

Gallery of portraits

Sr Christine Walczak

Today we invite you to follow us for a particular experience: visiting a gallery of portraits ... We won't just look at the portraits, we wish that you get to know better some of the people Jeanne-Antide happened to meet or came across in Rome.

The gallery with its portraits takes us into history ... and even into our own history ...

Tocqueville said: "History is like a gallery with many paintings among which just a few are originals whilst many are copies". Was this another way of saying that history repeats itself?

The gallery we are about to visit introduces us to some well-known people as well as some unknown, revealing to us their personality and their competence. Among them there will be people who worked with Jeanne Antide, and who contributed to the official recognition and the consolidation of the Institute.

We know that Jeanne-Antide addressed civil and ecclesiastic authorities through letters. Was she aware that sometimes she was dealing with "the Great" of history or "people of great fame"? We do not know because she does not say anything about it. What mattered to her was the defence of her Institute and the service for the good of the poor.

As in one of the Lectio's steps we are invited to identify the characters within a Gospel's passage, and to stop to look at one of them in order to contemplate and let our prayer be nourished ... In the same way we are going to stop before the portraits of the people she came to know when she stayed in Rome, first in 1810 and then a second time between 1818 and 1820.

Let us get in, then, and have a look at these portraits...

1

I- **Stay from 30th October to 12th November 1810**

Stay of 12 days before reaching Naples. Jeanne Antide had accepted the request coming from Her Imperial Highness Madam Letizia for a new foundation in Naples: *"it is a duty dear to our hearts to respond eagerly and gratefully to the honour of your trust in us."* LD p249

Two documents provide us the names of the people in charge for receiving Jeanne Antide and her companions during their stay in Rome and then at the arrival in Naples:

- The letter of Jeanne Antide to Mons. Lecoz, dated 5th November 1810
- The report about the arrival of the Sisters in Naples

- The names we find in these two documents are:
- M. D. André de Josio ; a worthy prelate
- Mr Hippolyte Gérard
- Officer Devaux
- General de Miollis ; Governor of Rome
- Mr de Gérando
- The Ursuline Nuns

Letter of Jeanne Antide to Mons. Lecoz

Rome 4th November 1810

To Mons. Lecoz, Archbishop of Besançon,
Officer of the Legion of honour and Count of the Empire
Monseigneur, our Superior General,

Permit us, please, to give you an account of our journey. We have been constantly respected. We have had good weather as far as Rome, all but three days. We have all kept well except our dear Sister Genereuse Caillet, who has had tertian fever since Siena.

We reached Rome on 30th October, in the evening. A worthy Prelate from Naples had been sent to Rome to receive us there, and he had posted a man at the gate of the said city to wait for us and conduct us to a superb hostelry. And on the morning of the 31st **the Prelate and M. Gerard** came to see and welcome us. They said we had taken very few days over our journey and they were not expecting us so soon. They suggested that we stay ten days in Rome, both to rest ourselves and to see the beautiful monuments of the city. We begged them not to be concerned about us and said that, if they so wished, two days, including All Saints Day would be enough for us. They replied that we would not be leaving Rome for Naples until 12th November, that they were awaiting replies from Naples, and that, anyway, they had their reasons. We then said that we were at their disposal, but we begged them to treat us according to the simplicity of our state: we were coming to serve the poor, and would they, please, treat us as poor — we wanted no special consideration. Our dear Sister Genereuse is still unwell. Two doctors come to see her twice a day. Today, 3rd November, she is much better. We hope she will be cured.

The Prelate has given us, on behalf of Mr. Dumas, a memoir that explains the hospitals in the city of Naples. There are ten of them, and five prisons. The memoir tells us they will be entrusted to us, at least in great part.

Mr. Devaux Officer sends you his respects. He has been very useful to us and has been most attentive. But he also has had tertian fever since two days before arriving in Rome and he still has it. Today he has taken tartar emetic

The Prelate has told us that **the first Governor** of Rome wanted to honour us with a visit, and today, Sunday, we went to visit him, but he was out. In the afternoon he came to see us, and he invited us to dinner on Thursday. We thought we should accept.

M. de Gerendoz came to visit us but we were out. We shall go to visit him.

Monseigneur, I have the honour to send back to you the letter for Mr. Derrieu, the engineer in charge of the works at the Simplon. We have not found him. He has not been at the Simplon for some time.

Mr. Jarry, our coachman, has had much more trouble than he expected. More than half the route has been mountainous, with steep descents. Although his horses are good, one has been sick, and that caused expenses. He has also had expenses because food is costly, and because very often we had to pay for crossing bridges, on rivers, and in the mountains of Tuscany. Often he had to hire horses. We could not refrain from recompensing him with some generosity, though he did not demand it. He is an honest man, and he seemed happy with what we gave him, we were satisfied with him.

Our Sisters join us in presenting you with our deep respect, Monseigneur.

Your humblest and most obedient servant,
Sister Jeanne Antide Thouret
Superior General of the Sisters of Charity of Besançon

5th November 1810

Monseigneur,

We have received today, 5th November, a letter from the **Governor of Rome**, inviting us to dinner on the 8th. Today also we were shown through all the apartments of our Holy Father the Pope, and his garden as well. Please accept a few twigs from the garden.

Two days ago, the fever left our dear Sister Genereuse, but she is very weak. I am honoured to offer you my deep respect, Monseigneur,

Your humblest and most obedient servant,
Sister Jeanne Antide Thouret

Abstract of the Report written by Mr Fulcran Jérôme Dumas

....

On 15th September Mr. Guieu informed us about the departure of this pious convoy and about the recommendation letters they were bringing to Rome addressed to Mr. **Hippolyte Gérard**, known to His Excellency Cardinal Fesch.

We informed the Minister of the Interior. **Mr. D. André de Josio**, Canon at the Archbishopric Cathedral of Naples, was chosen to go to Rome in order to meet them, make them rest and guide them for the rest of the journey. He left on 21st October with the instructions we had given him and the funds necessary for the entertainment and the lodging as well as for the journey. He brought the letter of the Minister to **General Miollis**, governor of that town. He took the passports to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. We too went with him with other letters. He arrived in Rome on 25th October.

On 26th October, he informed us about his arrival, about having been received by the authorities and by **Mr. Gérard**, about the choice of the Ursulines' convent as a lodging for the Sisters, where they could stay and rest, and about all the preparation and the measures taken to ensure they would find a convenient and comfortable place.

He then informed us about the arrival of the Sisters, on 30th October in the evening, the need of making them rest after such a long and difficult journey from Besançon, and the decision to leave on 12th November and to reach Capua on 17th November. He also informed us about the good service and the attention they received from the authorities in Rome and from other important people.

.....

❖ The worthy Prelate of Naples, or Canon Andrea de Jorio (and not "de Josio")



Andrea de Jorio (1769-1851) was a Canon at the Cathedral of Naples. He was also an archaeologist, an ethnologist, specialized in antiquities and in charge of the section dedicated to Etruscan vases at the Bourbons Museum in Naples, he was well-known to many knowledgeable people abroad.

His most famous work is « The mimics of antiquity » published in 1832, in it he compared the gestures painted on ancient vases and that of the Neapolitan people. For instance the sign of "horns" in Naples (which is used to ward off the evil eye, the bad spell or to send away the bad luck), is extensively explained in this work. He also wrote about the catacombs of Saint Januarius, the excavation of Pompeii, and about Pozzuoli.

The testimony by Count de Coetlosquet, gives us his portrait:

"We made an interesting acquaintance today by meeting the Canon de Jorio: he is a man of great erudition yet he has the rare gift of making his knowledge very easy to understand even for the most ignorant. He has also a second gift as valuable as the first one, which is the ability of turning his word in an original and picturesque way by which they are powerfully fixed in one's memory I have just said goodbye to this excellent man, who brings together in the highest degree two qualities which one would think irreconcilable: bonhomie and originality. ... Often I will think of him with his old physiognomy, his black thick and arched eye-brows, those long eyelids which he raises and lowers in turn, that gaze in which one could see liveliness and benevolence at once, those lips on which one could read the expression of a sweet and harmless cheekiness, that tall stature which seemed to increase when he draped himself in the large folds of his cloak."¹

Alexandre Dumas in his book "Le Corricolo" (containing the impressions of a journey to Naples full of anecdotes, short stories, portraits, good words and walks), evokes the De Jorio's character, which he calls "Don Ojori". This character after asking many times for an audience with King Ferdinand, was finally received on 3rd January 1825. The following day the King died. The people of Naples considered the Canon as a famous "jettatore" (jinx).

He is buried inside the basilica dedicated to St. Restitute attached to the cathedral of Naples.

¹ Count de Coetlosquet, "Souvenirs de voyage", Paris 1843, p84; p107

❖ Mr Gerard or Hippolyte Gerard



We do not have any information about him. It seems he owned many estates in the Rome's region. At the time of the Consulta, he was appointed member of the General Council of the Department of Rome, which was composed by 24 members. He was also in charge of the maintenance of many buildings, parks and gardens of Rome. Was he related to François Gérard the famous painter of the First Empire, and in particular to any member of the Bonapartes?

❖ The Governor of Rome, General de Miollis



Sextius Alexandre François de Miollis was born at Aix en Provence in 1759 and passed away in the same city in 1828. He took part in the American War of Independence at the side of Lafayette in 1781-1782. He also participated in the Italian campaigns and was the commandant of the French troops in Italy in 1805. He was made Count of the Empire.

Passionate about art, literature and poetry, and also a Freemason, in 1805 he dedicated a monument to Virgilio in Mantua. In Ferrara he had the ashes of Ariosto (great Italian poet) transferred from the Benedictine's monastery to the city's University. In 1800 he asked many times to meet the great author and poet Vittorio Alfieri, who lived in Florence. Alfieri, who was a fervid patriot and a convinced nationalist, refused each of de Miollis' requests, whom he considered as a French oppressor.

De Miollis in 1808 conquered Rome and the Pontifical States. He had the French flag hoisted on St. Angel's Castle. It was under his authority that General Radet arrested the Sovereign Pontiff, Pious VII, in the night between 5th and 6th July 1809.

He became General Governor of the Pontifical States (1808-1814) and also President of the extraordinary Consulta² of the Roman States (June 1809-December 1810). He lived in Doria Pamphili Palace up to 1811 then he moved to Villa Aldobrandini close to Quirinale. He was a man of large culture and great artistic sensitivity, he often gave sumptuous parties at his home.

One of his brothers, Charles François Bienvenu de Miollis was Bishop of Digne from 1805 to 1838. He was a very charitable man, who inspired Victor Hugo the character of Mons. Bienvenu, in his work "Les Misérables".

An abstract of the registers containing the deliberation of the extraordinary Consulta of Roman States (on 12th November 1810) has a mention of Jeanne Antide's visit to Miollis.

The deliberation was about the establishment in Rome of an institute in order to expand the Institution of the Ladies of Charity of St Vincent de Paul: *«in this case, it will be necessary to turn to another Congregation, like the Daughters of wisdom or the Sisters of Charity of Besançon whose Superior, who has just gone to Naples to found a colony, was received with all honours by you, Count, on her way to Rome ... »*.

Jeanne Antide in her letter to Mons. Lecoz announced that she had been invited to dinner together with her companions on 8th November at the Miollis' house, that is Doria Pamphili Palace. One can imagine the feelings of Jeanne Antide and her companions among such luxury ... they who were coming to serve the poor and wished to be treated like the poor. More over the Sisters Ursulines' journal, in whose Convent Jeanne Antide stayed when in Rome, reports that: *"On Thursday 8th (...) the Ladies of Charity went out to dinner and came back half an hour past midnight."*

What did Jeanne Antide know about de Miollis? Besides, strangely enough Jeanne Antide never mentioned the absence of the Pope who was in exile ... in spite of visiting the Vatican Gardens.

² The Temporary Consulta: when the Pontifical states were annexed to the French Empire, a decree constituted a Consulta in charge of supporting the Prefect (Camille Tournon) in the administration of Rome and its region. The Consulta was made up of four members. Sextius Alexandre de Miollis, General Governor; Laurent Marie Janet, Joseph Marie de Gérando and Ferdinando dal Pozzo. The Consulta worked at 3 big projects: the sanitation of the Pontins marshes; the embellishment of the city of Rome including the amplification of archaeological excavation; la fight against brigands. The Consulta will end in December 1811.

❖ Mr de Gérendoz



Joseph Marie de Gérando (correct spelling) was born in Lyon in 1772 in a wealthy catholic family, he died in Paris in 1842. He had thought of becoming a priest but the French revolution made his life take a different direction.

Great humanist, he was a linguist, pedagogue, philosopher and philanthropist. He was one of the founders of the French anthropology. He was also interested in the language of deaf and dumb people and published two volumes on their education. He married the Baroness of Rathsamhausen, from a notable protestant family from Alsace.

In 1804, he was appointed General Secretary of the Minister of the Interior, and then he became Master of requests³ at State Council in 1808. He was for long time the Administrator of various philanthropic Institutions.

It was at that time that Jeanne Antide met him first, in **1807** when the Chapter of Religious Congregations was held in Paris. *"She was summoned several times, before the Chapter opened, by a number of Authorities. She answered their questions and when she thought it necessary, she gave them her copies and the newly printed Rule. They were charmed and they admired the good order of this Institute, in comparison with others which were not so well regulated."* MSR 118

In one letter, hand-written by Jeanne-Antide, she makes precise requests to "Mr de Gérando" :

« Sir, I forgot to ask, in the paper I had the honour to present to you, for the gardens of the two houses we are requesting, as well as the reparations of the two houses, at least the most needed ones. I have the honour of reminding you that it is the house before the Benedictines and the one before the small Carmelites which are most suitable for us because they are at the two extremities of the city and, therefore, more accessible to the poor ... Please accept my respectful regards ... » Sr. J. Antide Thouret, Superior

Following this message, Mr Portalis wrote to Jeanne Antide on 21st November 1807:

"I received Madam, the supplement attached to your letter written on the 17th of this month, regarding the conditions of the non-alienated houses, which would best suit your establishments. I have the honour of sending you my greetings with my respectful consideration."

On 9th December 1807, De Gérando wrote to Jeanne Antide to give her a copy of the opening speech delivered on 4th December by the Minister of Interior to the Sisters Deputies. De Gérando closed the letter saying: "The General Secretary of the Ministry of Interior eagerly seized this opportunity to send to Madam the Superior the assurance of his great esteem and deep respect.

De Gérando, Baron of the Empire, was afterwards appointed as a member of the Consulta in Rome, he was in charge of the home office. He made good use of his administrative and political competences, whilst keeping a social sensitivity. In Rome he was staying at Corsini Palace.

In her letter of 5th November 1810 to Mons Lecoz, Jeanne Antide says that she intended to visit de Gérando: *"Mr. de Gerendoz came to visit us when we were out; we shall go to visit him."* LD 254

Did she visit him at Corsini Palace?

From Naples, Jeanne Antide communicated with him and the governor of Rome de Miollis about the possibility of a foundation in this town. *"I am thinking of going as far as Rome with Sr Mélanie who is going back, to see what we should do in the matter of the establishment proposed by the Governor. He wrote to me last 14th December. I answered him at the beginning of January, by post, and also Mr. de Gérando..."* Letter to Mons. Lecoz 2nd April 1811 LD p276

In fact, de Miollis and de Gérando were trying to organize the care in the hospitals of Rome, and they wanted to ask this service to a Religious Congregation. It seems that this project did not go through.

De Gérando published in 1824 «The Visitor of the poor» a research on the situations of indigents and moral poverty. He wrote also "Public charity" (a work in 4 volumes, which is still quoted today). He is considered as one of the precursors of social Catholicism. Once he said: *« The Charity less worthy of such name is that which gives only money».*

³ The Master of Requests is a high State officer, who is in charge of administrative litigation under the Council of State. He can attend the general assemblies and has the right to speak.

❖ Officer Devaux



We do not have any element to get to know whom he was.

❖ The Ursulines Sisters:

At their arrival in Rome, on 30th October 1810, Jeanne Antide and her companions were lodged "at a superb hotel". Jeanne Antide in her letter of 5th November 1810 to Mons. Lecoz wrote: "... we begged them to treat us according to the simplicity of our state: we were coming to serve the poor, and would they, please, treat us as poor, we wanted no special consideration. On All Saints, in the morning, the Prelate took us at the Ursulines' Convent, where we shall stay until our departure ..."

The Convent was situated in the neighbourhood Tridente, not far from Piazza del Popolo.

The Ursulines' journal offers us some delicious details about the staying of our Sisters at their Convent.

On 1st November came to the monastery 8 French Sisters: the Daughters of Charity with a young girl, the Superior's niece. They were led by Father Polani, a French priest and a Neapolitan priest, in order to lead them to Naples where they would make a foundation. They were all lodged at the novitiate, included the room of the lady ... They are all young and nice, full of spirit, they dance, sing, they often go out in a carriage and eat anything with appetite. On the first day they had breakfast in the territory of the State, and at the Monastery, they had lunch at two o'clock in the night.

On Sunday morning they went to Saint Peter, in the afternoon they had the visit of the General who invited them for lunch. Two of our French Sisters with Madam Fortunata declined the invitation. On Thursday 8th (...) the dames of Charity took part in this meal and returned to the Monastery half an hour past midnight. On 13th, in the morning, they left for Naples escorted by three Dragons. (Ursuline's Journal November 1810)

II- Stay from October 1818 to August 1820

In 1818, Italy was again governed by the Bourbons, and also in Rome the government had changed. Jeanne-Antide came to Rome to request the approval of her Institute and of its Rule of life by the Pope.

We know that while traveling towards Rome she stopped at Tagliacozzo where she took two Sisters for the service in the school. The convention had been signed on 14th November 1810. Then Jeanne Antide resumed her journey to Rome. She had been preceded by the recommendation letters sent by Mons. Narni, in July, to Cardinal Somaglia, Cardinal Consalvi, Cardinal di Pietro, and Canon Gallinari, ...⁴

In this gallery of portraits I shall just consider 2 people: Canons Gallinari and Adinolfi, who personally helped Jeanne Antide and with whom she kept corresponding until the end of her life.

❖ Canon Adinolfi



We do not know much about him. He is mentioned in some official newspapers among those who had been appointed to an office.

" ... It was conferred to Reverend Canon Dom Pietro Adinolfi the office of undersecretary of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars" in *Corriere di Milano*, n.190 - 10 August 1814

"... were appointed to the vacancies of the Collegiate Church of Saint Mary in Via Lata Mr Dom Pietro Adinolfi, D. Pietro Minetti..." *Diario di Roma*, n.43 – year 1827

Archpriest, Undersecretary of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars, he was attentive to the

⁴ Cf. Lecture n.1 by Sr. Paola, "Our Saturday's mornings", 22nd December 2018: "THE BREATH OF NEW WINE AND ITS ENERGETIC PRESSURE - Mother Thouret's intention to have the Rules and the Institute approved by the Pope ". On the web-site www.suoredellacarita.org you can find the PDF file of these letters.

evolution of the process for the Approval of the Institute of the Sisters of Charity.

Although we do not have any biographic information about Adinolfi, through the letters we can find out some interesting aspects.

Among the correspondence we have got, 11 letters are between Adinolfi and Jeanne Antide:

- Adinolfi to J.A., Frascati 15 October 1819
- Adinolfi to J.A., Rome 22 December 1819
- Adinolfi to J.A., Rome 20 May 1820
- Adinolfi to J.A., Rome 29 June 1820
- J.A. to Adinolfi, Naples 12 January 1824
- J.A. to Adinolfi, Rome 28 December 1825
- Adinolfi to J.A., Rome 4 January 1826
- Adinolfi to J.A., Rome 2 March 1826
- J.A. to Adinolfi, Naples 8 April 1826
- Adinolfi to J.A., Rome 13 May 1826
- J.A. to Adinolfi, Naples June 1826

We have also two letters of Sr. Rosalie to Mons. Adinolfi (1826).

- 30 August 1826
- 6 December 1826

Some interesting aspects:

- Letter of 15th October 1819:

Adinolfi invited Jeanne Antide to go to Frascati, in order to communicate the changes made to the Rule, saying: *"it will be a pleasure to have you here with your niece."*

And in the accounts kept by Canon Gallinari (accounts from September 1818 to July 1820) we can see the expenditures:

"For 10 doubles given to Canon Adinolfi 32.13

To the same person, presents of coffee, sugar and chocolate 15.00

*For the shopping in **Frascati**, in total 9.00 (Ecus)."*

Thus we suppose that Jeanne Antide went to Frascati (village about 22 km South-East of Rome) to visit Adinolfi during her stay in Rome. We should not forget that at that time Cardinal Pacca was Bishop of Frascati.

❖ Letter of 22 December 1819

Jeanne Antide was confronted with Mons. de Pressigny who did not want to accept the Pontifical approval of the Institute. The Brief of Pope Pious the VII, in support to the approval of the Institute, was issued on 14th December of the same year. On 22nd December Adinolfi met Cardinal Pacca "about this matter". In this Letter Adinolfi explained how the file would be processed. And to Jeanne Antide who insisted to write new letters, Adinolfi responded: *"... it seems useless and inappropriate to me that you still write letters, this could compromise you. Only if necessary, I would answer that **you are daughter of the Church**, and that you submit to the indication of the Holy See, and nothing else"*. Here is a formula we know well!!! Then, was Jeanne Antide who used this formula within a hypothetic letter to Adinolfi (a letter we do not have)? Or else the formula comes from Adinolfi? We should take notice that it is in the Circular of March-April 1820 (LD p 308) that Jeanne Antide uses this formula *"I am a daughter of the Church be it with me."*

❖ Letter of J.A. dated 12th January 1824

Jeanne Antide wrote to Adinolfi for the new year. She expressed to him again her gratitude and shared her feelings: *"Knowing the concern you always have for us, I am sure you will be pleased to learn that here we are enjoying peace and tranquillity. The King loves and protects us. We endeavour to do all the good that depends on us, especially in educating the young ... We entrust ourselves wholly to the arms of divine Providence for what concern France ... We leave to the mercy of God the care of this business which we put into His hands long ago."*

❖ Letter dated 4th January 1826

Adinolfi offers to Jeanne Antide his wishes of prosperity. *"I am delighted to hear about the progress of your society in the Kingdom of Naples ... there are rumours that the Pope wants to give a new direction to the administration (of hospitals), and to the assistance of the sick; it seems to be a favourable time to establish yourself in Rome..."*

❖ Letter dated 2nd March 1826

Adinolfi speaks about the Holy Father's concern about the development of hospitals in Rome. He writes: *"I know you are very busy with your houses within the Kingdom and that coming to Rome will be difficult for you and I would not advise you to act differently, yet in this case, why not take steps to succeed ... Mons. Joseph Sala, secretary of the Council (of the hospices in Rome) is the one in charge of the matter. You could try to write to him, saying that you are ready for a service whatever it may be ..."*

Jeanne Antide will actually write to Mons. Sala, on 8th April 1826, to offer the service of her Sisters for the poor sick in the hospitals. (LD p 416-417)

On the same day she also wrote to Adinolfi : *" ... I am risking the letter you advised me to write to Mons. Sala. I ask you to look at it, and, if you think it suitable, I have begged Canon Gallinari to pass it on to Mons. Sala ... I have satisfied the desire I have had for so long. If God wills, He will make it succeed. I leave it entirely in His hands."* She closed her letter saying again her gratitude *"for all your goodness to us, and for having remembered us in the midst of a multitude of important occupations ..."*. (LD 416)

Mons. Sala's response will be negative. We won't see the reasons here.

The letter of Jeanne Antide to Adinolfi is dated June 1826. She knows that establishing in Rome is not easy, *"but, if God wants it, He will do it all; He will raise the persons and supply the means, if we on our side make our poor efforts for His glory. It is in Him that I have always put my confidence, and I have always experienced the effect of His help."* (LD p 421)

Sister Rosalie kept in touch with Adinolfi for a while. She wrote to him on 30th August to let him know that her aunt had passed away: *"I feel indispensably compelled to inform you about the great loss we suffered of our Reverend Superior and Foundress, Madam Jeanne Antide You know better than anyone else all matters regarding the interest of our Institute, all that our dear departed suffered to support and to conserve it in its whole integrity..."*

Through this correspondence we can see how Canon Adinolfi was a great support for Jeanne Antide and the Institute.

❖ **Canon Giovan Battista Gallinari**



We know little about him. What we can say is that Gio. Battista Gallinari came from Montefiascone (Province of Viterbo) of which he became a great benefactor. He was Canon at the Anagni's Cathedral; Expeditionary of the Apostolic Dataria⁵, he wrote the Papal Bulls containing major graces.

He wrote books of poetry, the most known was "Sacred and moral sonnets" in 1824. He also wrote sonnets to Our Lady, and other Sonnets for special occasions in the Church of Rome (the return of Pope Pious the VII, ...) and a commentary on the translation of the Eneide. He certainly was a very cultivated man.

He was also a friend of Mons. Narni, that is why the latter sent him a letter so that he could help Jeanne Antide in Rome.

In 1848, at 87 years of age he was the dean of expeditionary of the Apostolic Dataria and of the Writers of the Apostolic Chancellery, being of delicate health he asked Pious IX for a monthly pension for the few years he still had to live.

⁵ Apostolic Dataria: Office of the Curia which examines supplications and grants graces after the XIV century. It was suppressed in 1968.

We have got many letters of the correspondence between Gallinari and Jeanne Antide.

- Gallinari to J.A., Rome 25 August 1818
- Gallinari to J.A., accounts without date 1818
- Accounts of credits of Madam Thouret 1820
- Gallinari to J.A., topographic accounts, Rome 14 April 1820
- Accounts and receipt for the binding of the Rules, Rome 5 May 1820
- Accounts for the binding, Rome 9 June 1820
- Notes of expenditures made by Canon Gallinari for Madam Thouret, Rome 13 July 1820
- J.A. to Gallinari, Paris 1822
- J.A. to Gallinari, Naples 12 January 1824
- Gallinari to J.A., Rome 16 January 1824
- J.A. to Gallinari, Naples 22 December 1824
- J.A. to Gallinari, Rome 28 December 1825
- Gallinari to J.A., Rome 4 January 1825
- Gallinari to J.A., Rome 5 March 1826
- Gallinari's nephew to J.A., 16 May 1826

Let us have a look at some of these letters...

❖ Letter dated 25th August 1818

Gallinari received the letter of recommendation of Mons. Narni dated 20th July⁶ which very likely came with a letter of Jeanne Antide in which she said that she thought of reaching Rome in October. And he precises: " ... I have understood what is asked from me and the task entrusted to me ... but about your proposal of coming to Rome at the end of September or at the beginning of October, I have to warn you that such date does not seem to me suitable to treat rapidly your matter ... The autumn vacations begin at the beginning of October up to 11th November. In this period all offices and ecclesiastical secretariats are closed and the Holy Father's audiences are suspended ... If you receive mail from France, I shall receive it and pass it on into your own hands ... "

In fact, Jeanne Antide asked to address her mail to

*« Canon Gallinari de Montecitorio
for Madam Thouret
Superior General of the Sisters of Charity in Rome, Italy »*

The letters directed to Jeanne Antide at this time, which are in our possession, have all this same address, except one. The letter written by Mr Adinolfi on 15th October 1819 which is addressed to

*« The most Reverend Mother Jeanne Antide Thouret,
Foundress of the Sisters of Charity,
Borromeo Palace at St. Ignatius, Rome »*

The Borromeo Palace which at that time belonged to the Fabric of Saint Peter, (today it has become the international College Bellarmino belonging to the Jesuits), rented a certain number of rooms. We do not know exactly for how long Jeanne-Antide lodged there.

According to the documents we have got, Gallinari was in charge of keeping the accounts of the expenditures for the Rule of Life: translation, printing, binding, etc. ... and also postage, and transportation ...

We can see that the book of Rule destined to N. S. (the Holy Father?) was bound in fine calf-leather with his coat of arms.

Another sample of the Rule with a similar binding was destined to the King of Naples with his coat of arms; the same for the King of France ... 24 bindings were in Crémis (?) of France, red; 20 bindings in fine Morocco-leather of France, green; 237 bindings in leather "radicate" golden; 14 binding in rustic, etc. ...

Interestingly from the list of the expenditures of 13th July 1820 we can see that Jeanne Antide bought "172 papers of 'Cracas' ". The 'Journal of Rome' also known as 'Cracas' (the publisher's name) was the newspaper

⁶ Cf note 3

of Rome, made up of 12 pages, which was issued once a week with news of Rome, of Italy and of Europe. Its n.55 of 8th July 1820 (p 2 to 5) reports the papal approval of the Congregation of the Daughters of Charity under the protection of St. Vincent de Paul, with a good article on the foundation's development by "*Sister Jeanne Antide Thouret, living in Rome at the moment ...*"

In the same accounts we can read: "*Paid for renting a bed for one year up to the end of November 1819, at a rate of 2.25 per month*".

That is a strange detail ... perhaps Jeanne Antide rented a bed to complete the furniture? Besides, in these accounts there is no mention of any payment for the lodging ... That's a mystery!

❖ J.A. to Gallinari, Paris 1822

In this letter with the wishes for the new year, Jeanne Antide thanks Gallinari for his support "*in the difficult moments in which we now find ourselves. You are the only help of our poor Sisters, their consolation and encouragement. In short, you show yourself a true father to them. What shall I tell you of our stay in Paris? ... that business there drags on; but with a store of patience and courage, I hope we shall achieve our purpose ...*".

❖ J.A. to Gallinari on 12th January 1824

In this letter Jeanne Antide says that she had arrived well "*yes our trip was good and we consider it as nothing in comparison with that from France; we can call ourselves neighbours and keep the hope of seeing each other again ... Please ask your nephew as well as Miss Anna to accept our best wishes and the most affectionate regards*".

Gallinari answered on 16th January to this letter signing "*Your most obliged servant and friend, G.B. Canon Gallinari*".

These few lines show well how little by little among Gallinari (and his nephew) and Jeanne Antide and her niece Rosalie grew a respectful and devoted friendship.

Conclusion:

It would be interesting to have a look also at the portrait of Cardinal Pacca and Cardinal Consalvi; but time at our disposal is short, and also it is not difficult to find their biography (in dictionaries, on line, etc ...), since they are eminent figures who lived at a difficult time of the history of the Church at the side of Pope Pious VII. They contributed to the renewal of the Church and, as it was illustrated in our previous conference, they supported a new form of feminine religious life with a General Superior.

Let us not forget the least known and even the unknown who helped to write this page of history. History is not just made up of dates, events, decisions made by some leaders. It is also the history of our lives.

Each life is complex as well as each time. Some of what we just read may remind us of what we are living now, giving us useful keys to understand our present time.

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