



1817 – 2017 Celebrations
 Mary, Jeanne-Marie and each of us

They were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force — no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them. Acts 2, 1-4

We know the founding members of the early Church were gathered in the Upper Room with Mary. As St Paul says they were not the wise or the noble ... but were chosen “to demonstrate the convincing power of the Spirit so that your faith should depend not on human wisdom but on the power of God”. 1 Cor 2:5

What of *our* founding members?

Sr Jean Baptiste, 20, melancholic, obstinate, taciturn who after months of patient endurance, became a model religious. Sr St Anne, lively, great worker, died laughing at 22. Sr Marie Adelaide Dubreuil, an angel of peace, consumptive, died at 19. Sr Paul, who at first, refused to wear the lay sister’s habit, but was untiring in her care of the sick, loved prayer and work. More than 10 sisters died before reaching the age of 30.

Fr Colin said: “Among the sisters there is an excellent spirit, and holy souls”. CMJ 30 note c He also wrote to Cardinal Odescalchi asking for an audience with the Pope for Jeanne Marie Chavoine: “The Lord has imparted to her many lights concerning the Society and the virtues of Mary.” CMJ 10, 2. Jeanne Marie Chavoine shared JC Colin’s vision of the whole world Marist and never gave up on the dream, entrusting us with the spirit of Jarnosse.

The Mother of Jesus ... is the living remembrance of the Son and the living invocation of the Holy Spirit. Pope Francis, Pentecost 2016

Mary, though the Mother of Christ and the perfect image of the Church, nevertheless remained in the newborn Church among the Apostles as a simple believer.

A life so hidden and yet so fruitful for the Church seemed to Father Colin the model of what the life of the whole Society of Mary should be in every age. Const. 3

How is the Holy Spirit leading us today?

As we unite around Mary in this

bi-centennial year can we entrust our future, the future of ‘her work’, into her hands?

(Jarnosse) We found Mother Saint Joseph in the kitchen, heating water for the washing-up; ... RMJ 259.8



She busied herself with mending and looking after the animals. These were her occupations until June 1858 when she died. RMJ 259.8