brothers of St. Joseph of Ruillé, deepen within us and within your Church appreciation for the gift of religious brothers. Grant to all the Brothers of Holy Cross joy in their consecration as vowed men in community, and as faithful ministers to your people. Through the intercession of St. Joseph, Blessed Moreau and Saint André draw to life and ministry in Holy Cross religious brothers, who will witness by their lives and ministry that the Cross is our only hope. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## DAY 3 – COMPASSIONATE SERVANT OF THE POOR



Every biographer of Father Dujarié notes that his love for the poor knew no bounds. He was surrounded by the devastation left in the wake of the French Revolution. He responded as swiftly as the changing and inconsistent policies of various governments would allow. Father Moreau writes of him, “The gentle and compassionate pastor was pained to see that a large number of his parishioners, residing far from the town, were deprived of means to educate their children and that the poor who fell sick found themselves without even the most elementary assistance.” It is his compassion and love for the poor and the sick that urged him to renovate the parish, initiate a system of home visitations, found two communities, dedicate his life and ministry completely to bringing the Lord to others. Near the end of his life, he could say with all confidence, “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 God, as the family of Holy Cross we praise and thank you for inspiring Fr. Jacques Dujarié to found the Brothers of St. Joseph of Ruillé and to entrust its leadership to Blessed Basile Moreau. As a compassionate servant of the poor, Fr. Dujarié spent himself in the service of his parishioners who lacked the basic necessities of life and the opportunities that education affords. Fill our hearts, O Lord, with compassion for the poor who are for us the countenance of Christ. Do not allow comfort or ease to fill the empty spaces in our own lives that we fail to rouse ourselves to serve your poor. May your Holy Spirit make of us compassionate servants of the poor not only through the sharing of our expertise and talents, but by drawing near so that our hearts might be broken open by their suffering. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Silent Reflection:** *How has my life and ministry in Holy Cross led me to become a compassionate servant of the poor?*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the Brothers of St. Joseph of Ruillé, deepen within us and within your Church appreciation for the gift of religious brothers. Grant to all the Brothers of Holy Cross joy in their consecration as vowed men in community, and as faithful ministers to your people. Through the intercession of St. Joseph, Blessed Moreau and Saint André draw to life and ministry in Holy Cross religious brothers, who will witness by their lives and ministry that the Cross is our only hope. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## DAY 4 – EDUCATOR IN THE FAITH



Schools and parishes were disrupted and sometimes destroyed during the waves of anti-Catholic sentiment that followed the French Revolution. Even the most basic education and catechetical instruction had been neglected for years. If society and the church itself were ever to reclaim and sustain the vitality needed for continued development, then the communication of faith must be of the highest priority. So Father Dujarié begins by providing this education and catechesis himself in the parish rectory.

Soon the work is overwhelming and, seeking assistance, he founds the Sisters of Providence (1806) and the Brothers of St. Joseph (1820). As Brother André Mottais visited the schools, Father Dujarié instructed him to “insist that the Brothers teach the students religion and virtue, and that they bring them to the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ.” Such teaching was not just for the students, Dujarié did the same for his parishioners. His hope was that all of life would become the arena in which to learn and live the faith.

Lord God, as the family of Holy Cross we praise and thank you for inspiring Fr. Jacques Dujarié to found the Brothers of St. Joseph of Ruillé and to entrust its leadership to Blessed Basile Moreau. As an educator in the faith, Fr. Dujarié insisted that the Brothers of St. Joseph lead students “to the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ” and be formed in virtue. Fill our hearts, O Lord, with a passion to make you known, loved and served, and help us to live the virtues that conform us to your Son. Do not allow worldly standards of prestige or the marginalization of faith to hamper our call to help others to discover the deepest yearnings of their hearts. May your Holy Spirit make of us true educators in the faith not only through sharing our love for the truth, but by sharing our love for you, the one who is truth itself. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Silent Reflection:** *How has my ministry as an educator in the faith invited others to grow in virtue and to make God known, loved and served?*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the Brothers of St. Joseph of Ruillé, deepen within us and within your Church appreciation for the gift of religious brothers. Grant to all the Brothers of Holy Cross joy in their consecration as vowed men in community, and as faithful ministers to your people. Through the intercession of St. Joseph, Blessed Moreau and Saint André draw to life and ministry in Holy Cross religious brothers, who will witness by their lives and ministry that the Cross is our only hope. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## DAY 5 – TRUE SON OF THE CHURCH



When 20-year old Jacques-François Dujarié entered the seminary at Angers in 1787, the trajectory for his future was clear. However, by 1791, he and the other seminarians are forced to disperse and he goes into hiding over the next four years. The issue driving all this was the Civil Constitution of the Clergy, which mandated an oath of allegiance to the State, as distinct from and in opposition to allegiance to church authorities. Dujarié was among those who refused to take the oath; his loyalty to the church was unwavering even though such defiance could have condemned him to the guillotine with so many clergy and religious at the time. Eventually he is able to resume his studies, leading to his ordination in 1795. Nevertheless, his first years of priestly ministry are marked by danger, hiding and moving from place to place to provide sacramental and pastoral care to the people. Such is a son of the church and, even more, a genuine lover of God and of the church. As he said, “Let us have recourse to God; God alone will be our consolation.”

Such recourse sustained his vocation.

Lord God, as the family of Holy Cross we praise and thank you for inspiring Fr. Jacques Dujarié to found the Brothers of St. Joseph of Ruillé and to entrust its leadership to Blessed Basile Moreau. As a faithful son of the Church, Fr. Dujarié, despite the risks to his own safety and wellbeing, refused to renounce his allegiance to the Church founded by Jesus Christ. Fill our hearts, O Lord, with a steadfast fidelity to the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church, so that the Church may truly be a sign of your love and fidelity to all people. Do not allow our differences of approach and temperament to separate us from the communion of the Church’s life or from one another. May your Holy Spirit, the bond of love between you and your Son, and the bond of communion between Christ and his Church make of us true children of the Church not only through a visible unity, but by a union of hearts in our service as missionary disciples. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Silent Reflection:** *How have I experienced my vowed life in community as rooting me in the life and mission of the Church?*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the Brothers of St. Joseph of Ruillé, deepen within us and within your Church appreciation for the gift of religious brothers. Grant to all the Brothers of Holy Cross joy in their consecration as vowed men in community, and as faithful ministers to your people. Through the intercession of St. Joseph, Blessed Moreau and Saint André draw to life and ministry in Holy Cross religious brothers, who will witness by their lives and ministry that the Cross is our only hope. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## DAY 6 – MENTOR OF YOUNG PEOPLE



Father Dujarié believed if French society was to be renovated, then the youth needed to come under the influence of Jesus Christ. For him, this belief was rooted in the simple truth that young people are the future; to form their minds and hearts was to form and so transform the present and the future. Education would be a principal key in all this. Through the Sisters of Providence and the Brothers of St. Joseph, he opened schools that would begin shaping the destinies of the young people who attended. And that would shape the destiny of France. Father Moreau says that Father Dujarié “conceived the idea of renovating society by the Christianization of youth.” Dujarié realized this could be accomplished by love. He writes to the Brothers, “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.” More than a mentor teaching about Jesus, Father Dujarié became a model of Jesus for young people and for everyone he encountered.

Lord God, as the family of Holy Cross we praise and thank you for inspiring Fr. Jacques Dujarié to found the Brothers of St. Joseph of Ruillé and to entrust its leadership to Blessed Basile Moreau. As a mentor of young people, Fr. Dujarié counseled the Brothers of St. Joseph to love those entrusted to their care by recalling that “Jesus loves them; the most difficult of your students is perhaps the most lovable in his eyes.” Fill our hearts, O Lord, with a deep desire to mentor young persons along the pathway of your kingdom, especially those who are most challenging and in need. Do not allow tasks beyond talents or indifference to our efforts to deter us in mentoring young people in the way of your truth. May your Holy Spirit, the flame of your love, make of us mentors of the young, not only by enabling us to lay down our lives in service but by inflaming our hearts with a desire to be imitators of the heart of Christ, the one who is both teacher and Lord. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Silent Reflection:** *In what ways have I served as a mentor to others accompanying them in their growth to maturity in Christ?*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the Brothers of St. Joseph of Ruillé, deepen within us and within your Church appreciation for the gift of religious brothers. Grant to all the Brothers of Holy Cross joy in their consecration as vowed men in community, and as faithful ministers to your people. Through the intercession of St. Joseph, Blessed Moreau and Saint André draw to life and ministry in Holy Cross religious brothers, who will witness by their lives and ministry that the Cross is our only hope. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## DAY 7 – MODEL FOR PRIESTS AND PASTORS



Father Dujarié planned to found a group of priests to accompany the Sisters and the Brothers, known as ‘Priests of the Sacred Heart.’ This plan would address the decline in parish life that characterized post-Revolutionary France. Father Moreau wrote, “Dujarié was the first to understand the good which could be accomplished by missionary priests who would travel from parish to parish in the diocese, to help overburdened pastors, convert sinners, and strengthen the good by the power of their apostolic preaching.” Though this plan did not come to reality under Dujarié, he rejoiced to see the development of the Auxiliary Priests, later the Priests of Holy Cross, under Moreau’s leadership. Dujarié’s commitment to his parishioners’ quality of life set him apart as a true model; “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.” He is confident when asking the people to “accept the good wishes and the sentiments of him who loves you in our Lord Jesus Christ more than he loves himself and who will be entirely yours until his last breath.” He remained faithful to that.

Lord God, as the family of Holy Cross we praise and thank you for inspiring Fr. Jacques Dujarié to found the Brothers of St. Joseph of Ruillé and to entrust its leadership to Blessed Basile Moreau. As a model for priests and pastors, Fr. Dujarié described his ministry in the Church in these words: “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.” Fill our hearts O Lord, with an unselfish love in accompanying those who suffer and long for the consolation of your Spirit. Do not allow us to be overwhelmed by the vast and varied needs of your people or be discouraged by our weakness. May your Holy Spirit, the Counselor and Advocate, make of us models of pastoral care, not only by our reaching out to serve the needs of the marginalized but by drawing near as neighbor to be with them. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Silent Reflection:** *How has true pastoral concern for the needs of others marked my ministry as a Holy Cross religious?*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the Brothers of St. Joseph of Ruillé, deepen within us and within your Church appreciation for the gift of religious brothers. Grant to all the Brothers of Holy Cross joy in their consecration as vowed men in community, and as faithful ministers to your people. Through the intercession of St. Joseph, Blessed Moreau and Saint André draw to life and ministry in Holy Cross religious brothers, who will witness by their lives and ministry that the Cross is our only hope. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## DAY 8 – MAN WITH HOPE TO BRING



Father Dujarié lived at a time when discouragement and despair were almost normative. Into that time he brought hope, a conviction that the future could be better. He brought hope by accompanying priests who wanted to renounce the Civil Oath so they could return to full ministry in the church. It was dangerous, but he stood by and encouraged them. He brought hope by providing education to the children, pastoral services to the parishioners, sacraments to the sick and home-bound. He could bring hope because he was fluent with the cross. As he says, “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.” Father Dujarié kept faith alive in that part of France where he served; for him, the cross was life and a source of hope. He recommended, “Look under the crucifix. There, you know, is where all wonderful things are found.”  
Hope among them.

Lord God, as the family of Holy Cross we praise and thank you for inspiring Fr. Jacques Dujarié to found the Brothers of St. Joseph of Ruillé and to entrust its leadership to Blessed Basile Moreau. As a man with hope to bring, Fr. Dujarié risked a death sentence by exercising his ministry in defiance of secular power; he recommended that we “look under the crucifix” for there is where “all wonderful things are found.” Fill our hearts, O Lord, with a steadfast hope in the power of the Cross to save us from all that separates us from you and from one another. Do not allow us to remain caught in the web of sin marked by privilege, prejudice, and power. May your Holy Spirit, who raised Jesus from death to life, make of us men with hope to bring, not only by dying to ourselves on the way to you, our Father, but by teaching us how the cross can be borne as a gift. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Silent Reflection:** *How has the experience of the cross, borne in ministry, community and interiorly, been a gift in my religious life?*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the Brothers of St. Joseph of Ruillé, deepen within us and within your Church appreciation for the gift of religious brothers. Grant to all the Brothers of Holy Cross joy in their consecration as vowed men in community, and as faithful ministers to your people. Through the intercession of St. Joseph, Blessed Moreau and Saint André draw to life and ministry in Holy Cross religious brothers, who will witness by their lives and ministry that the Cross is our only hope. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## DAY 9 – DEVOTED FRIEND OF ST. JOSEPH



Jacques Dujarié does not write about St. Joseph, though he referred to the Holy Family as the model for his communities. The Brothers chose St. Joseph, head of that Family, for their particular patron. They taught Dujarié about the devotions they used, and did the same for Father Moreau. There are notable parallels between Jacques and Joseph. Both were known to be humble and called just. Both had been given a great mission among God's people. Both worked at a trade. Both were refugees and spent time in hiding. Both were men of faith who stood firm in dangerous times. Both remained relatively unknown for many years. Father Moreau writes, "Dujarié was marked by Providence to accomplish the designs of divine mercy for the salvation of many." The same could be said of St. Joseph. Father Dujarié himself says, "I am unwilling to allow myself to be discouraged by difficulties." St. Joseph could have said the same. And both could have prayed, in Dujarié's words, "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."

Lord God, as the family of Holy Cross we praise and thank you for inspiring Fr. Jacques Dujarié to found the Brothers of St. Joseph of Ruillé and to entrust its leadership to Blessed Basile Moreau. As a devoted friend of St. Joseph, Fr. Dujarié sought to protect from danger those entrusted to his care, and adjusted his plans according to the designs of Providence. Fill our hearts, O Lord, with a deep devotion to St. Joseph as a model and intercessor for our religious life. Do not allow us to neglect the mystery of the communion of saints in fostering the designs of Providence. May your Holy Spirit, who spoke to Joseph in his dreams, make of us devoted friends of St. Joseph not only enabling us to safeguard the precious gift of our religious vocation, but by transforming our dreams to align with the coming of the kingdom of Christ your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Silent Reflection:** *In what ways does the example of St. Joseph challenge me to safeguard the gift of my vocation in Holy Cross and to allow my vision to be transformed by the dream of God for my life?*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord God, as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the Brothers of St. Joseph of Ruillé, deepen within us and within your Church appreciation for the gift of religious brothers. Grant to all the Brothers of Holy Cross joy in their consecration as vowed men in community, and as faithful ministers to your people. Through the intercession of St. Joseph, Blessed Moreau and Saint André draw to life and ministry in Holy Cross religious brothers, who will witness by their lives and ministry that the Cross is our only hope. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.