

Vinspiration

St Jeanne Antide Thouret

Jeanne Antide Thouret was born on 27 November 1765 at Sancy-le-Long in the Diocese of Besancon, in the Doubs area of France. Jeanne was the fifth child of eight children. Jeanne's mother died when she was 15 leaving her to care for her siblings and father.

Jeanne wanted to join a community that combined prayer, community living, and ministry to the poor. In 1787, at the age of 22, Jeanne entered the Daughters of Charity hoping to live a life of prayer, community life and service to the poor.

In 1793 during the suppression of religious orders in the French Revolution, all religious orders were banned and their members dispersed throughout the country. Jeanne was ordered home to a secular life. She refused, and tried to escape the authorities; she was captured and beaten so badly that it took months to recover from her injuries. This did not deter Jeanne from continuing on the work of a Daughter of Charity: caring for the sick, wounded, and the poor as a result of the Revolution.

When Jeanne decided to return to Paris and when she reached the village of Landeron, Switzerland, she discovered representatives from the Diocese of Besancon, also in exile. They urged Jeanne to return to France and to take in young women and train them how to care for the sick and to teach children. Jeanne accepted the request and was able to return to France in 1799 where she opened a school, a dispensary, and a soup kitchen for the poor in Besancon. With this small group of helpers Jeanne founded the Institute of the Daughters of St Vincent de Paul to look after these works.



FEAST DAY
May 23

BEATIFICATION
January 14
1926

CANONISATION
1934
by Pope Pius XI

Jeanne's Words ...

"Let us love Jesus Christ, let us love Him to the end of our lives and we will be sure to possess Him forever in heaven."

"I would cross the oceans, I would go to any part of the world, if I knew this to be the will of God."

"To touch the poor to know, love and serve God is to do in part what the Saviour of the world came to do on earth, to bring about the Kingdom of God."

CRITERIA FOR BELONGING TO THE VINCENTIAN FAMILY

Over the years the Vincentian family has grown to several hundred groups. These groups comprise of women and men, laity and religious, Catholic and non-Catholic members. The following is a list of criteria used to determine a link with Vincent de Paul:

- Communities instituted by Vincent de Paul, or whose founders/foundresses consulted Vincent himself about their establishments.
- Communities that adopted the Common Rules of Vincent de Paul, or adapted its major principles and incorporated these into their rule of life.
- Communities established by priests and brothers of the Congregation of the Mission
- Communities established by the Daughters of Charity
- Communities for whom Daughters of Charity or Priests of the Mission were mentors while being established.
- Communities that have had more or less steady influence by Vincentians and Daughters of Charity
- Communities that have Vincent de Paul as congregational patron
- Communities that claim to be bound to the same spirit as the Daughters of Charity
- Communities that have adapted the Vincentian charism of evangelisation and service but with a unique emphasis
- Lay associations meeting a criterion
- Non-Catholic associations meeting a criterion
- Communities related but in another manner
- Communities that have since amalgamated with one of the above.

("The Extended Vincentian Family—A Genealogical Perspective An Overview of the VSI Family Tree Project", Betty Ann McNeil DC, Vincentian Heritage, Vol.15, No1, 1994)

St Jeanne Antide Thouret

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF ST JEANNE ANTIDE THOURET



CORE GOSPEL VALUES:

They live the core gospel values of love, prayer, and service.

CHARISM:

“In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40)

Love God and serve him in the poor person.

Prayer and the apostolate are the two faces of only one truth to live: *The Charity*.

MISSION

The sisters focus their energy and resources in service to the poor. They are attentive to the needs of the poor, becoming personally involved in their lives and serving them with respect and dignity.

VOWS

The Sisters take four vows of poverty, celibacy, obedience, and service to the poor.

Poverty: going against society's desire to keep having more and more. The sisters promise to live simply, so share what they have with each other and the poor. Jesus challenges them to not cling to what they have, to live simple lives, and to share all they have: material possessions, time, gifts and talents, and their very selves.



In 1807 the Archbishop of Besancon approved the Rule of Life and Jeanne's community officially became known as Sisters of Charity of Besancon.

Something to think about ...

Reflect on the questions below ... share your thoughts with others ... or take some time to write down your thoughts and offer them to God.

In a world often hostile to the values of Jesus how can I be faithful to his teachings?

What does it mean to be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ in the world today?

What stops me from being wholly dependent on the love of God?

On what do I focus my energy and resources in my daily life?

Do I allow myself to be driven by the Holy Spirit to live an authentic life?

Can I make a choice to live a non-violent life not just in action, but words?

What does being a prophet mean to me?



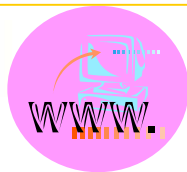
Let us Pray ...

God, grant us the spirit of dependence on your loving providence that you gave your servant Jeanne. Inspired by her example may we be faithful to our ministry of service and always seek to do your will.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Bibliography

Vincian Heritage, Vol. 15, No.1, 1994
www.scsja.org/home



Web Resources

www.famvin.org
www.filles-de-la-charite.org
www.secretariadojmv.org

VINCANTIAN
FAMILY
CELEBRATION

July 9th -13th 2008

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