

NICOLAS BARRÉ

Founder of the Sisters of the Infant Jesus

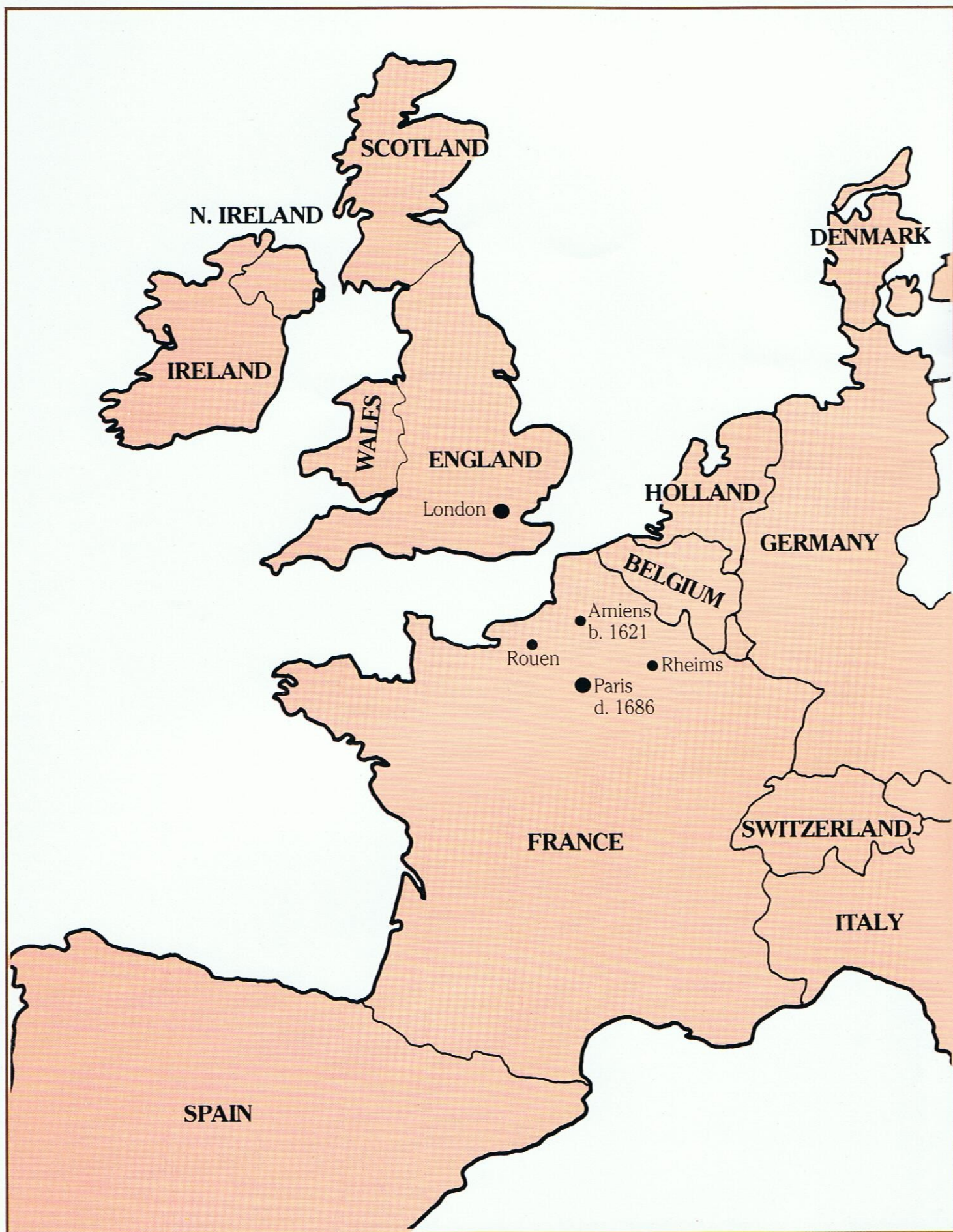




• **NICOLAS BARRÉ**
Who was he?

• **SISTERS OF THE INFANT JESUS**
Who are they?
Where are they?

In these pages
we retrace the journey
of the Sisters of the Infant Jesus
which began in AMIENS in
1621 with the birth of
NICOLAS BARRÉ and
continues today...



1621 Amiens, France. Children of the poor were left to their own devices on the streets.

THEY WANDERED AROUND AIMLESSLY
LOOKING FOR FOOD AND EXCITEMENT.
WITHOUT KNOWING IT THEY WERE
LOOKING FOR SOMETHING MORE:
FOR LOVE EVEN FOR GOD. THEY WERE
CONSTANTLY CREATING TROUBLE AND
NOBODY SEEMED TO CARE ENOUGH TO
DO ANYTHING TO HELP THEM.



It was into this world that a little boy was born on 21st October: NICOLAS BARRÉ.

Nicolas was baptised on 17th December, in the parish church of Saint-Germain.

His father, a clothing merchant was a good man, very concerned about other



SHALL WE SHARE
THIS CAKE WITH
THE FAMILY DOWN
THE ROAD ?

OH, YES !
CAN WE GO
NOW ?

OF COURSE, BUT MAKE
SURE YOU BEHAVE
YOURSELVES AND DON'T
BE LATE.



NICOLAS,
WHERE ARE YOU?

I THINK HE'S
SAYING HIS PRAYERS
AT THE
MOMENT.

YOU'RE LUCKY TO
HAVE SUCH A
GOOD SON.

His sister Louise also
had a deep sense of God.
Later she was to join the
Minim Sisters in Abbeville.

LOUISE, I'M GOING
TO CHURCH. DO YOU
WANT TO COME ?



HEY, THAT'S NICOLAS
BARRÉ. THEY SAY THAT
HIS SISTER WAS CURED
WHEN HE PRAYED
FOR HER.

YEAH, HE
REALLY LOVES
THAT SISTER.



When Nicolas was ten he became aware that God might be calling him.

LORD,
SHOW ME WHAT
YOU WANT ME
TO DO ?



He could have entered with the Jesuits since he had been at their school.

NICOLAS, I WANT
TO CONGRATULATE
YOU.
YOUR ESSAY WAS
EXCELLENT.

IT'S NOT OFTEN
THAT THE
RECTOR SAYS
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.

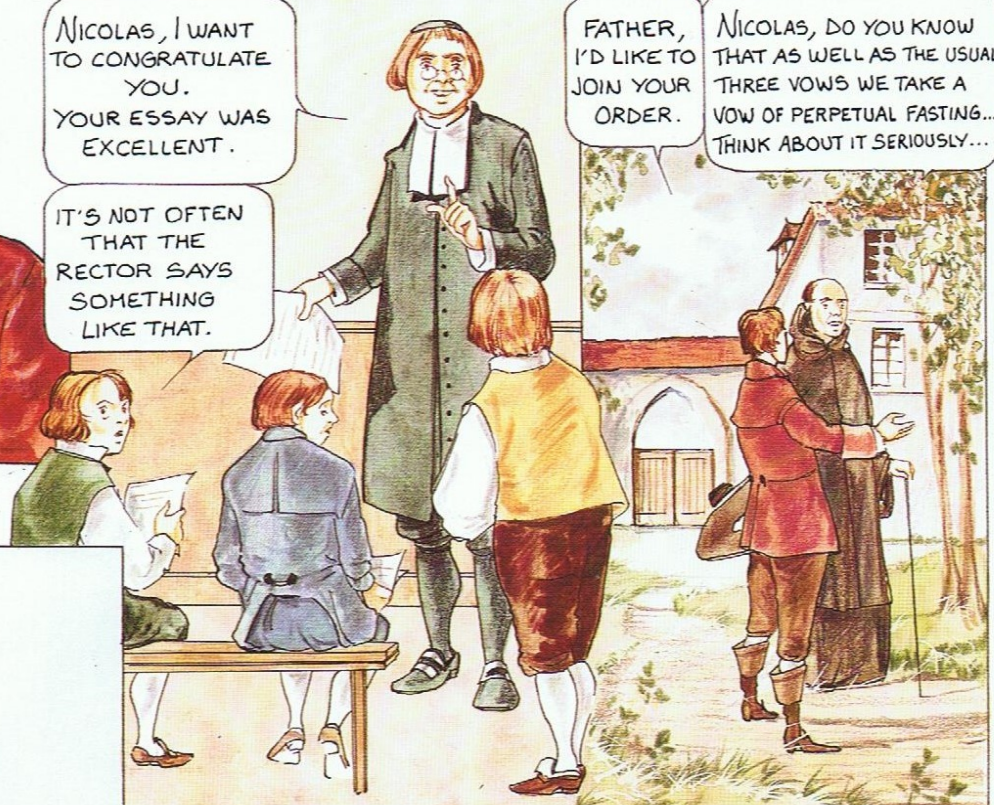
But, he chose the Order of Minims*.

FATHER,
I'D LIKE TO
JOIN YOUR
ORDER.

NICOLAS, DO YOU KNOW
THAT AS WELL AS THE USUAL
THREE VOWS WE TAKE A
VOW OF PERPETUAL FASTING...
THINK ABOUT IT SERIOUSLY...

31st January 1642 at the Monastery
of Chaillot in Paris.

LORD, I WANT TO
GIVE MYSELF TO
YOU ENTIRELY,
UNCONDITIONALLY
AND FOREVER.

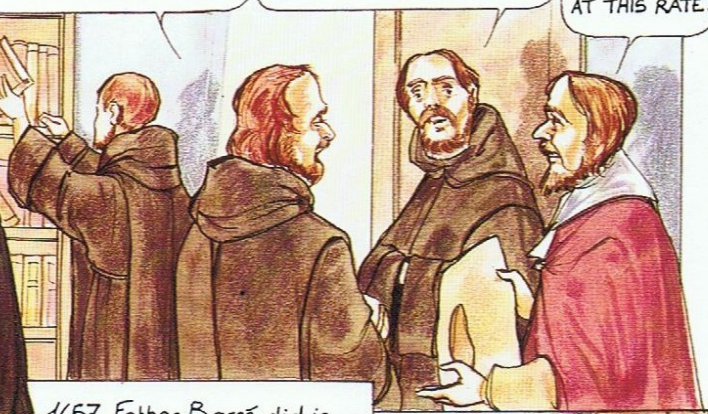


1654. In the library of the Minims in Place Royale (now
Known as Place des Vosges) in Paris.

LOOK! FATHER BARRÉ HAS
CLASSIFIED OVER 15 000 BOOKS
AND GOT THEM SHELVED. AND HE
HAS A CONSTANT STREAM OF VISITORS.

IT AMAZES ME HOW HE CAN
BE SO WELCOMING AFTER
HE HAS BEEN UP THE
WHOLE NIGHT IN PRAYER.

I'M AFRAID,
HE'LL RUIN HIS
HEALTH IF HE
KEEPS GOING
AT THIS RATE.



1657. Father Barré did in
fact overdo it and had to
have a two year break in
Amiens.

LORD,
HELP ME TO DO
EVERYTHING
FOR LOVE OF
YOU.



* Minims : Religious who live a life of prayer, penance and humility.

1659 Nicolas was appointed to the Minim Monastery in Rouen. This has since become a Benedictine Monastery.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT MY SON LOUIS. HE HAS REALLY GONE OFF THE RAILS.

YOU SHOULD SEND HIM TO FATHER BARRÉ. HE'LL HELP HIM TO SORT HIMSELF OUT.

1661. Anne Corneille, Marguerite Lestocq and Madame de Grainville are moved by the plight of the children of the poor.

HE HAS A TREMENDOUS GIFT FOR PEOPLE: YOU SHOULD SEE THE CROWDS GOING TO CONFESSION TO HIM.

WE MUST REALLY PRAY THAT SOMEONE WILL COME TO THE HELP OF ALL THOSE CHILDREN.

GO WHERE YOU ARE SENT AS IF GOD HIMSELF WERE SENDING YOU THERE.



THIEF! THIEF! CATCH THAT BOY!

LOOK AT THOSE GOOD FOR NOTHINGS.

THOSE CHILDREN HAVE NEVER HAD A CHANCE. LORD, WHAT CAN I DO FOR THEM? WHO WILL SHOW THEM EVEN A LITTLE LOVE? WHO WILL TELL THEM ABOUT JESUS CHRIST?

IT'S NO GOOD JUST PRAYING UNLESS WE TRY TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

WHY DON'T WE ASK FATHER BARRÉ WHAT WE COULD DO. HE'S VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE YOUNG PEOPLE ESPECIALLY THE REALLY POOR.

Father Barré was very concerned and distressed by the plight of these children.

Meanwhile in their castles and manor houses the wealthy were enjoying the good life.

YOU HAVE SUCH LOVELY EYES...



It was fashionable to attend Church and to listen to sermons... but it stopped there.

"ALTHOUGH HE WAS RICH, JESUS BECAME POOR TO SAVE US"...

"WHATSOEVER YOU DO TO THE LEAST OF THESE YOU DO TO ME"...



One night, there was a great ball given by Madame de Maillefer...

MADAME, THERE IS A MAN AT THE DOOR FROZEN WITH THE COLD. SHALL I LET HIM IN?

NOT NOW, LATER ON, WE'LL SEE.



The following morning.

MADAME, THAT POOR MAN HAS DIED IN THE STABLE.

OH, GOOD LORD!

OH LORD, WHAT HAVE I DONE? HE NEEDN'T HAVE DIED...



A few days later ...

YES INDEED,
THROUGH THIS
POOR MAN, JESUS
IS CALLING YOU TO
CHANGE YOUR LIFE.

FATHER, I'LL MAKE A
START BY SHARING MY
GOODS WITH THE POOR
AND I WILL HELP IN THE
WORKHOUSE.

Father Barré felt a great urgency to provide education for poor children. One day in Madame de Grainville's house, while he was talking to Marguerite Lestocq, the idea came of getting a group together to train them for this work.

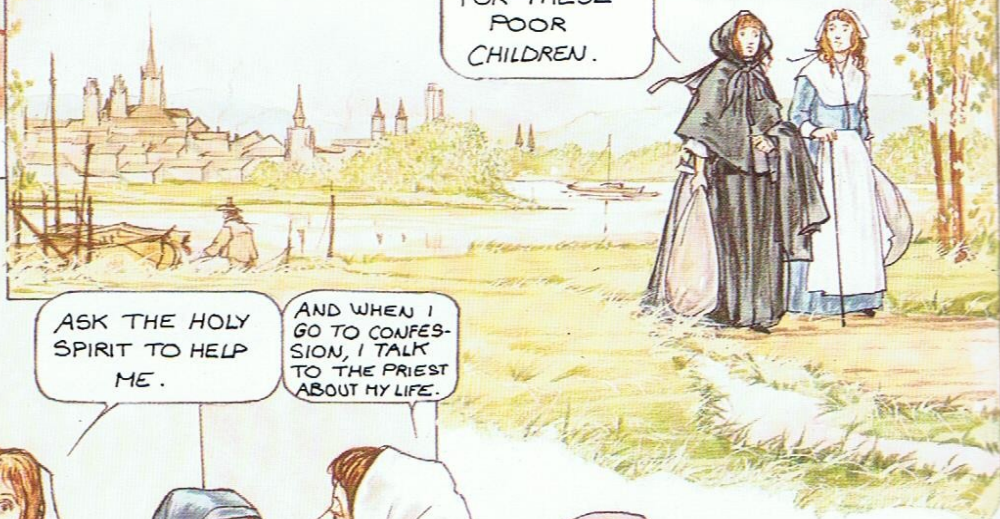
INSTRUCTING AND EDUCATING
IS REALLY THE BEST WAY
OF HELPING THEM TO
KNOW AND LOVE
JESUS CHRIST.

WHEN
CAN WE
START?

YOU CAN
USE MY
HOUSE.

1662. Marguerite Lestocq and
Françoise Duval go to Solteville
to instruct the children there.

I FEEL A
REAL LOVE
AND CONCERN
FOR THESE
POOR
CHILDREN.



TELL ME WHAT WE MUST
DO TO PREPARE FOR
THE SACRAMENT OF
CONFESSION?

BEFORE GOING
TO BED AT NIGHT,
LOOK OVER THE
DAY.

ASK THE HOLY
SPIRIT TO HELP
ME.

AND WHEN I
GO TO CONFESSION,
I TALK
TO THE PRIEST
ABOUT MY LIFE.

I THOUGHT THIS BREAD
WOULD HELP OUT WITH
THE CHILDREN.

WOULD YOU
LIKE ME TO
GET A CARPENTER
TO
FIX UP A
BED FOR THE
CHILDREN?



1663. The Sisters went around to the houses to give instruction to the people.

YOU'VE GIVEN MY DAUGHTER A GREAT START IN LIFE BY TEACHING HER TO READ.

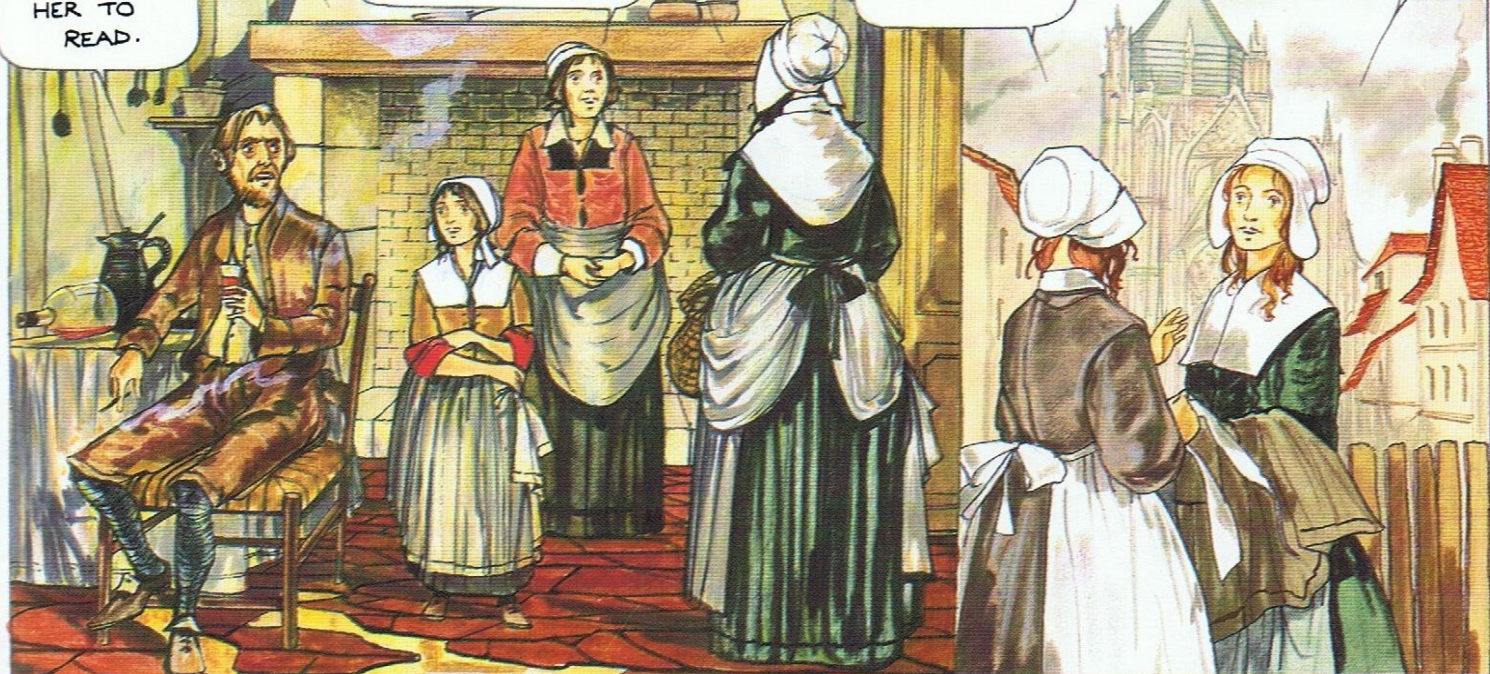
AND I CAN ADD AS WELL!

I AM DELIGHTED YOU HAVE PREPARED HER SO WELL FOR HER FIRST HOLY COMMUNION. I'D LOVE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT GOD MYSELF.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME TO OUR SUNDAY CLASS THEN?

THERE WAS SUCH A HUGE CROWD IN OUR PARISH FOR RELIGION CLASS THIS WEEK...

...YOU'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO KNOCK DOWN THE WALLS AS WE'VE HAD TO DO IN OUR PARISH TO HAVE ENOUGH SPACE.



Father Barré wanted them to provide poor girls with the means of earning an honest living by setting up Trade Schools...

I'D GO TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH TO GIVE GIRLS THIS CHANCE...

YOU COULD MAKE A WEDDING DRESS FOR YOURSELF IN SCHOOL.

COULD I LEARN SOME MONEY AS WELL?

SISTER, I WAS ABLE TO SELL THE HANDKERCHIEFS I MADE IN CLASS LAST WEEK.

I'M SURE YOUR PARENTS WERE DELIGHTED WITH THE EXTRA MONEY TO HELP OUT AT HOME.

I WANT TO LEARN TO MAKE SHIRTS FOR MY BROTHERS. THEIR OLD ONES ARE IN RAGS.



1666 THE BEGINNINGS OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE SISTERS OF THE INFANT JESUS
 Father Barré had a strong desire and inspiration to form a community so he called together the women who had been working under his guidance.

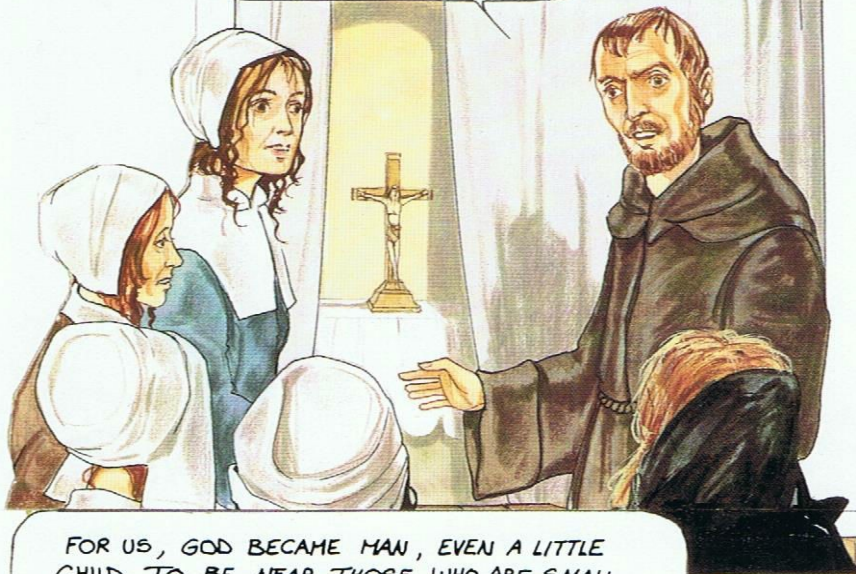
DO YOU WANT TO LIVE
 IN COMMUNITY
 RELYING ON GOD'S
 PROVIDENCE WITHOUT ANY
 SECURITY FOR THE FUTURE

YES,
 WE ARE READY
 AND
 WILLING.

SISTER MARGARET,
 FATHER BARRÉ IS DUE
 TO COME TOMORROW
 EVENING TO GIVE
 US A TALK.

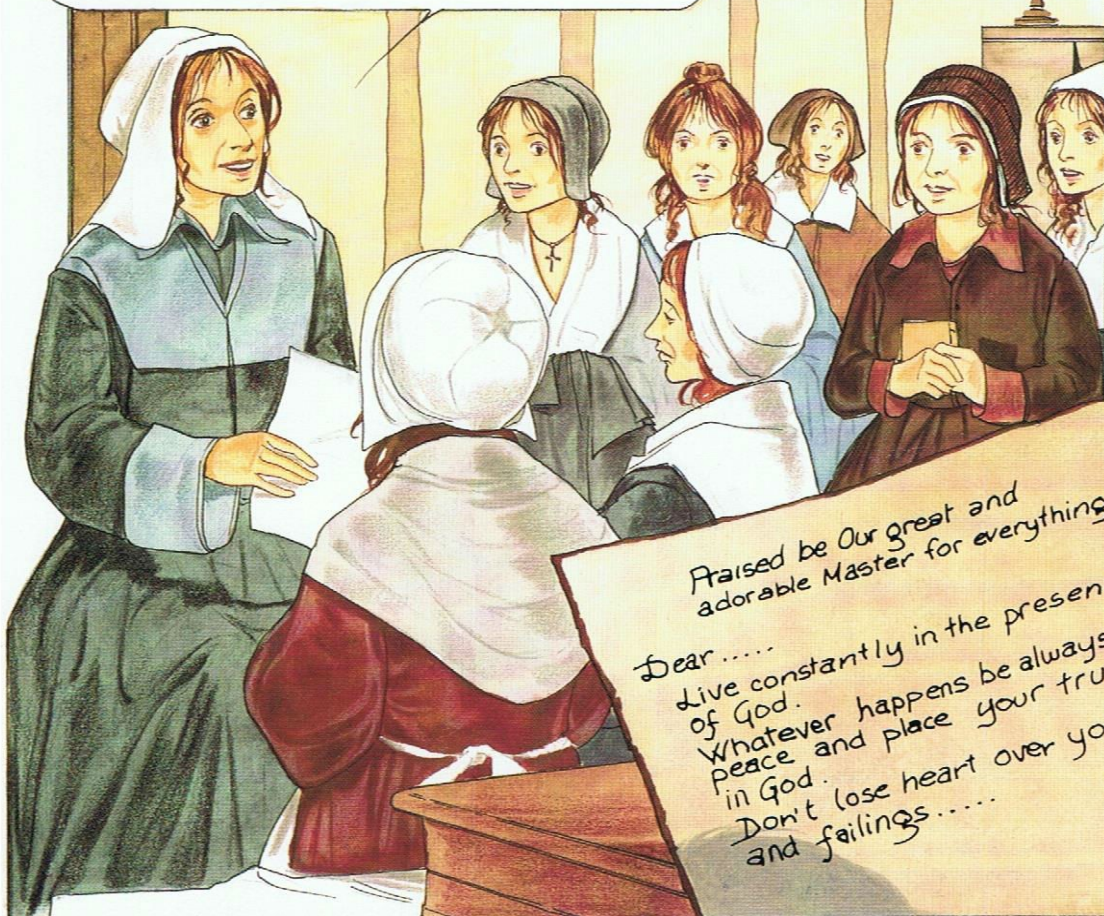
DO YOU
 REMEMBER WHAT
 HE SAID THE LAST
 TIME ABOUT
 JESUS SHARING
 OUR LIVES WHEN
 HE CAME ON EARTH.

YES, AND HOW
 WE TOO SHOULD
 SHARE OUR LIVES
 WITH THE POOR.

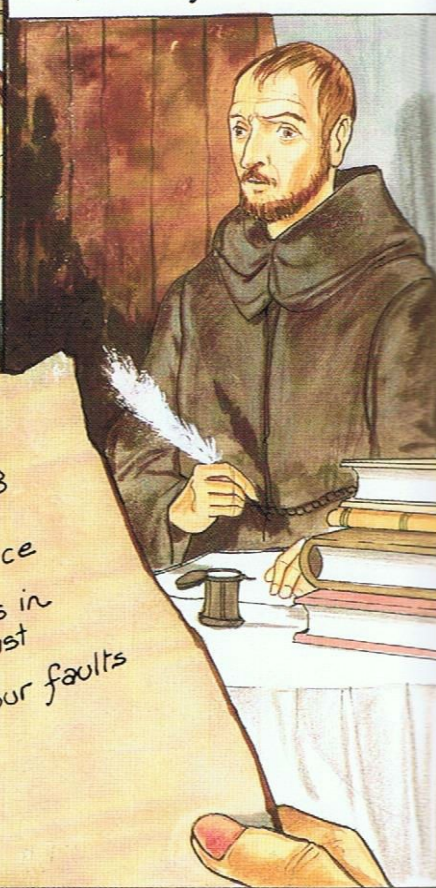


FOR US, GOD BECAME MAN, EVEN A LITTLE
 CHILD, TO BE NEAR THOSE WHO ARE SMALL
 IN THIS WORLD.
 THIS IS WHAT WE CALL THE MYSTERY OF
 THE INCARNATION.

Father Barré reached many
 people through his letters
 as well as through his
 preaching.



Praised be Our great and
 adorable Master for everything
 Dear
 Live constantly in the presence
 of God.
 Whatever happens be always in
 peace and place your trust
 in God.
 Don't lose heart over your faults
 and failings.....



1669 AFTER SOMETIME FATHER BARRÉ
ASKED THE FIRST SISTERS IF THEY WOULD
LIKE TO COMMIT THEMSELVES FORMALLY TO
CONTINUING THE WORK ALREADY BEGUN.

A document outlining the demands involved
was signed by 43 of the first Sisters :

ANNE CORNEILLE,
MARIE DESCHAMPS,
CATHERINE LEHEU,
HÉLÈNE CARMIN,
MARIE-ANNE TEINTURIER
CATHERINE LAMY
etc

I HAVE READ
THE DOCUMENT
CAREFULLY AND
I SIGN IT MOST
WILLINGLY.

WE
WANT TO RELY
COMPLETELY
ON GOD'S
PROVIDENCE.

AND BE LIKE THE
APOSTLES WHO
WERE FREE TO GO
WHEREVER THEY
WERE SENT.

YOUR SOLE AIM
IS TO MAKE
JESUS - CHRIST
KNOWN AND
LOVED.



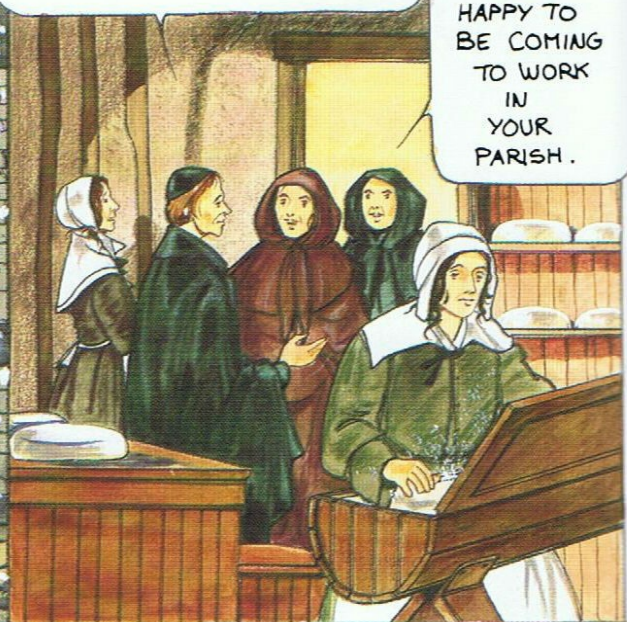
The remarkable enthusiasm and zeal with which the sisters carried out their mission came to the attention of more and more priests throughout France.

I WONDER IF OUR PARISH PRIEST IS ASKING FATHER BARRÉ TO SEND SOME SISTERS TO OUR PARISH ?

I HOPE SO. EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE DOING IN OTHER PARISHES AND NOT ONLY WITH CHILDREN...

SISTERS, THANK YOU FOR COMING TO RHEIMS. I KNOW YOU WILL GIVE THE CHILDREN A GOOD CHRISTIAN EDUCATION .

WE ARE DELIGHTED AND HAPPY TO BE COMING TO WORK IN YOUR PARISH .



I HEARD FROM RHEIMS THAT THE NUMBER OF SCHOOLS IS GROWING VERY FAST.

ACTUALLY , I WAS JUST COMING TO ASK YOU ABOUT SOME SISTERS FOR MY OWN PARISH .

The Sisters lost no opportunity to go out among the people and to involve them in their work.

AND TO THINK THAT THESE PARISH PRIESTS WERE SO MUCH AGAINST US AT THE BEGINNING.

WILL YOU BE THERE TO HELP WITH THE CLASSES ON SUNDAY ?

YES, OF COURSE BUT WE'LL BE OVER TOMORROW TO PREPARE IT WITH YOU.



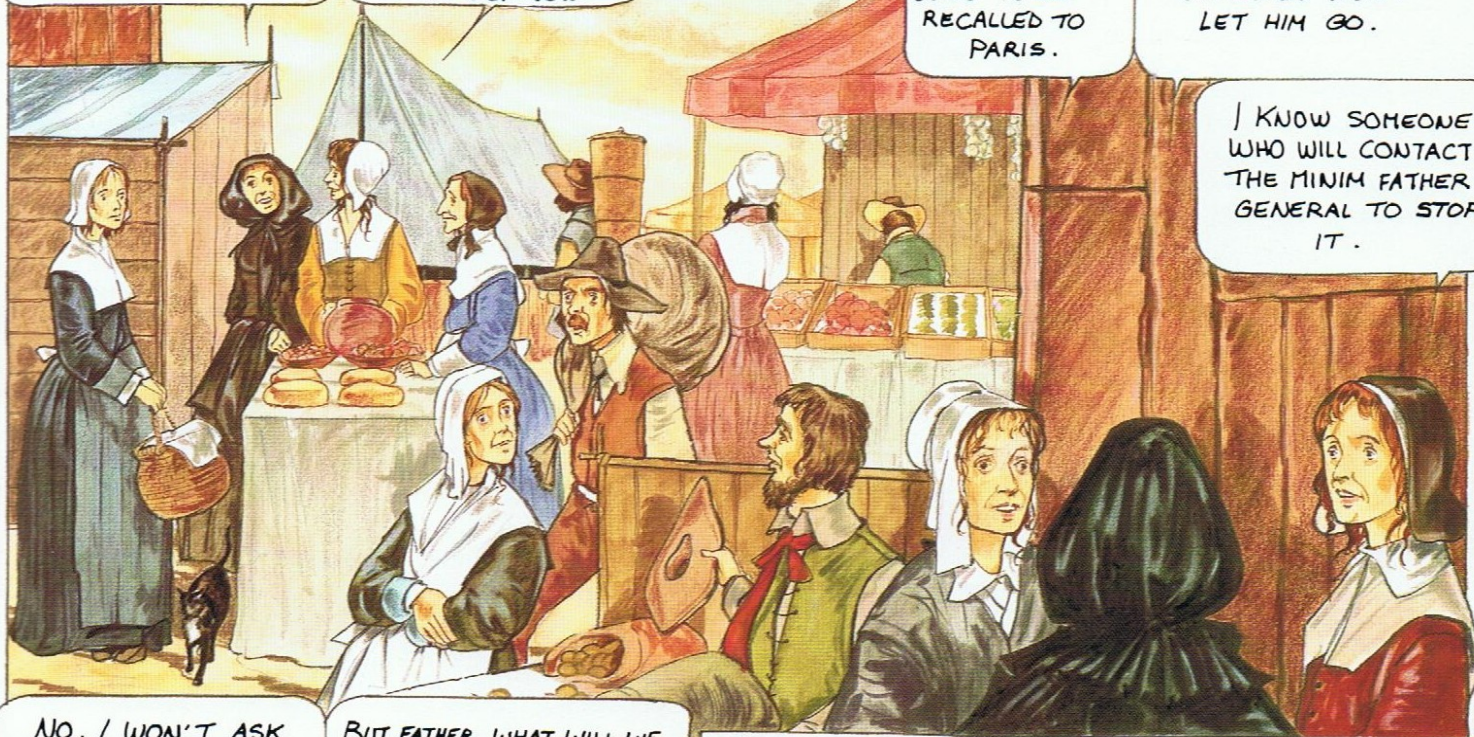
THESE SISTERS ARE EXTRAORDINARY. THEIR WAY OF EXPLAINING THE SACRAMENTS MAKES A LOT OF SENSE. / NOW LOOK FORWARD TO GOING TO MASS.

I LIKED WHAT THEY SAID THE OTHER WEEK ABOUT PRAYER OF THE HEART. I'VE TRIED PRAYING LIKE THIS AND I HAVE A GREATER SENSE OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD NOW.

IT SEEMS THAT FATHER BARRÉ IS GOING TO BE RECALLED TO PARIS.

DON'T TAKE ANY NOTICE OF THAT. THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WON'T LET HIM GO.

I KNOW SOMEONE WHO WILL CONTACT THE MINIM FATHER GENERAL TO STOP IT.



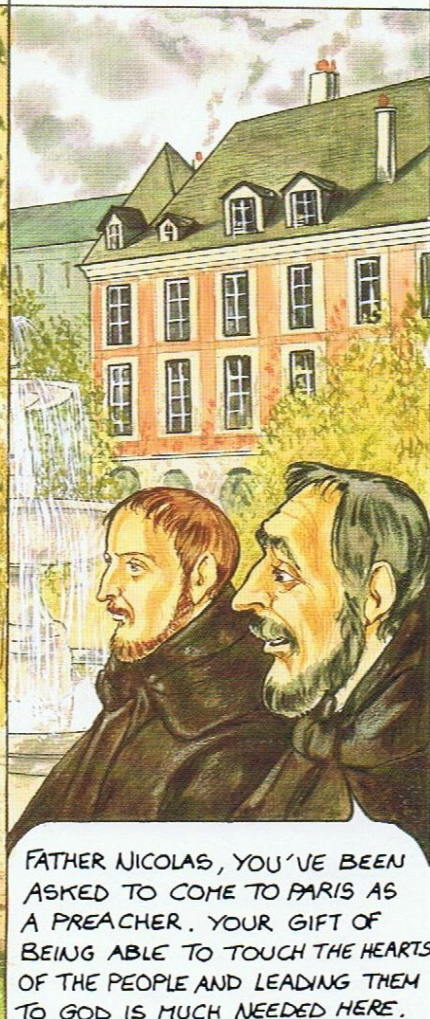
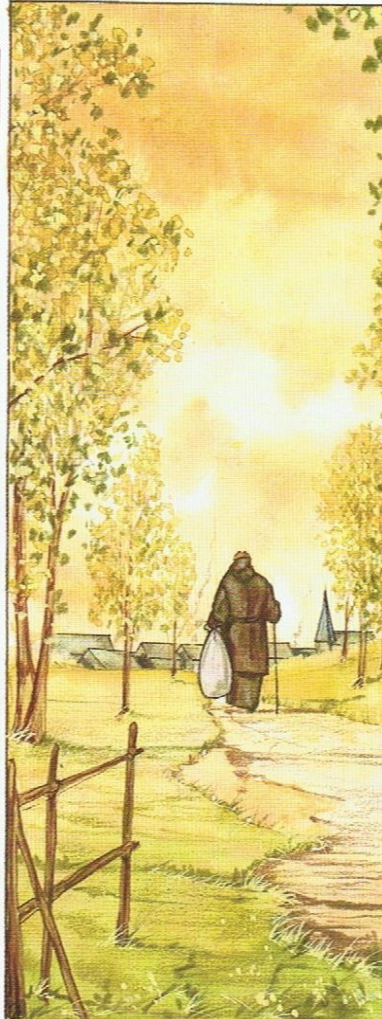
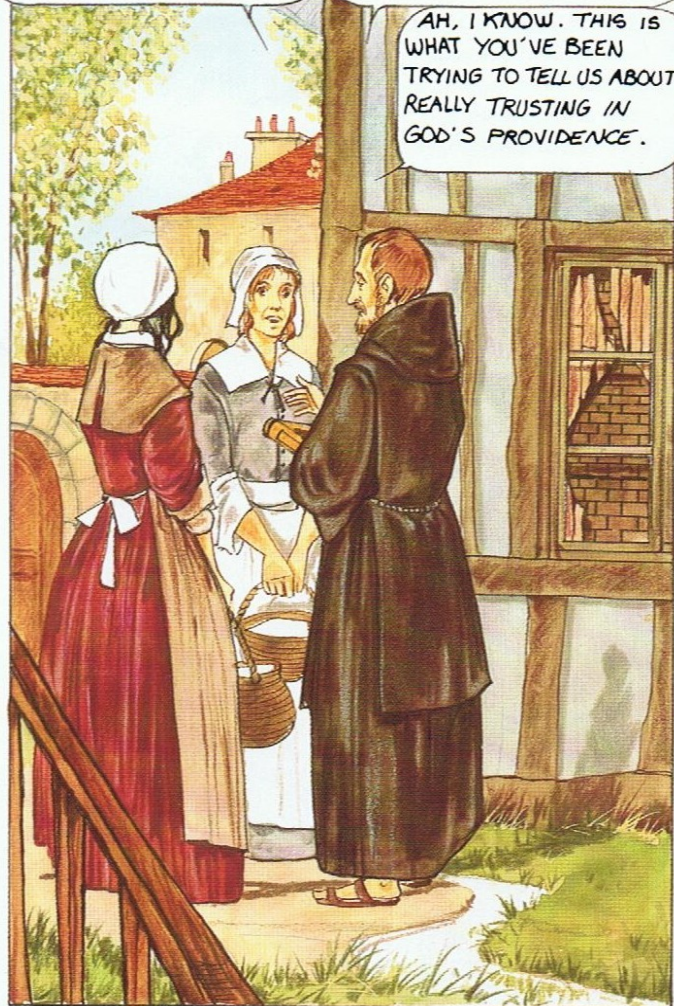
NO, I WON'T ASK TO BE LEFT IN ROUEN.

BUT FATHER, WHAT WILL WE DO WHEN YOU'RE NO LONGER HERE TO DIRECT US?

1675, Father Barré leaves Rouen...

...having been asked to return to the Minim Monastery in Place Royale, Paris.

AH, I KNOW. THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL US ABOUT REALLY TRUSTING IN GOD'S PROVIDENCE.



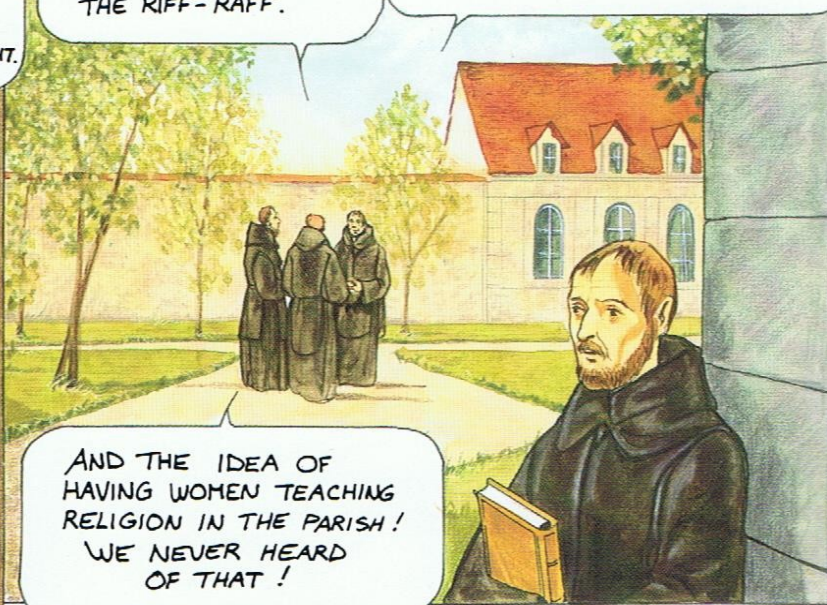
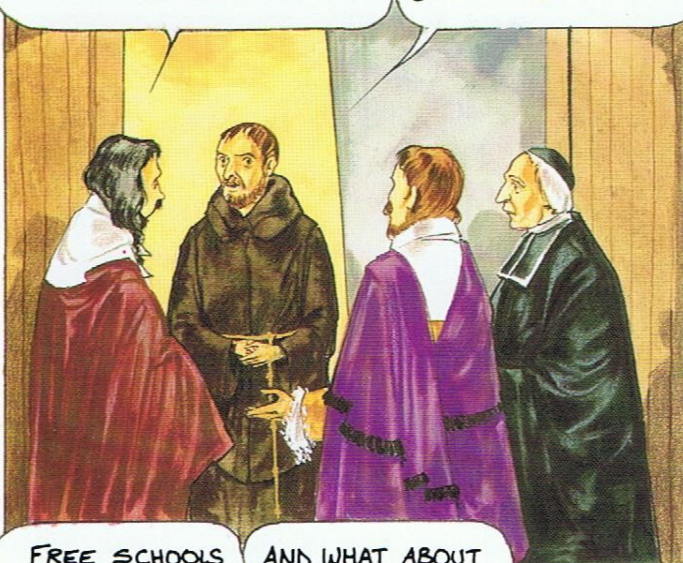
FATHER NICOLAS, YOU'VE BEEN ASKED TO COME TO PARIS AS A PREACHER. YOUR GIFT OF BEING ABLE TO TOUCH THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE AND LEADING THEM TO GOD IS MUCH NEEDED HERE.

FATHER, WE'VE HEARD ABOUT THE SCHOOLS YOU'VE SET UP ELSEWHERE AND WE'VE COME TO ASK YOU TO DO THE SAME FOR US HERE.

MY FIRST REACTION IS 'NO' AS I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO COME HERE AS A PREACHER BUT I ASSURE YOU I WILL GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT.

WE HAVE SOMETHING ELSE TO DO BESIDES OPENING SCHOOLS FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE RIFF-RAFF.

WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS ANYWAY? SUCCESS HAS GONE TO HIS HEAD.



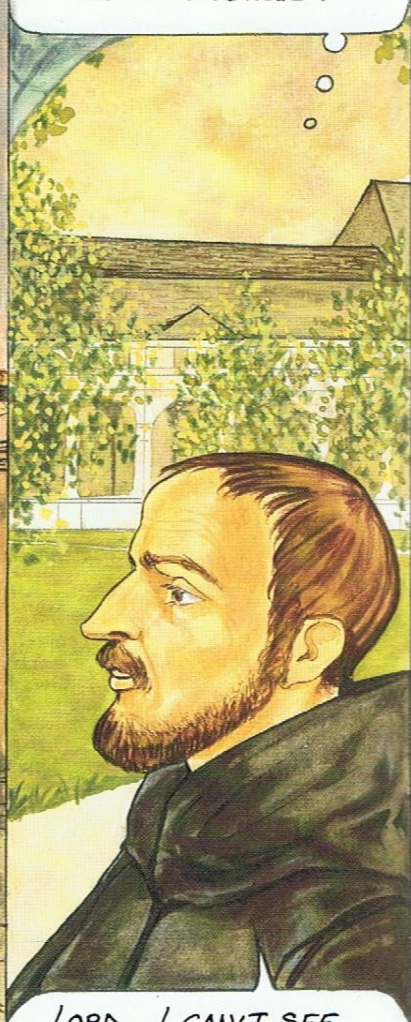
AND THE IDEA OF HAVING WOMEN TEACHING RELIGION IN THE PARISH! WE NEVER HEARD OF THAT!

FREE SCHOOLS IT'S MAD!

AND WHAT ABOUT US - HOW DOES HE THINK WE'RE GOING TO LIVE?

I'M NOT A BIT WORRIED. THE BISHOP HAS APPROVED OF OUR TYPE OF SCHOOL.

PROUD! SCHEMING! IRRESPONSIBLE!



LORD, I CAN'T SEE CLEARLY ANYMORE, SHOW ME WHAT TO DO.

The School Masters charged fees and felt their livelihood threatened by free schools.

1676. At her invitation
Father Barré goes to see
Princess Marie de Lorraine.

EVERYONE IS ASKING FOR THE SISTERS
TO GO TO DIFFERENT PLACES, HOW SHALL
I MANAGE? WHERE CAN THEY STAY?
I HAVE NO MONEY...

FATHER, I'VE HEARD
SO MUCH ABOUT YOUR
SCHOOLS. I AM VERY
CONCERNED ABOUT THE
POOR GIRLS IN THIS
AREA WHO NEED SIMILAR
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
I WILL GIVE YOU WHATEVER
HELP YOU NEED.

AH, SO THIS
IS WHAT YOU
WANT
LORD.

And so the work begins in Paris.

I CAN UNDERSTAND
THE CATECHISM
PERFECTLY WHEN
THE SISTER
EXPLAINS IT.

SHE DOESN'T USE
BIG WORDS AND
SHE GIVES LOTS
OF EXAMPLES.

YOU CAN SEE
THAT GOD MEANS
SO MUCH TO
HER, SHE MAKES
ME WANT TO BE
LIKE THAT
TOO.

JACQUES, MARIE WANTS
YOU TO COME AND SAY
HER NIGHT PRAYERS
WITH HER.

AND DAD, WILL
YOU COME TO
MASS WITH ME
ON SUNDAY?

SISTER HAYER IS TO
LEAVE ROUEN AND
COME TO PARIS AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE.



Once more at Marie de Lorraine's house.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PARIS IS VERY GOOD BUT WE MUSTN'T FORGET THE COUNTRY AREAS. THEY ARE IN SUCH A BAD WAY THERE.

THE YOUNG MISTRESSES NEED A THOROUGH TRAINING.

YES, I'VE GOT A HOUSE IN ST. MAUR STREET AND I'M THINKING OF OPENING A TRAINING SCHOOL FOR THEM THERE.

THE SAME AS ROUEN... THAT'S MARVELLOUS!



1678. St Maur Street...

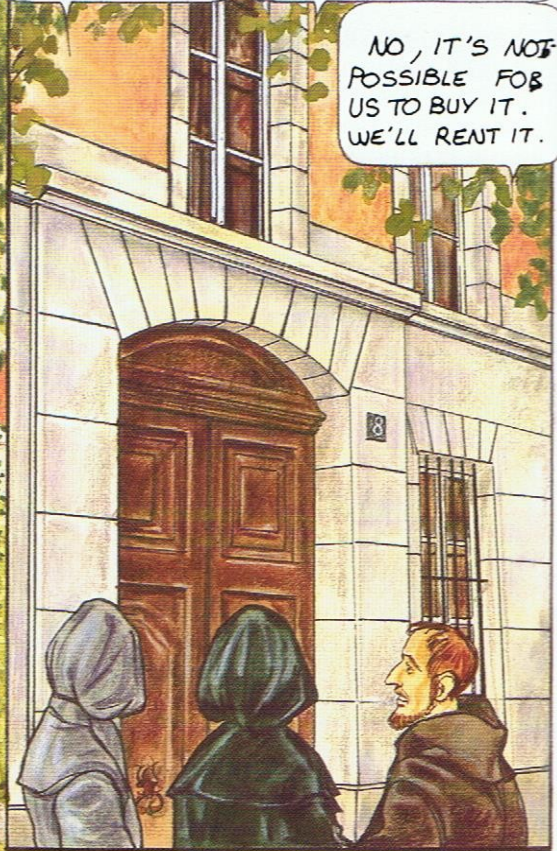
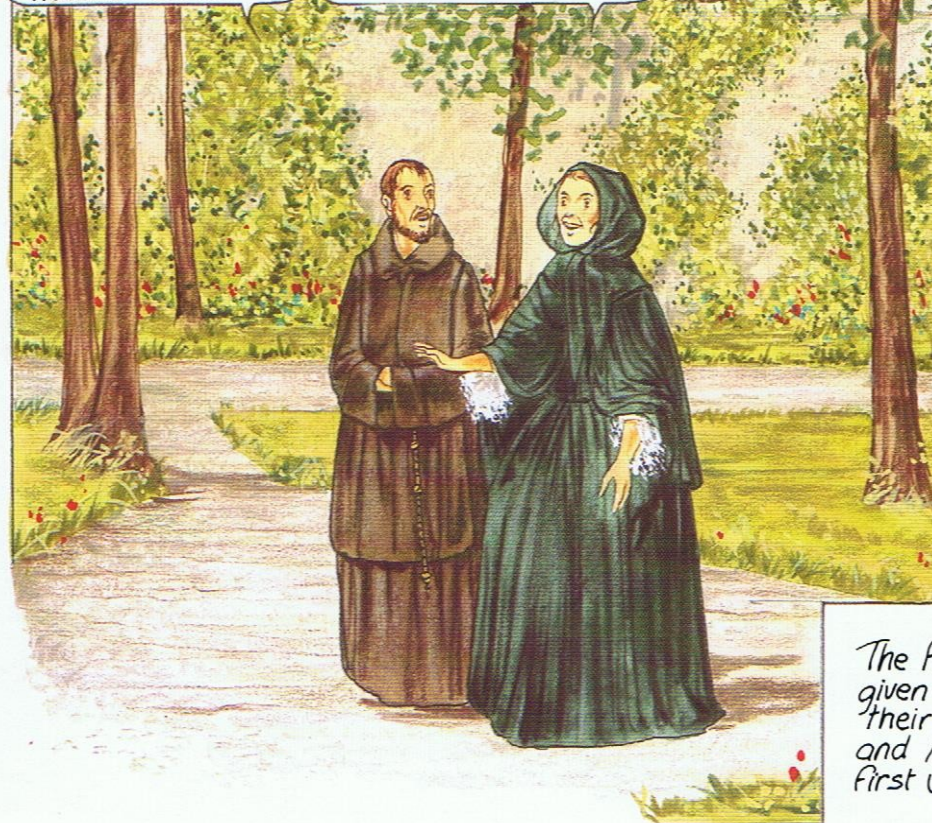
IS THIS THE HOUSE YOU WERE TELLING US ABOUT?

YOU COULD ASK MADAME DE LORRAINE AND SHE WOULD BUY IT FOR YOU.

NO, IT'S NOT POSSIBLE FOR US TO BUY IT. WE'LL RENT IT.

SISTER HAYER, I'M ASKING YOU TO BE IN CHARGE OF THIS PROJECT; TO CO-ORDINATE THE WORK OF THE SISTERS AND TO SEE THAT THEY ARE PROPERLY TRAINED FOR IT.

I SEE THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE AND I ACCEPT. I WILL DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP THEM TO LOVE THE POOR AND DEPRIVED.

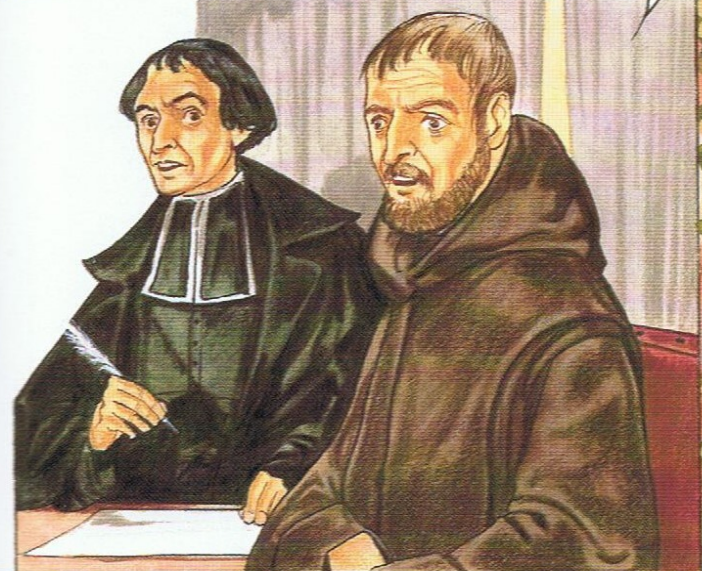


The formation that Father Barré had given to the first Sisters together with their experience of life in the schools and in community became the basis of the first written RULE OF LIFE for the Institute.

In the years that followed the Sisters responded to innumerable requests throughout France always showing great courage, daring and readiness to be of service. Father Barré continued as their Spiritual Director in spite of his failing health.

TELL THEM THAT JESUS CHRIST IS ALWAYS TO BE THEIR MODEL...

THE INSTITUTE WILL ALWAYS BE A SMALL BODY WITHIN THE CHURCH. I WILL ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO WATCH OVER IT AND GUIDE IT.



31st May 1686. After a short illness Father Barré died at the age of sixty-five.

FATHER BARRÉ, WE WILL NEVER FORGET HIM.

WE MUST CONTINUE THE WORK THAT HE BEGAN...

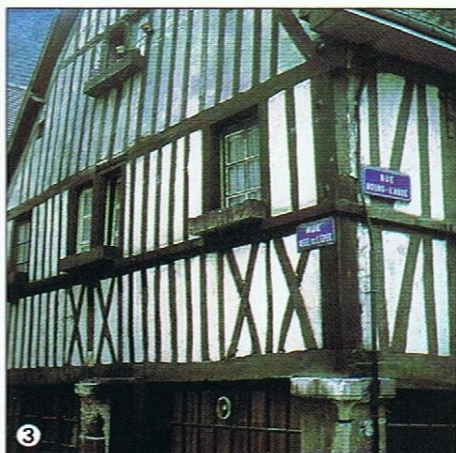
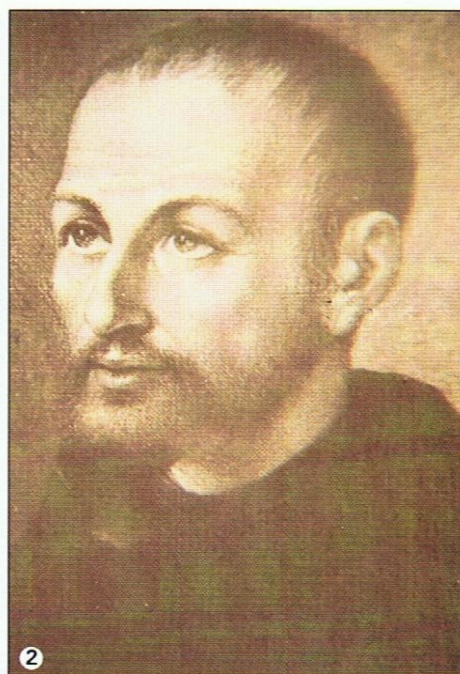
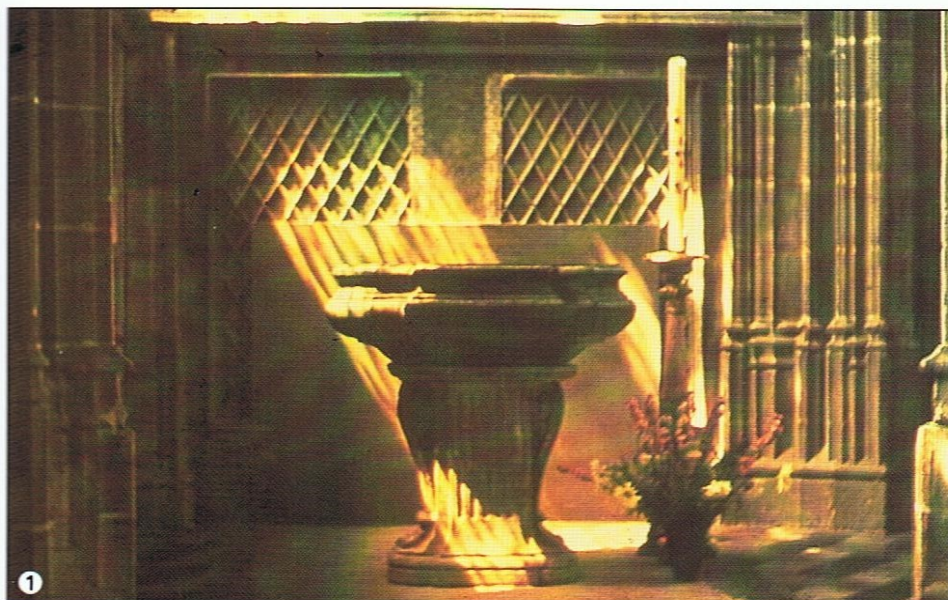
HE REALLY CARED ABOUT US.



NICOLAS BARRÉ: A MAN OF HIS TIME

NICOLAS BARRÉ	IN THE CHURCH	IN ENGLAND AND IRELAND
	1563 Close of the Council of TRENT.	1620-40 James I and Charles I try to rule as absolute monarchs.
1621 Nicolas Barré born.	1622 Death of St. Francis de Sales. Canonisation of Ignatius Loyola. Philip Neri. Teresa of Avila and Francis Xavier.	
	1628 Irish College founded in Rome	
	1629 Foundation of DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY	
1640 Nicolas joined the Minims in Amiens.	1633 Galileo condemned. 1637 Birth of Grignon de Montfort. 1640 Jansenism comes to the fore in France.	1631 Birth of Christopher Wren. Death of John Donne. 1633 Strafford Deposition in Ireland. Persecution. Birth of Samuel Pepys.
1642 31st January: First Profession, Paris	1641 Death of Jeanne de Chantal.	1641 October-November: Irish Rebellion. 1642-46 Civil War in England. 1645 Formation of "Royal Society"
1646 Ordained priest.	1645 Death of Mary Ward. 1646 Growth of Non-Conformist Churches in England.	1649 Execution of Charles I. 1649-1660 Commonwealth. 1650 Cromwell in Ireland.
1657-59 Recovering from illness in Amiens.	1651 Birth of John Baptist de la Salle. 1657 Death of Luke Wadding.	1657 Death of Cromwell. 1660 Restoration of monarchy.
1659 Sent to Rouen.	1660 Death of Vincent de Paul.	
1662 First schools started in Rouen.	1664 Reform of "La Trappe"	1661 Birth of Daniel Defoe. 1662 Beginning of reign of Louis XIV.
1666 First community of Sisters of the Infant Jesus.		1665 The Plague. 1666 Great Fire of London.
1669 First Sisters made formal commitment.	1673 Apparitions to Margaret Mary Alacoque.	1667 Birth of Jonathan Swift.
1675 Schools started in Paris	1680 Death of John Eudes	1670 Navigation Act: affecting Irish trade. 1673 Test Act: Roman Catholics excluded from office under the Crown. 1674 Death of John Milton.
1678 First Superior General appointed in Paris.	1681 Oliver Plunkett executed.	1678 Titus Oates Plot.
1686 31st May: Death of Nicolas Barré		1685 Death of Charles II. James II on throne. Birth of Handel. 1688 "Bloodless" revolution. England. 1689 "Toleration Act".

NICOLAS BARRÉ: THEN AND NOW



1. The baptismal font in the parish church of St. Germain, Amiens, where Nicolas was baptised on 17 December, 1621.

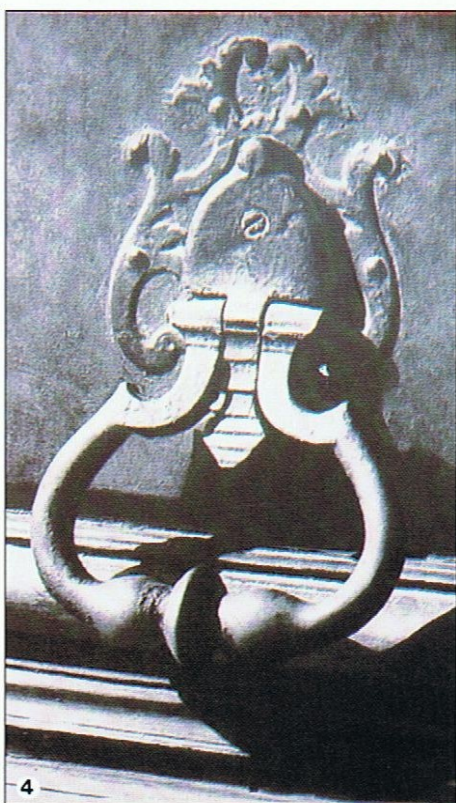
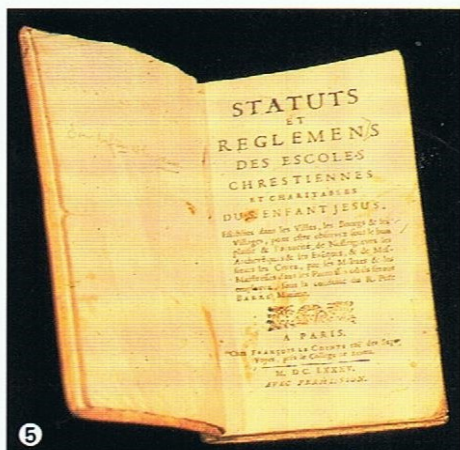
2. Father Barré.

3. Madame de Grainville's house in Rouen.

4. 1678 - The Sisters first "Training House" at Rue St. Maur, now Rue de l'Abbe Gregoire, in Paris, and known as the Mother House of the Institute.

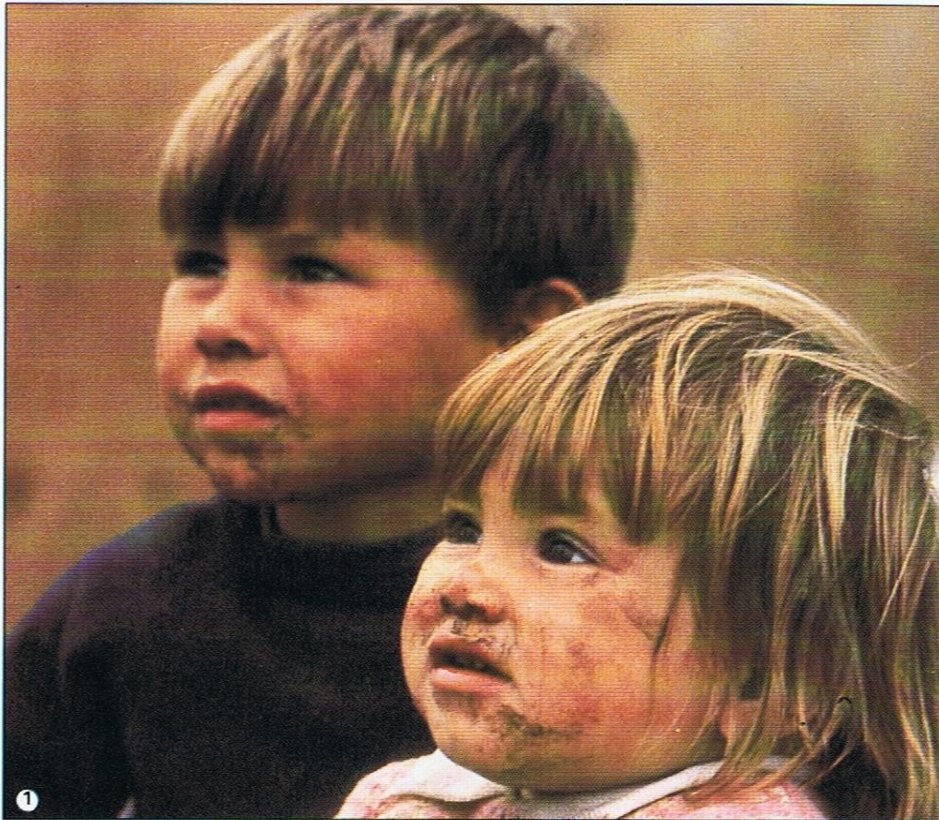
5. STATUTES AND RULES: An early edition of one of the first RULES OF LIFE.

6. A typical 17th century working class family from a painting by Louis le Nain.



SISTERS OF THE INFANT JESUS

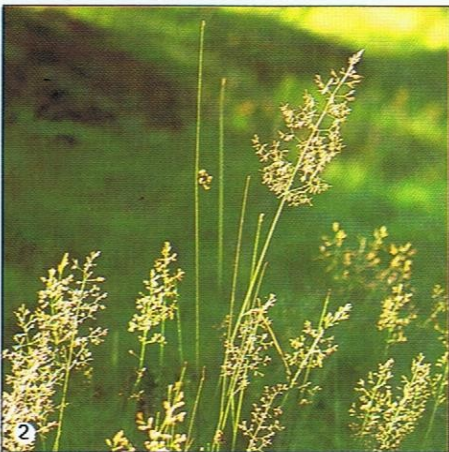
After more than three hundred years, Nicolas Barré's influence still lives on. The following pages



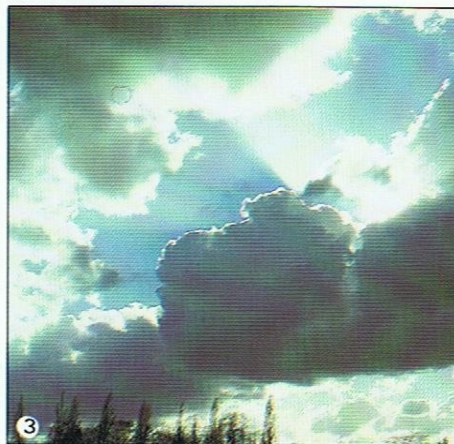
The life of a Sister of the Infant Jesus is devoted to finding ways of making JESUS CHRIST known and loved especially to those who are most neglected and abandoned.

From the beginning, the running of schools for poor and needy children was one of the main means used.

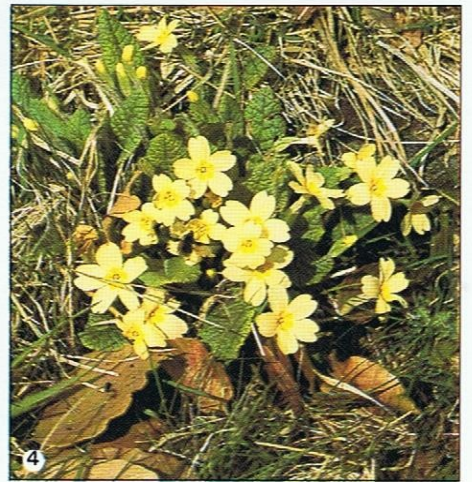
Sisters went in search of the poor in their own surroundings, went out among the people.



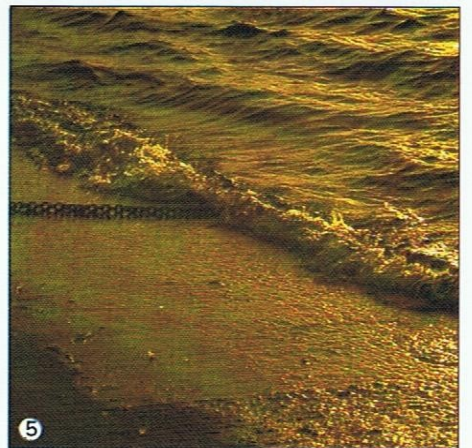
Then came the FRENCH REVOLUTION. Faced with the threat of persecution and the guillotine, the Sisters scattered only to continue their work of spreading the Good News among those most in need in whatever way possible.



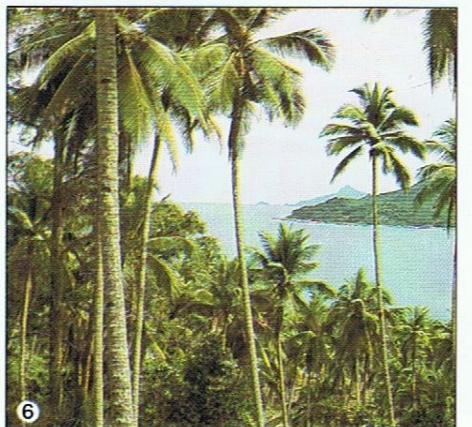
In 1806 they began to come together again, having suffered great losses during the time they had been separated. It was a re-birth. Trusting completely in the Lord, they were ready to go wherever they were sent.



Expansion soon began, not only in France, but beyond the seas.



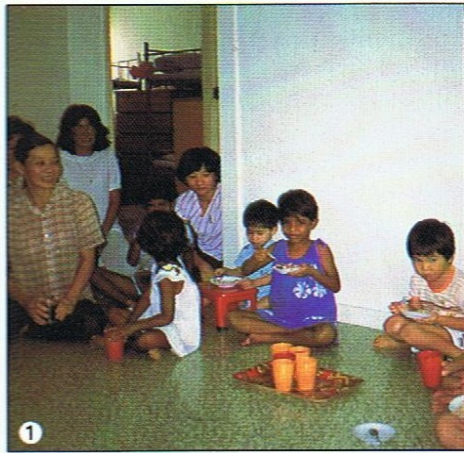
In 1852 a group set out for MALAYSIA in the Far East. With continued daring and courage, another group went further afield to JAPAN in 1872.



Up to 1789 the Institute of the Sisters of the Infant Jesus continued to grow and spread throughout France — they were in a total of 96 localities.

1. Children in need. (France).
2. The seed scatters.
3. Threatening clouds.
4. It was a re-birth: a spring-time.
5. Beyond the seas.
6. The Far East.

illustrate his inspiration at work in the lives of the Sisters throughout the world today.



From the beginning, local vocations were encouraged, and today there are about 250 local Sisters in Malaysia/Singapore, and about 150 Japanese Sisters in Japan.

A number of attempts were made to go to THAILAND beginning in 1885. Our present mission in Thailand dates from 1957 — the seed eventually had taken root and now there are about 35 Thai Sisters continuing the work of evangelisation.



The Institute was ever on the move with the first foundation in SPAIN in 1860, in ENGLAND in 1892, in ITALY in 1906, and in IRELAND in 1909.



In 1936 came the call to CHINA, when ten Sisters of six nationalities set sail from Japan. Before long came the outbreak of World War II. Records show their fearlessness in trying to help the unfortunate victims whether Chinese, Japanese, German or American. Disease was rampant; some of the Sisters died of typhus and eventually all had to withdraw in 1946.



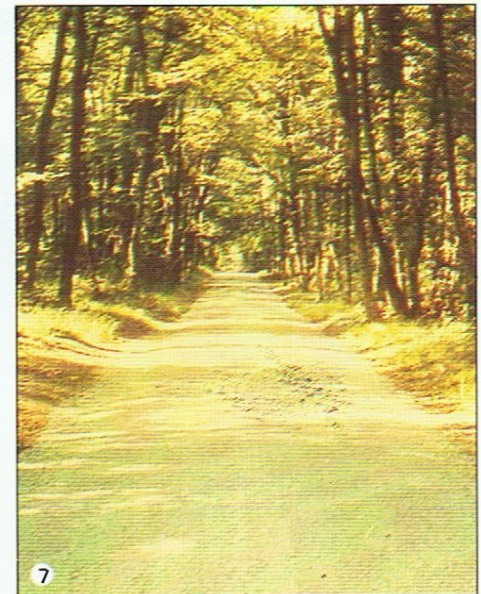
Next came the call to the Americas — CALIFORNIA in 1950 and PERU in 1967.



Their mission in AFRICA began in 1968 in the CAMEROONS, followed by NIGERIA in 1983.



In the meantime in 1969 the Sisters arrived in AUSTRALIA.



With more than 300 years of history behind it, living through wars, revolutions, disasters of all kinds, the Institute has endeavoured to remain faithful to the spirit with which it was founded. This has demanded constant renewal and adaptation, which is particularly evident in present day society.

Belonging to an international institute with its diversity of cultures, they are called to express creatively the gift the Lord has given them as Sisters of the Infant Jesus. In this way they can bear witness to the universality of the Kingdom of God in which people of every race, nation, and mentality are gathered.

1. Children from broken homes in Singapore with Sr. Dominic.
2. The seed had eventually taken root.
3. Drishane Convent, Ireland.
4. Sister Daniel elected Superior General in 1983.
5. Gathering for Mass in Peru.
6. Two Cameroonian Sisters.
7. The journey continues...

IN WORDS AND PICTURES, THE SISTERS TELL OF MISSION OF CHRIST



"Each morning Margaret, the helper, and myself drive through the countryside looking for our fourteen little travellers. When we gather our flock, we make our way to a one-roomed flat with kitchen and bathroom. In the beginning we had four walls and nothing else. Can you imagine the floor? Spilt milk, currant buns, and the kids running around in wellies! Then we found two chairs and a door which made a table. Gradually things began to take shape.

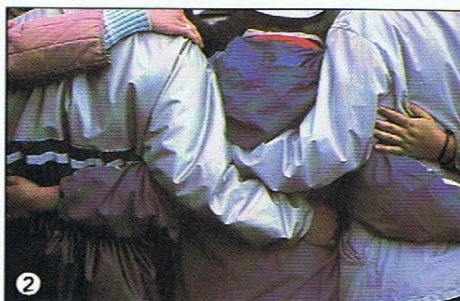
At the beginning, as you can well imagine, it wasn't easy to find the best way to help the children. Their language was a language that the "strangers do not know" but we gradually got to understand each other. This term they are great — playing, singing and laughing like all small children.

Of course, we never know what each day will bring. We work as the song says 'one day at a time'."

Ireland

Christ invites us to follow Him in the ways He chose in His incarnation... Empowered by the Spirit we respond to that call and commit ourselves "entirely, unconditionally and forever".

Book of the Institute



"I have learned a lot from three physically handicapped pupils who were incorporated into our normal school life. Their deep friendship and vibrant faith was particularly evident when Susan died of a heart attack having suffered on dialysis with kidney failure for so long. We could not keep back our tears as her two school friends arrived that day for her Memorial Mass. Raynor, with one leg amputated, the other uselessly dragging behind her, staggered in with the help of her crutches. And Sarah confined to a wheelchair with Spina-bifida, steered herself through the chapel doors. Both made this tremendous effort in joining the rest of their school companions to celebrate their friendship and Susan's life, oblivious of their own handicap."

England

1. Sr. Christine in Ballymun.

2. Friendship to be celebrated.

WAYS IN WHICH THEY SHARE IN THE LIFE AND

"I have often been touched on seeing how the poor are concerned for the poor and how they want to share with them. For example, a father of a family of four youngsters had an extremely difficult year in trying to make ends meet due to unemployment and illness in the family. I was very moved when before Christmas he presented me with a doll's cot which he had made himself expressing the wish that it be given to a poor child as a Christmas present".

Ireland



"From working with prisoners I have learned that service to others should not be motivated by the changes we want to bring about in them.

We can only listen to them with compassion, treat them with respect and try to build up their self confidence. They change in their own time and in their own way.

Most of all they need encouragement and to know that they too have something to give."

Ireland



"I find that the students in the Polytechnic need someone who will simply believe in them, someone who finds that they are important enough to spend time with in an apparently non-productive way. They can often feel a failure. "What's the point of it all?" It is a privilege to share their journey with its moments of search, struggle and discovery. It is encouraging to see the dawning confidence and hope that each person is very important with many gifts. Gradually they realise that their gifts are not for their own benefit only but to be shared in order to build a more just and loving world."

England



"Working with mentally retarded adults has changed my way of thinking, living and praying. Having taught "normal" children for many years it is quite a challenge. It is very important not to let myself become frustrated — not to expect results but to learn to "waste" time — to listen and try to understand what they are "saying" to me. When I help them in any way I feel drawn closer to Christ. I realise how important it is not to miss this PRESENCE in my day to day relations with them. Their affectionate concern for one another and for the staff moves me towards greater gentleness and patience in my own life. Working with the mentally retarded has taught me a new set of values and has helped me to recognise the dignity and worth of each person created in God's image."

Ireland



"The aim of the work at the Centre is to befriend the housebound, the elderly and the handicapped in the local community and to give practical help where necessary... household chores, shopping, pension collecting, boarding up windows, providing material help, gardening, mending broken equipment, visits to the launderette, moving furniture and hospital visits. The old like contact with the young. 'The young people have made us all very happy and it is nice to know they care for us old folks'."

England

Rooted in the mystery of the Incarnation, we participate in the growth of the person, in the image of God.

Book of the Institute.

1. Sr. Kitty with Polytechnic students.
2. Prison bars.
3. Sr. Frances at the Centre.
4. Srs. Attracta and Michael with the handicapped.



"I really did not want to go to the school retreat this year, but since Joe was going, I knew it would be boring at home. Well, the retreat turned out to be something quite different. Somehow Jesus became very real for me and not someone very remote. I'll be the first to sign up for Sister's next retreat".

Ireland

"As an educator I try to share my understanding of the reality of Jesus Christ with young people who are influenced by other values.

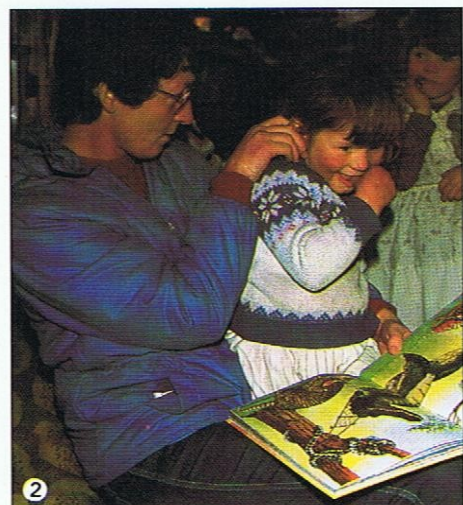
They are being pressurised continually by the advertising world. The unemployment situation gives them a sense of being unwanted. We can help them to direct their talents, enthusiasm and idealism to building up a kingdom of justice, love and peace."

Ireland

"Working as a parish team at the heart of the local Church is enriching our lives and the lives of a growing number of parishioners. Working together, we are gradually coming to discover and commit ourselves to our varied ministries of beholding, listening, caring, healing, praying...

As parish Sisters privileged to share in the ministry of leadership in the Church, we believe we are helping to broaden horizons and change outdated stereotypes about the place of women in the Church."

England



"It is not difficult for me as a nurse to understand what a great privilege it is to be Christ's channel of healing and compassion. In visiting patients and their relatives in hospital, hospice or in their homes, I find that what they most value is the time spent with them. This is a daily challenge to me."

England



1. Girls from St. Maur's, Weybridge on Retreat.
2. Sr. Teresa, a public health nurse in Dublin.
3. Sr. Ita teaching Science in Drishane.
4. The Parish Team meeting in Crawley (Srs. Mairead & Melissa).



True asceticism for us will be found in the faithful living out of our mission.

Book of the Institute



"There is much work to be done in the area of marriage counselling. Many don't communicate before they are married and some never do so... Helping people to communicate — with others and with God — is a vital part of my work. The important thing is accepting people as they are, as Christ did. I try to help people understand they are responsible for themselves and their own lives."

"Reading, writing, arithmetic — these are also ways of achieving liberation. People are becoming more aware of their worth and dignity. They are discovering that it is within their power to bring about change in their society".

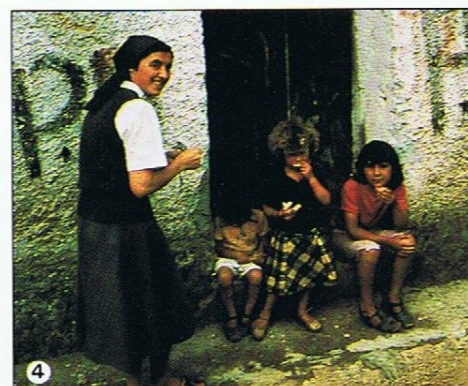
Peru

"One boy, whose whole family had been wiped out, spent 4 years in a border camp. While there, he learned English by boring a hole in the wall of the classroom so that he could follow the lessons. A lesson would have cost the equivalent of 30 US cents, but he had no money whatsoever. When he came to the transit camp he got work in the canteen for about 40 US cents a week. He saved up and bought an English book and a dictionary. When another boy, who had also lost his whole family, came to the camp, the first boy was so concerned for him that he gave him his most precious possession — his two English books".

Thailand



Australia



"More and more I feel called to become 'one among them'. If they have lost hope. I must hope for them; if they have lost faith. I must believe for them; if they have lost the incentive to struggle and the desire to go on living. I must be a sign of life and hope among them."

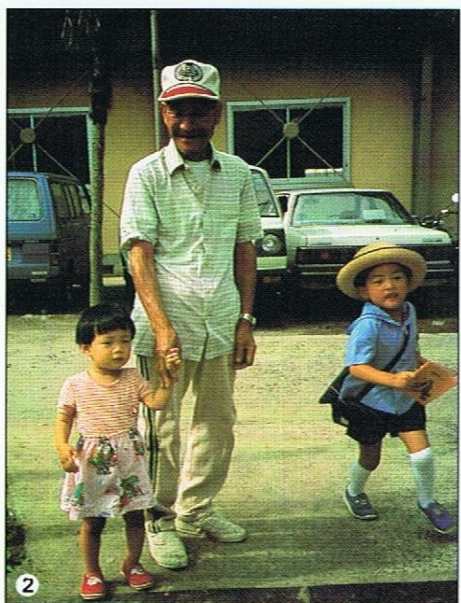
Italy

1. Lima, Peru.
2. Refugee Camp in Thailand.
3. Sr. Ita in Lockridge, Australia.
4. Sr. Mary in Calabria, Italy.



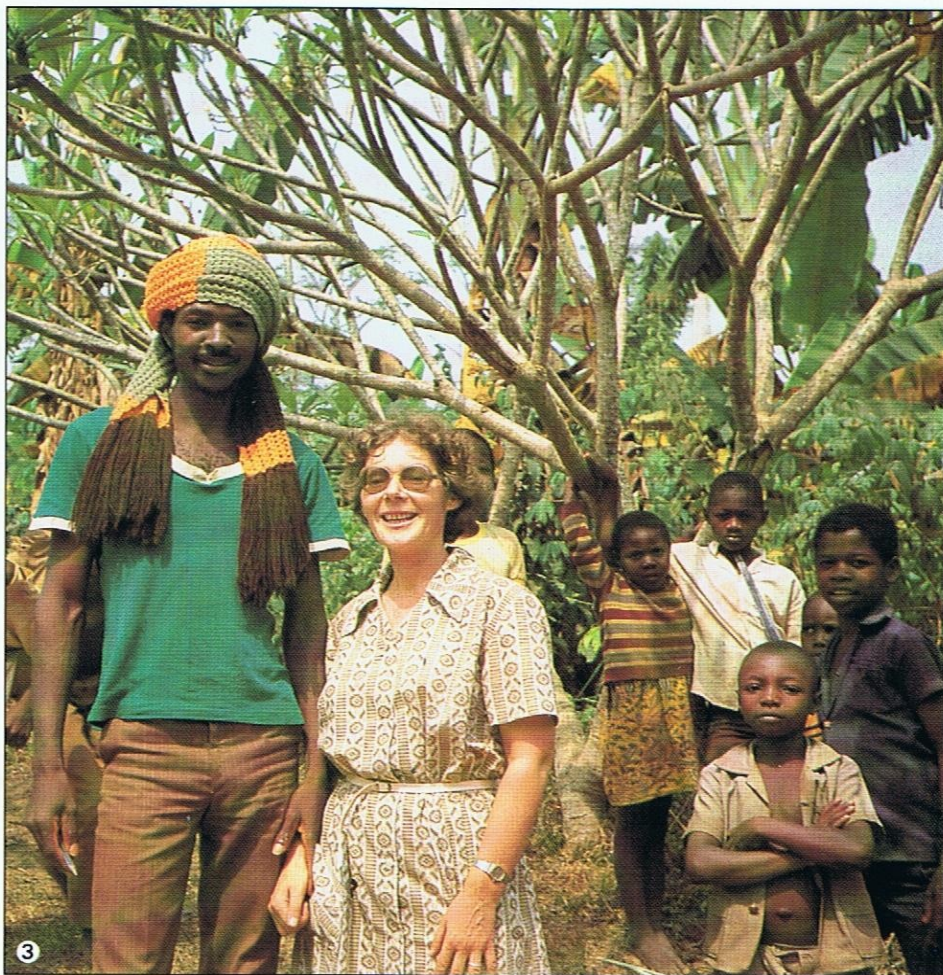
"When walking down a San Francisco street in the course of a morning, you can come across many people who have been hurt by society particularly through unemployment. They are not able to find a way out of their hopelessness on their own. At our Centre, we try to give them every possible help to find some means of employment. At the same time, we encourage them to rebuild the fragments of their lives and value themselves as human beings."

California



"Why are the victims of war from other countries living here? Why are women from other countries coming here as prostitutes? Why do business companies send married men to work in branch offices that are far away from their families? The values to be protected seem to be: economic success for the company, national economy to be boosted, development of the country to be assured. But if my country makes a profit, what happens to the other countries? Everywhere the poor and the weak are victims of those in power. The power holders become oppressors so as to protect themselves, their country, their position, their own corner — all in the name of progress and development."

Japan

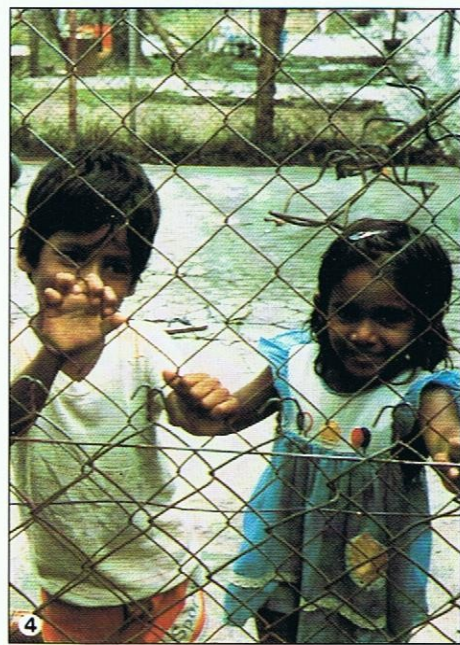


"When I arrived in Central West Africa I had to face many difficulties: culture shock, heat, drought and torrential rain, no knowledge of the language, different customs. I was white and a stranger. I knew no one and no one knew me. Reflecting on my experience five years later I realise that the people of the Cameroons are its wealth. They are courageous, hopeful and friendly. I see the value of the Sisters being close to the people, helping them to recognise their own worth and potential."

Cameroons

We are called to teach them the way of salvation while at the same time giving them that human formation which is essential if they are to live according to their dignity as children of God. Thus we commit ourselves with them in building a world of justice and love.

Book of the Institute.



"47% of the population are between the ages of seven and twenty-four years. Young people are confronted with drugs, delinquency and prostitution. They are faced with despair, isolation and feelings of worthlessness."

Malaysia

1. Streets of San Francisco.
2. Children in Japan.
3. Sr. Georgina and catechist in the Cameroons.
4. Malaysia: "What's our future?"



"Each day I encounter misery and poverty in my professional work, at meetings with unemployed youth, in my neighbourhood. There is poverty everywhere. It is difficult to say what is the greatest challenge to me. All the children in the school, with the exception of about 10%, are failures. 40% are in special classes. I have been teaching since 1950 and I am convinced that if these children leave school without being able to read, write and count, they will be lost for life and added to the list of the unemployed."

For me to teach someone to read is to teach freedom, helping that person to be responsible for his own life socially and politically."

France



"The Gospel values such as sharing and respect for people are truly present in the peoples' lives so that they find themselves very much "at home" reading both the Old and the New Testament. However, the polygamous situation causes hardship for many who want to and cannot be fully members of the Church."

Nigeria



Our personal and community life is oriented towards this goal: that all peoples may come to know the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ and share His life.

Book of the Institute

1. Sr. Kathleen in Yola, Nigeria.
2. Children at school in France.
3. "In the image of God", Spain.

"Our aim in this school for gypsies is to work for justice so that the child may be respected as a person, and that his ability to learn, no matter how limited, may be encouraged and not treated superficially. We reflect together in community on what we are trying to do. We try to urge the civil administration to take its work more seriously. We try to draw nearer to the families, to look on them as neighbours... all of which causes a lot of suffering for us. They are what we and our society have made them but they want to live with dignity, the dignity of the CHILDREN OF GOD, created in His image."

Spain

SISTERS OF THE INFANT JESUS IN ENGLAND AND IRELAND TODAY

respond to their call to make
JESUS CHRIST better known
and loved through:

TEACHING IN SCHOOLS

- Nursery
- Junior
- Senior

ADULT EDUCATION

- Prisoners
- Young mothers in deprived areas
- Retreat work

SOCIAL SERVICES

- Public Health Nursing
- Social work
- Care staff for mentally handicapped people
- Associated office work

PARISH MINISTRY

- As members of parish teams
- Parish catechists
- Parish visiting

CHAPLAINCY

- Third level colleges
- Immigrant communities
- Prisons
- Hospitals



***GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO MUCH
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON
SO THAT EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM MAY NOT BE LOST
BUT MAY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.***



***“ALWAYS BE AT PEACE AND TRUST IN
GOD WHATEVER HAPPENS, IT WILL
BE DONE TO YOU ACCORDING TO
YOUR FAITH, YOUR HOPE AND YOUR
LOVE — AND EVEN BEYOND THAT”***

Nicolas Barré

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