

Guide n. 2: Let us therefore live this anniversary of our Congregation as a call to go ahead in confidence, in unity and in an ever more committed and solid service to the poor.

Let us sing the **MAGNIFICAT** with Joy and gratitude.

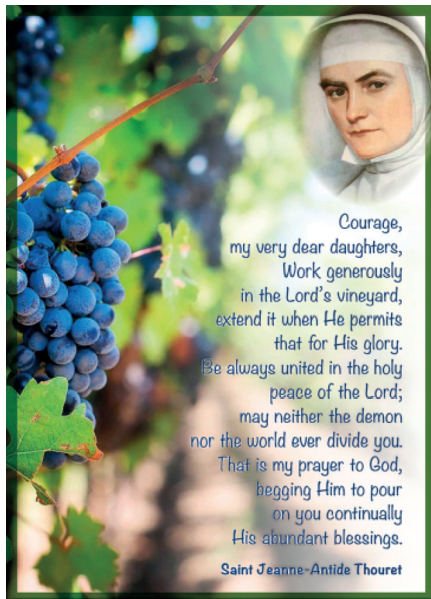
Guide n. 1: Together, let us address the Father with the words that Jesus taught us, asking him to give us the gift of many holy vocations in this month when we begin a vocational month for the whole congregation on 21st April.


Our Father ...

Guide n. 2: Let us pray together: *Lord Jesus, deign to pour into our hearts the love, your same love with which you marvellously kindled St. Jeanne-Antide to enable her to found a religious family within your Church. You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen!*

We conclude our prayer in the
Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Assembly: *Amen!*



 **Song:** to St. Jeanne-Antide.



ARTISANS OF FRATERNITY
You are the vine,
and we are the branches!



Prayer for the month of April 2024

Anniversary of the Foundation of the Congregation: 225 years.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Guide n. 1: In this month of April, we recall the foundation of our Congregation, with particular joy and gratitude in this 225th anniversary year.

Jeanne-Antide is astonished with God's work, when, in her letter to Pope Pius VII, on 12 September 1818 (LD p 330) she recalls the birth of the Institute, the work of God: « *It was a grain of mustard-seed and he made it germinate and take root, and it became a great tree...* ».



 **Song:** to Jeanne-Antide.

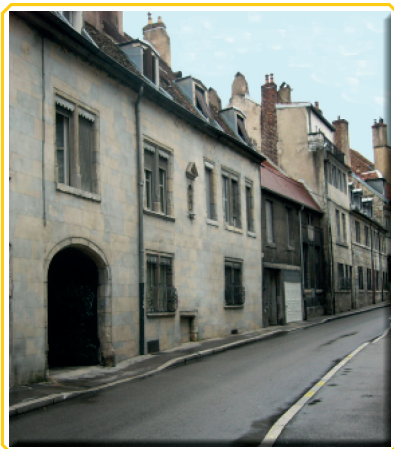
Guide n. 2: To remember, to keep in our memory is an important act for our faith. It means remembering the Lord's marvels, to allow him to guide us, to enlighten us and to strengthen us today.

Let us listen to the book of **Isaiah Ch. 44, 21-24.**

1st Reader: « *Remember these things, Jacob, for you, Israel, are my servant. I have made you, you are my servant; Israel, I will not forget you. I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.* » Sing for joy, you heavens, for the LORD has done this; shout aloud, you earth beneath. Burst into song, you mountains, you forests and all your trees, for the LORD has redeemed Jacob, he displays his glory in Israel "This is what the LORD says—your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the LORD, the Maker of all things, who stretches out the heavens, who spreads out the earth by myself? ».

Guide n. 1: In a spirit of thanksgiving, let us remember! Let us make it memorable! Let us listen with a deep feeling the narration of the principal foundation act that Jeanne Antide relates in Memorandum of Pure Truths...

2st Reader: « *This is how our Institute started: On the 11 April 1799, with the consent and approval of Bishop de Rosy, bishop of the Catholics amongst the infidels, who was administering the See of Besançon vacant by the death of Archbishop de Durfort, and of two vicars general returned after deportation,*



I opened in Besançon, rue des Martelots, a free school for the education of girls. In a few days, my school was very full. I was the only teacher, but God deigned to spread His blessing over us. It was found so satisfactory that I was told to rent a larger apartment in the same street, and while repairs were being made, I received two aspirants, then a third and a fourth. I taught them how to teach the pupils by making them watch how I did it myself. We went into the new rooms in the last days of October of the same year. We

established the school, a pharmacy and a copper for the soup for the sick poor in their homes. They came on certain days at fixed times and received soup and a portion of meat » (Cf. pp. 6-7).

Some moments of silence.

Guide n. 2: Sr. Maria Rosa, our Superior General, during the European Conference of the Sister servants in Assisi, spoke to us about the importance of memory, which sustains our sense of belonging to our religious family, we who are daughters of Jeanne-Antide.

Let us take the time to read and to meditate these words:

1st Reader: “ The ‘*remembrance of the family*’ makes us rejoice, while drawing us into a movement full of life, which engages, attracts and sustains our sense of belonging. For a religious congregation like ours, remembering means cherishing its origins and its historical development, thanking God who has given the Church these gifts that make it a sign of Charity ”.

Refrain: *Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.*

2st Reader: “ We ‘*return*’ to our origins in order to ‘*start afresh*’, to ‘*inherit*’ the experience of our origins, and to apply it creatively in the present day of history”.

Refrain: *Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.*

1st Reader: “ In this time when identity is weak and it’s difficult to remain faithful to one’s call because of the lack of prospects for the future, **it is necessary that we build ourselves more solidly on the basis of memory, strengthening our identity**, so that we can live the present with passion and awareness and envisage the future with hope. We can thus continue to generate life. ”

Refrain: *Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.*

Guide n. 1: In thanksgiving for the long and rich journey made by so many of our Sisters, who, after St. Sainte Jeanne Antide, have transmitted to us the charism of Charity, let us pray Psalm 137:

I will praise You, Lord, with all my heart; *
you have heard the words of my mouth
Before the angels I will sing your praise. *
I will prostrate myself toward your holy temple.

And will praise your name *
for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,
for you have so exalted your solemn decree *
that it surpasses your fame.

When I called, you answered me; *
you greatly emboldened me.
May all the kings of the earth praise you, LORD, *
when they hear what you have decreed.

May they sing of the ways of the LORD, *
for the glory of the LORD is great.
Though the LORD is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly; *
though lofty, he sees them from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, *
you preserve my life.
You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes; *
with your right hand, you save me.

The LORD will vindicate me †
your love, LORD, endures forever *
do not abandon the works of your hands.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit...

