

Larajasse, district of Lyon, department of Rhone, absent, Mr Andre Francois Matagrín, lawyer, living in Lyon, rue du Boeuf, No 36, here present, agreeing on their behalf and paying the money remitted for this purpose, the sum of eighteen thousand francs, the price in return for which Mile Thevenet, here present, conjointly with Miles Marie Claudine Motte, school mistress, living in Fourviere, and Anne Therese Besson de Larochette, school mistress living in Belleville, department of Rhone, have sold conjointly to the said Miles Targe and Besson according to the contract made in the presence of M. Victor Coste, undersigned, and his colleague, notaries of Lyon, on the 15th May eighteen hundred and thirty-two, registered and transcribed according to procedure, a large private house, with a courtyard in which there is a well, chapel, stables, hayloft, woodshed, and shed, a little garden with a closet and aviary, water closets, appurtenances and outbuildings, the whole enclosed with walls, situated at Belleville, rue de Villefranche, district of Potissieres, and another garden, with trees, surrounded by walls and hedges which form part of the property, containing 22 ares (3 clear lots) according to the ancient measure of the country, situated in the said Belleville, in the same quarter of Potissieres, the which sum was stipulated due without interest, at a fixed date which has now arrived.

For the said sum of eighteen thousand francs, Mile Thevenet passes quittance to the said Miles Targe and Besson, promising to hold them and have them held as discharged and free against all comers.

As a result of this payment Mile Thevenet restores, and consents to the official striking off of the inscription, formed as much to her profit as to that of Miles Motte and Besson de Larochette, against Miles Targe and Besson, at the mortgage office of Villefranche on the twenty-fourth of July, eighteen hundred and thirty-two, Volume 129, Nos 88.425, and 88.426. This deed has been made and signed in Lyon, in the office of M. Coste, for M. Matagrín and in her house, previously mentioned. Place Fourviere No on behalf of Madame Thevenet, which house the notaries visited, on the fifth of May eighteen hundred and thirty-five. Having read the same, Madame Thevenet and M. Matagrín signed with the notaries. Thus signed on the draft left in the custody of M. Coste, at the bottom of which is written: Registered in Lyon, the seventh of May 1835 folio 93., C. 6. Received ninety francs, duty payable, nine fr. Signed: Meschini - **Coste**.

DOC. X

DIOCESAN APPROBATION of the Congregation founded by the Servant of God, in the year 1823. - *From documents enumerated below.*

Cardinal Fesch, archbishop of Lyon, from 1802, was sent into exile on the 25th April 1814, as were all the imperial family, after the fall of Napoleon of whom he was maternal uncle. The diocese of Lyon remained without a bishop. Before his departure, the Cardinal confided the administration to his vicars general, but forbade them to admit new associations or to make innovations in those which already existed (cf. *infra*, 1). For this reason the Servant of God found herself faced with the impossibility of getting her work recognised by ecclesiastical authority. The only permission, obtained, after repeated requests, was to have an oratory and to have Mass celebrated there (Docs XXIII, p. 463, and XXVII, p. 557).

In the meantime Fr. Coindre, whose fame as a missionary had spread around various regions was requested by the bishop of St. Flour, and administrator of Le Puy, to organize a society of missionaries in that diocese like the one already established in Saint Flour. Fr. Coindre, involved as he was with the missions, and with the direction of the "Ladies of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary" and of the "Brothers of the Sacred Heart", hesitated at first, but afterwards, perhaps in the hope of obtaining the approval for his two congregations that it was impossible to get in Lyon, thought it would be well to accept the proposal of Mgr de Salamon.

In August 1822, Fr. Coindre went to Saint-Flour and easily reached an agreement with the bishop who granted him extensive powers. In Lyon the two brothers Pierre and Roman Montagnac, priests and professors of the "Carthusians" showed themselves disposed to support him, and it was agreed to set up a new centre for missionaries in Monistrol-FEveque — now Monistrol-sur-Loire —, on the border of the department of Rhone and that of Haute Loire. The choice of this town seems to be explained especially by the material advantages that it offered. The buildings of a former convent of Capuchins of Monistrol (1627-1791), remained vacant after the death, on the 3rd December 1820, of its new proprietor de la Bruyere, and they were bought by Fr. Coindre who installed the new community of his missionaries there (cf. BONNEFOY, O.F.M., *Les couvents des capucins de la Haute-Loire*, Paris 1939, p. 91; Monistrol, Register of Minutes of the municipality; H. FRAISSE, *Etude sur le petit-seminaire de Monistrol*, ms. in the archives of the seminary of Yssingeaux.)

A few days later, on the 20th September 1822, a decree of Mgr de Salamon announced to the diocese of Le Puy, the foundation of the Society of Missionaries and recommended it to the generosity of the faithful.

On the 10th October, Fr. Coindre, encouraged with the benevolence of Mgr de Salamon, asked permission to establish the newly founded

Congregation of the Servant of God in Monistrol, first of all to be of aid to the missionaries, and then to establish a centre of education.

On November 4th the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus initiated an organisation for the diocese of Le Puy which responded to the needs of the time. It comprised two institutions, different in their principal aims but united by the same interests and spiritual direction: a body of missionaries, of whom Fr. Coindre was the Superior General, and one of professors for the college of which the rector was the priest Fr. Roman Montagnac, depending on and under the direction of the same Fr. Coindre. As one can see from the prospectus which announced the opening of the college, the Brothers of the Sacred Heart and the religious of the Servant of God were both called to Monistrol as helpers (cf. F. FRAISSE, art. cit).

At the same time as he was organising these institutions, Fr. Coindre asked the Bishop of St.-Flour for the canonical approbation of the Congregation of the Servant of God. On the 4th February 1823 this approval was granted, in very flattering terms for the Father Superior (cf. *infra*, 3).

1

Decree of Cardinal Fesch, Pradines, 22nd April 1814. - From the original preserved in A. A. Lyon: *Papiers Fesch*.

As a result of the well-known political reverses at the beginning of 1814, Cardinal Fesch, with his collaborators, retired temporarily to the Abbey of Pradines, of which he could be considered the true founder. From there, he sent pastoral letters and decrees to his diocese, and three days before leaving for Italy (25th April) he signed the document which we present, in which, besides the appointment of the diocesan council, destined to govern the diocese during his absence, is contained the provision which made it impossible for the Servant of God to obtain ecclesiastical approbation for her religious family in Lyon. This state of affairs came to an end with the appointment of Mgr Jean Paul Gaston de Pins (22nd December 1823) who took possession as administrator of the diocese on the 18th February 1824.

We, Joseph Cardinal Fesch, archbishop of Lyon, primate of all Gaul, etc., etc., etc.

The urgent circumstances brought about by the events which have taken place and which are known to everybody advise us to abandon our diocese for some time and betake ourselves to Rome near the Holy Father. For these reasons, we have decreed and decree as follows:

1. Our three Vicars General: Frs. Courbon, Renaud and Bochart form our diocesan Council, as during our first journey to Rome.

2. The Superior of the Scminary shall be invited to this Council whenever the affairs of the ecclesiastical students and the administration of our seminaries are to be treated of.

3. The ordinances dated from Rome and Paris on the subject of correspondence and decisions which we reserve to ourselves, especially on ecclesiastical affairs, are renewed.

4. No corporate body may be admitted, even provisionally, and no innovation may be made in those already existing, without our special order.

Given at Pradines, on the 22nd April, 1814.

J. Cardinal Fesch

2

"Report of the canonical institution of the Ladies and Sisters of the Heart of Jesus and Mary", 1822. — From the original preserved in A. G. Roma.

On October 10th 1822, Fr. Coindre tinned again to the Vicar General Richard, asking to establish the Congregation founded by the Servant of God in the diocese of Le Puy.

The document which we present, written in the hand of Fr. Coindre opens the first Register of the Congregation. In it we note: *a*) that the official title of the Congregation was undecided for some time, and in this first document Fr. Coindre gave it the name of "Ladies of Pious Education" and a little further on, "Ladies of the Heart of Jesus and Mary"; *b*) that at that date the Congregation had already adopted the Rule of St. Augustine and the Constitutions of St. Ignatius; *c*) that the Superior showed satisfaction at the quality of the future religious and at the successes they had obtained as educators in Lyon and Belleville.

Report of the canonical institution of the Ladies and Sisters of the Heart of Jesus and Mary, approved as a Congregation by His Lordship the Bishop of Saint-Flour, Administrator of the diocese of Le Puy, for the whole extent of his diocese.

In the year eighteen hundred and twenty-two, on the tenth of October, we, Andre Coindre, Superior of the Missions of the diocese, undersigned, have requested, conjointly with Fr. Menut, parish priest of Saint Sigolene, permission from Rev. Fr. Richard, Vicar General of the diocese, to introduce into the diocese of Le Puy the said Ladies of Pious Education, who have formed educational establishments for

young girls in the town of Lyon, Place Fourviere, No 3, and in the town of Belleville, under the name of Ladies of the Heart of Jesus and Mary.

Being convinced by serious examination of their regularity, their zeal, and their special talents, received from God to form young persons in the practice of virtue and in the knowledge necessary for them to become good Christians, edifying mothers of families and excellent class mistresses, we believe that we shall render the greatest service, first to the town of Monistrol and then to other parishes of the diocese which may wish to receive them, by encouraging their arrival here.

Having adopted the rule of St. Augustine and the constitutions of St. Ignatius, with the modifications made necessary by the different employments of women, and of clerics, they inspire the Superiors of the diocese with the greatest confidence.

We have written to Madame Thevenet, foundress of the establishment of Lyon and of Belleville, and she has sent us Madame Dioque, nee Marie Antoinette Bedor, called Sister St. Peter, to be the Superioress of the community; Mile Jubeau, called Sister St. Bruno, Miles Daval and Anne Noel, Mile Marie Buisson, and the first foundation of the Institute has been made in the house adjoining the Church of the former Capuchins of Monistrol.¹

In witness whereof we have signed the present deed.

Coindre, Superior Sister St. Peter Sister St. Bruno

3

Report on the approbation of the Congregation founded by the Servant of God by the Bishop of St.-Flour, administrator of the diocese of Le Puy, 4th February 1823. - From the original preserved in A. G. Roma.

In the first Register of the Congregation, after the report already reproduced in this document (cf. *supra*, 2), we also find, in the handwriting of Fr. Coindre, the document which refers to the first canonical approbation given by the administrator of the diocese of Le Puy, Bishop of St.-Flour, Mgr Louis Sifren Joseph de Salamon (1820-1829).

¹ There is a word crossed out here.

In this document there is reference for the first time to Mgr de Bonald, named Bishop of Le Puy on the 13th March 1823, who was to remain in close touch with the Congregation of the Servant of God until his death. All efforts to find the original document of approbation have failed, therefore, we give the report preserved in the handwriting of Fr. Coindre.

In the year eighteen hundred and twenty-three on the fifteenth of February we the undersigned, Superior of the Missions of the diocese of Le Puy, certify the following:

Desiring to consolidate still more the establishment which we had begun, we wrote to Mgr Louis Sifren Joseph Foncrose, Bishop of Saint-Flour, to obtain the approbation of the Ladies as a congregation for the whole diocese of Le Puy, following the rule and constitutions of which we spoke in our first report. Further, we asked him for the faculty to receive their simple vows and to be appointed their superior if he judged proper.

Without delay, Monseigneur replied to us, in a letter written from Paris, dated the fourth of February 1823, as follows:

"I commend you for the establishment that you have just formed. I appoint you Superior of it, and I have no doubt at all that it will flourish under such a director; and I approve them as far as in me lies, as a Congregation for the Diocese of Le Puy, and you may receive the simple vows of those who present themselves."

We notified Fr. Richard, Vicar General of the diocese, regarding the new favour that Monseigneur had just granted us, and he replied to us by a letter written by M. Issartel, dated the 22nd February 1823:

"We are very pleased that Mgr de Salamon has replied to you conformably to your wishes and that you have received the authorisation that you desired. Fr. Richard has only to subscribe to what Monseigneur has judged fitting. He has charged me to tell you so. He will watch over the progress of your establishments with pleasure and protect them, and when Mgr de Bonald comes, he will do all that is possible to make him see all the good that you do and will do in this diocese. I do not doubt but that he will welcome you with kindness and will accord you full protection."

Consequently, in our capacity as Superior of these Ladies, we have examined many of them, and we have urged them to prepare themselves to make their profession soon. . . .

Coindre, Sup.