

# WORDS FOR LIFE

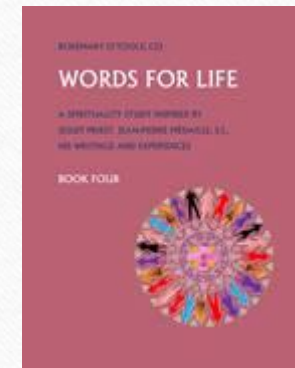
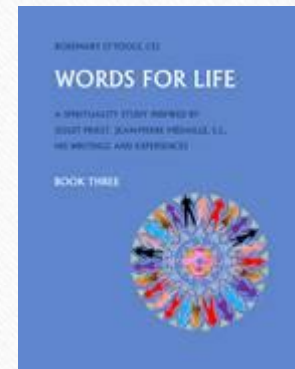
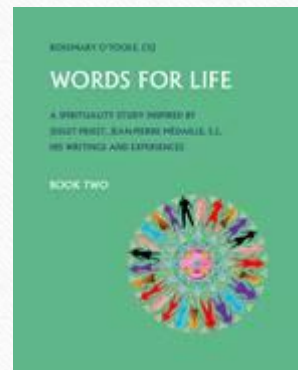
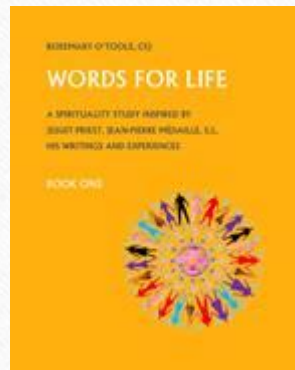
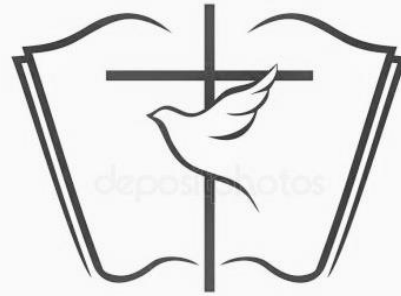
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A SPIRITUALITY SERIES INSPIRED BY  
JEAN-PIERRE MÉDAILLE, S.J.  
HIS WRITINGS AND EXPERIENCES

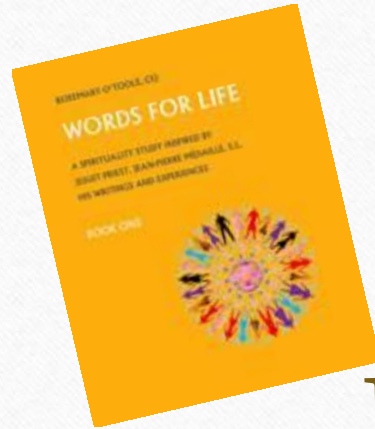


**John Brooks, publisher  
OTTAWA, CANADA.**





**ROSEMARY O'TOOLE, CSJ**  
*Sister of St. Joseph in Canada*



# BOOK ONE

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- BIOGRAPHY OF JEAN-PIERRE MÉDAILLE
- THE CHURCH & WORLD OF SEVENTEETH CENTURY FRANCE
- HIS VISION OF A SPIRITUAL REVITALIZATION
- A 'SPIRITUAL FATHER'
- AUTHOR OF 128 MAXIMS OF PERFECTION



# LIFE OF JEAN-PIERRE MÉDAILLE

---



**1610-1669**

**SOUTHERN FRANCE**

# BORN IN CARCASSONNE





**JEAN-PIERRE MÉDAILLE**

**BORN  
OCTOBER 6, 1610.**



# HIS FAMILY

---

**HIS PARENTS WERE**

**JEAN MÉDAILLE AND PHELIPPE D'ESTEVERIL.  
JEAN-PIERRE WAS THE ELDEST OF THREE SONS.**

**JEAN-PIERRE**

**JEAN-PAUL**

**JEAN**





# HIS BAPTISM

---

OCTOBER 10, 1610

CATHEDRAL SAINT-MICHEL



# BAPTISMAL FONT





Jean Pierre Medaille

N<sup>o</sup> 12<sup>e</sup> octobre a été baptisé Jean Pierre fils de  
Jean Medaille Adouat Du Roy la mère philippe  
desteur de parois monsieur me prier de moulget  
confes & la marraine Jeanne desteur

Suzanne de  
Brammeuse

N<sup>o</sup> 12<sup>e</sup> octobre a été baptisé Suzanne fille de amice  
Brammeuse femme arande Rigonde le parois laurier  
Jouenir la marraine Suzanne Rigonde

**Baptisimal Certificate  
of Jean Pierre Medaille  
Baptised the 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 1610**

N<sup>o</sup> 10<sup>e</sup> octobre a été baptisé Jean Pierre fils de Jean Rigonde  
femme Rigonde le parois Jean Rigonde

N<sup>o</sup> 21<sup>e</sup> octobre a été baptisé Isabele fille de Guilhaume  
de la marquette marie le parois Jean

# HIS HOME

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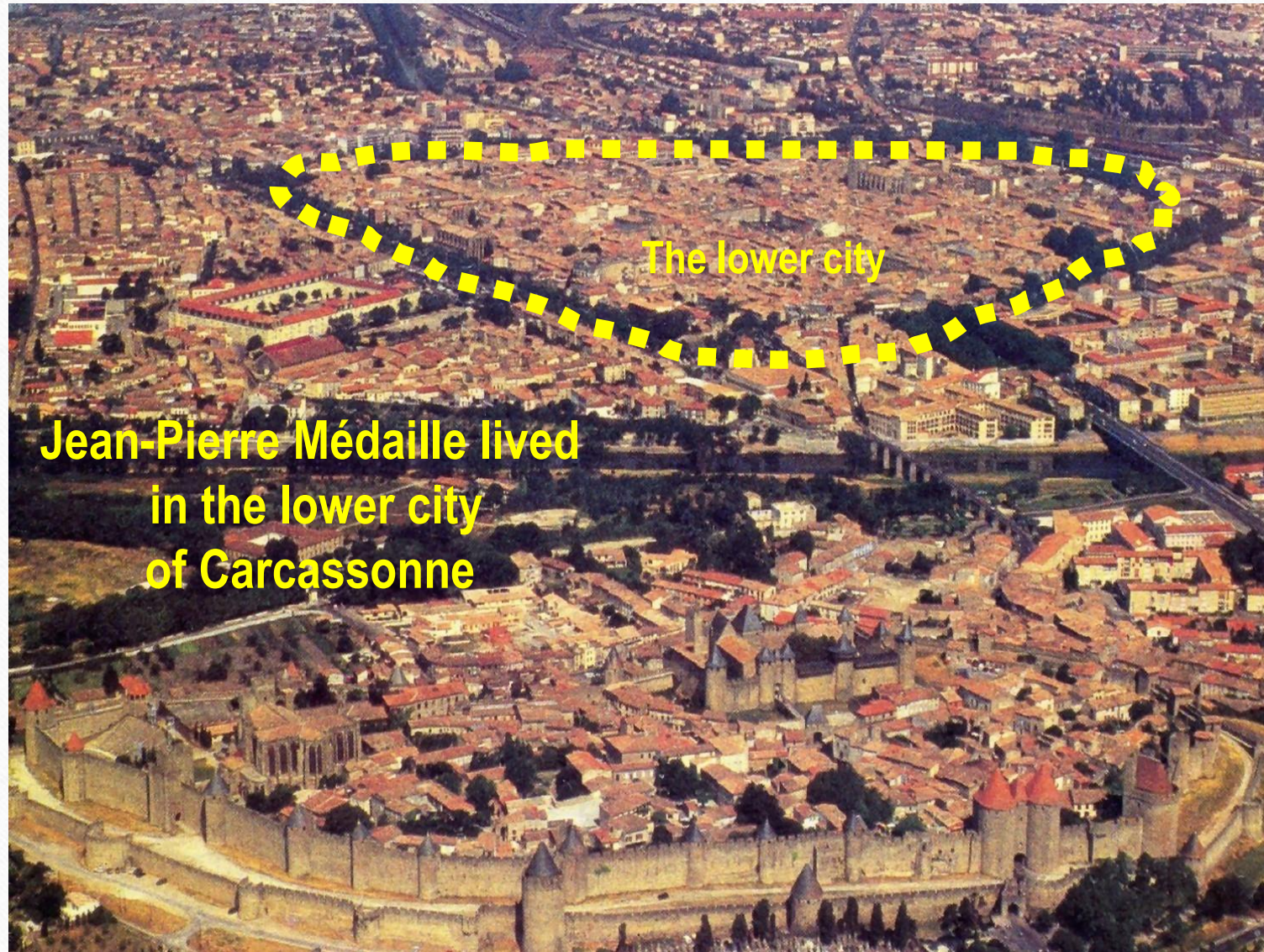






The walled city of  
Carcassonne....





Jean-Pierre Médaille lived  
in the lower city  
of Carcassonne

The lower city





CARCASSONNE

# HIS BOYHOOD ENVIRONMENT

---

**THE POPULATION**  
about 10,000

A small but busy  
manufacturing town  
specializing in textiles.



# JESUIT COLLEGE IN CARCASSONNE



---

**THE COLLEGE OPENS  
IN 1623.**

**THAT SAME YEAR  
JEAN-PIERRE  
STARTS STUDIES HERE.**


**HE IS 13 YEARS OLD.**



*It was here he reflected on his  
vocation and calling to the  
Jesuits...*







*He entered the Jesuits and  
began his formation in  
Toulouse.*

**1626**

**Toulouse**

**AGE 16**

**Jean-Pierre  
enters the Jesuit  
seminary.**

Leaving home ...







**15th of Sept 1626.  
He began his novitiate here.**

# NOVITIATE

---

**JEAN-PIERRE  
IS  
16 YEARS OLD.**





**TOULOUSE**





**1534**

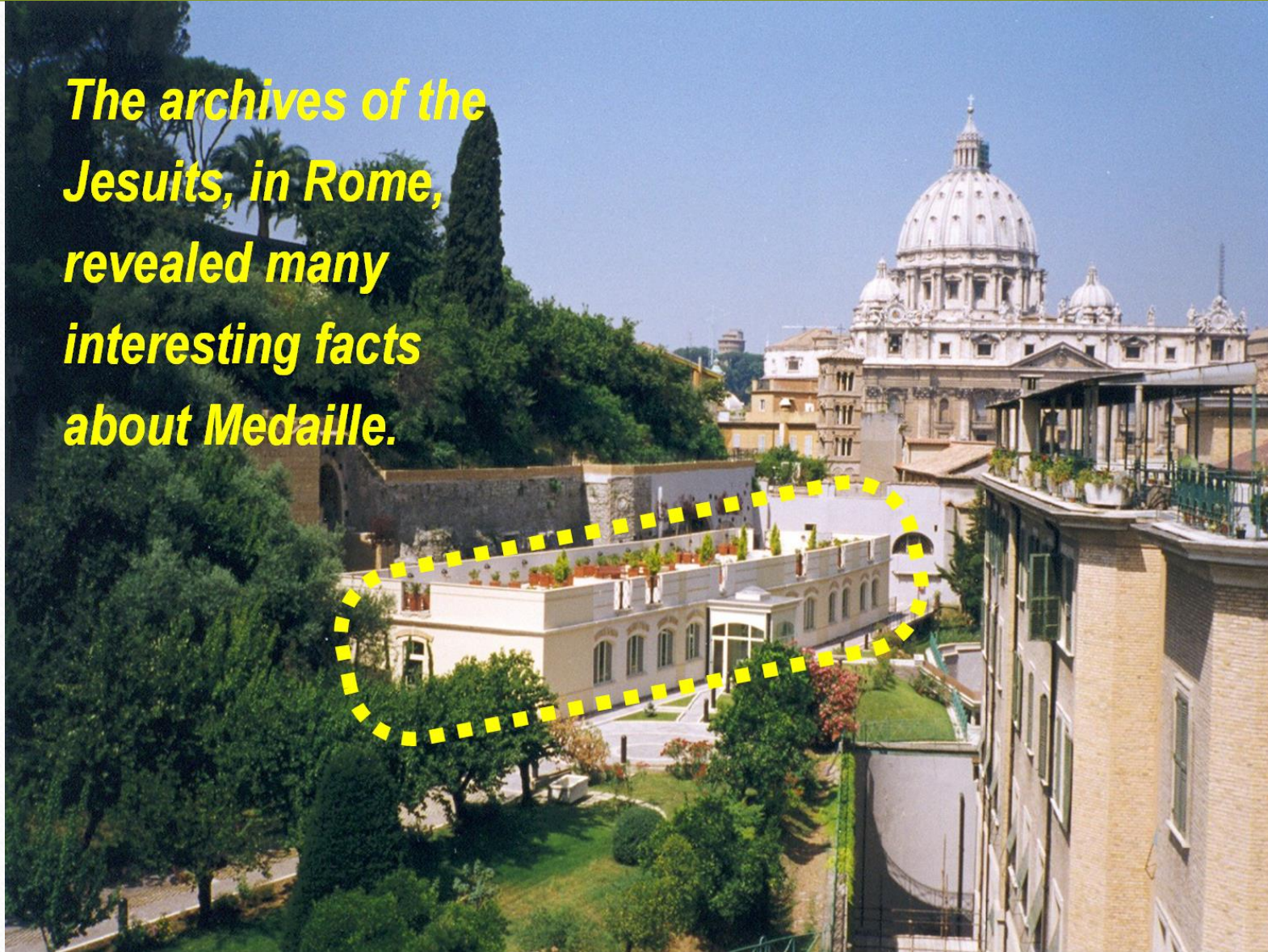
**THE JESUIT ORDER  
WAS FOUNDED BY ST.  
IGNATIUS IN PARIS.**

**❖ WHEN MÉDAILLE  
BECAME A JESUIT,  
THERE WERE:**

- **13,112 MEMBERS**
- **372 COLLEGES**
- **123 RESIDENCES**



*The archives of the  
Jesuits, in Rome,  
revealed many  
interesting facts  
about Medaille.*





# ARCHIVES



Thanks to study and research,  
the different Archives have revealed  
some rich information on Fr Medaille.



1626

That year there  
were 25 first year  
novices.

We can see  
his name on  
the list of  
novices for  
that year

Novitij admissi anno 1626

Ioan. Bernico, Physicus  
Vincentius Buissonier, Rhetor  
Ludovicus Dasy, Coadiutor  
Bernardus Arsenay, Tutor  
Annaeus Vigier, Philosophus, et Iurisperitus  
Petrus Coutel, Philosophus  
Ioan. Pestel, Philosophus  
Ioan. Petrus, Medaille, Rhetor  
Ioan. Vilhet, Physicus, et Iurisperitus  
Ioan. Portalier, Rhetor  
Godofridus Barbaston, Rhetor  
Petrus Trompsal, Rhetor  
Matthaeus Mentée, Sartor



Annus	Nom. Patris	Actus	Jugentium	visu. cap?	Malifera	Prudum	Non. lug
1626							
140	videns dary	23	indione	indione	indione	fine act	5 May
	vid. valentini						

**His reports show that:**

*He was highly intelligent.*

*He was very disciplined.*

*He had fragile health.*

15	Annus: vigier	2	Prudum	firmus	magis	fine act	15 May
	vid. valentini						
16	Annus: vigier	2	Prudum	firmus	magis	fine act	15 May
	vid. valentini						
17	Annus: vigier	2	Prudum	firmus	magis	fine act	15 May
	vid. valentini						
18	Annus: vigier	2	Prudum	firmus	magis	fine act	15 May
	vid. valentini						
19	Annus: vigier	2	Prudum	firmus	magis	fine act	15 May
	vid. valentini						
20	Annus: vigier	2	Prudum	firmus	magis	fine act	15 May
	vid. valentini						



Archivum Societ

Nomen & cognomen.	Patria.	Ætas.	Virt.	Tempus Societatis.	Tempus studiorum.	<u>Ingenium</u>	<u>Moribus</u>	An Profectus an Coadiutor formatus.
Annæus Vigier	Ex opido Fontanges dioc. Clavomontana	24 Julij 1603	firma	7 Sept 1626	7 <sup>mo</sup> an 2 psia 3 Junij 1623	Bonum	magna	Novitius
Petrus Coma	Ex mbe 8 Florent	29 Sept 1603	firma	7 Sept 1626	7 <sup>mo</sup> an 1 psia 1 Junij 1623	saltem mediocre	saltem mediocre	Novitius
Joannes Pestel	Ex opido Samely dioc. Amiensis	22 Mart 1605	firma	15 Sept 1626	psia 2	magna		Novitius
Jo Petrus Medaille	Carrasfort	6 Octob 1610	Exiles	15 Sept 1626	Rhetor 1	eximium	eximia	Novitius
Henric Pilhet	Turnonensis dioc. Valentina	22	firma	16 Sept 1626	Rhetor 1 psia 2 Junij 1623	Bonum	saltem mediocre	Novitius

**“Distinguished” among the 25 novices.**



# PROFESSION OF SIMPLE VOWS



**SEPTEMBER 16, 1628**

**IN TOULOUSE**





1628

**FIRST  
PROFESSION  
OF VOWS**

**POVERTY  
CHASTITY  
OBEDIENCE**



# HIS SEMINARY STUDIES

---

1626-1633





As a student,  
he was part of  
the Jesuit  
community of  
the College of  
Toulouse.

He studied  
Philosophy,  
Physics and  
Metaphysics.



Antonius Ollier  
Guillelmus Dupuy  
Guill. Suave P<sup>r</sup> Congr. Minoris B.V.  
Ioannes Petel

Auditores 3<sup>i</sup> Anni Theologici

Ioannes Baptista Bellus  
Franciscus Decoma  
Ignatius Duclot

Auditores 2<sup>i</sup> Anni Theologici

Ioannes Bouclier  
Iacobus Martinon  
Petrus Degreu  
Antonius Barge

Auditores 1<sup>i</sup> Anni Theologici

Bartholomaeus Lagrange  
Ludouicus Pros  
Henricus Pitletus  
Ioannes Petrus Medaille  
Godefridus Barbaston  
Antonius Galatruac  
Petrus Pros  
Franciscus Petitus

Auditores Physica & Metaphysica

## INTELLECTUAL QUALITIES

- Excellent
- Remarkable
- Penetrating
- Sublime
- Wise
- Above average
- Superior in  
philosophy and  
especially in theology.



D. Iacques Ginesti, p<sup>re</sup>sor p<sup>re</sup>senc,  
conf<sup>ess</sup>. p<sup>re</sup>senc. & conp<sup>re</sup>. minoris.

Josephus Boege, calixta = D. Hucloy  
Joannes Petrus Medaille.

Franciscus Mattret  
Joannes Laporte.



**1633: MOVED BACK TO HIS HOMETOWN  
CARCASSSONNE**





# Catalogus Collegij Carcasonensis

A. J. Joannes Kelyon Rector  
P. Antonius Lauedan Minister, Consultor, Confessarius  
P. Petrus Leyron, Procurator, Consultor, Confessarius  
P. Stephanus Faucher Praefect' Spirit' Confessar' Nostroru' (Concionator nostru' tēp' Consultor)  
P. Franc. Chauiale, Praefectus Classium et Mauris Congregatis, Confessarius

1 P. Benedict' Bonnefoy Rector  
5 P. Amabilis La rue Quintanus Novitius

2 M. Joannes Seruiere Humanista

3 M. Petrus Dangalieres Tertianus

4 M. Petrus Medaille Quartanus

Jacobus Perache Sartor, Emplot

Joannes Piquet Sartor

Jacobus Morle Aedificans et Janitor

Joannes Despins Coquus Novitius

**At the end of his  
Philosophy studies,  
he returned to  
Carcasonne for two  
years as a teacher,  
in the college  
where he did his  
first studies.**

**1633-1635**

**A TEACHER  
TO  
THE YOUNG  
STUDENTS AT THE  
JESUIT COLLEGE**



1635-1637

BACK TO  
TOULOUSE

TWO YEARS OF  
THEOLOGY

25 YEARS OLD





# ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD



1637  
**TOULOUSE**  
27 years old.





From his ordination  
prayer...

**“EFFECT IN ME  
A MIRACLE OF  
LOVE.”**

*- J.P. Médaille*



# 1<sup>ST</sup> ASSIGNMENT: AURILLAC





346 20

(Collegium Auriliacense.)

P. Joannes Dauril Rector.

P. Joannes Medaille Minister, Consultor, Praefectus maioris Sodalitatis

**He spent 5 years here as:** Sodalitatis Artificum, Admonitor,  
Confessarius nosterum.

P. Nicolaus **Bursar.** Procurator, Consultor, Confessarius Nosterum & Exdignorum.

P. Joannes De **Counsellor.** Praefectus Ecclesiae & Sanitatis, Confessarius Exdignorum.

P. Stephanus **- In charge of a lay association** Praefectus Studiorum, Consultor, Confessarius Exdignorum.

P. Joannes Baillard **organised by the Jesuits.** Concionator in vivo, Consultor, Caduista, Confessarius Exdignorum.

P. Gregorius Clavelier Praefectus Humanitatis, Confessarius Exdignorum.

1637-1642

IN-HOUSE  
APPOINTMENT  
AT  
THE JESUIT  
COLLEGE





1642

Jesuit College  
in preparation  
for solemn vows





## **A TIME OF RENEWAL**





**A TIME  
OF DEEPENING  
COMMITMENT**





**NOËL CHABANEL (1613-1649)**  
**Martyred: Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, Midland, Ontario, Canada.**

Noël was in the same Tertianship year as Jean-Pierre. At twenty-eight, he was a successful professor and humanist in France. He had a strong desire to come to the Canadian Missions.





**11<sup>th</sup> October 1643**

## FINAL PROFESSION

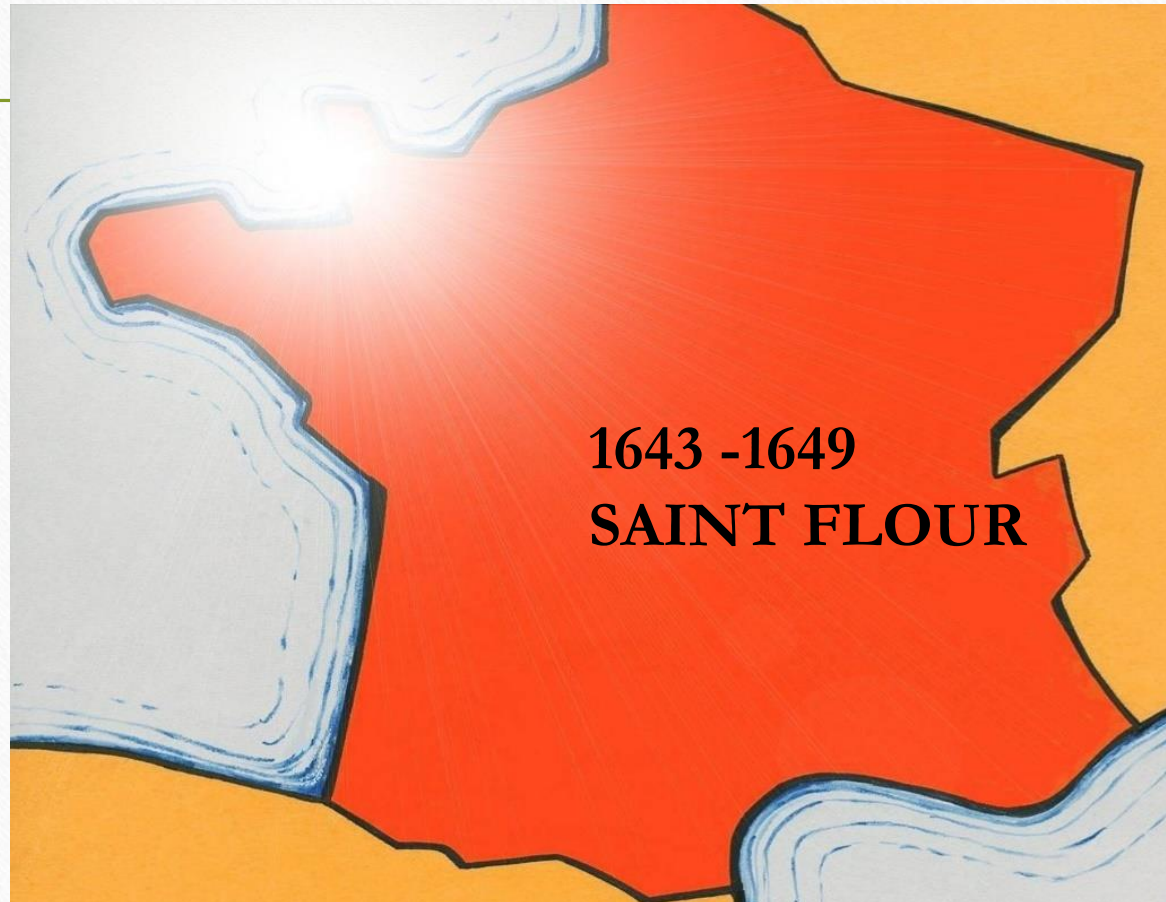
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**POVERTY  
CHASTITY  
OBEDIENCE**

**4<sup>TH</sup> VOW:  
OBEDIENCE TO  
THE POPE  
REGARDING THEIR  
MISSION**



# MISSIONED TO JESUIT COLLEGE







**In AUTUMN 1643  
the Jesuits opened a new  
COLLEGE AT SAINT FLOUR.**

**Fr. Médaille was missioned  
to this college  
during the years  
1643-1649.**



Annus.	Nomen Patris	Actus	Ingenium	unus cap.	Mentis	Studium	Notus
1626.							
140	Ludov. Dazy. Diet. valentinus	23	medione	mediorum	mediorum	sine arte	5 Martij
150	Bernardus Argenay Gratianopolitani	23	Medione	firmus	magna	solo	15 May
16	Anna: vigier Diet. Liavennus natus 24 Jul 1603		Bonum	firmus	magna	tho an 2 phis 3 junior 3 men	7 Sept.
17	Petrus Contel Jauplorum	natus 29 Sept 1607	Bonum	firmus	magna	tho 1 phis 3	7 Sept.
18	Joan: Doffel Diet. Amicenis	22 Martij 1609	Bonum	firmus	magna	tho 1 phis 2	15 Sept.
19	Joan: Petrus - Médaille Caraffensis	6 Octob 1610	Eximium	firmus sed dilex	Magna et eximia	tho 1	15 Sept.
20	Henricus Philippi Turmonensis Diet. valentinus	21 an	Bonum	firmus	plus quam medi ocis pro fide	tho 1 phis 2 junior 2	6 Sept.

In the triennial reports  
during his years in Saint-Flour:  
Father Médaille is said to have:

- a balanced temperament
- a great talent for instructing and directing souls.
- in administrative work, he is capable, competent, natural flair for human relations.
- remarkably good judgment, tact, apostolic sensibility!





# HIS PASTORAL WORK

---

1646 - 1651

AROUND SOUTH-CENTRAL FRANCE



**FR. MÉDAILLE IS ON THE ROAD NOW ...**



**VISITS LE PUY...**

- **PARISH MISSIONS**
- **SPIRITUAL  
DIRECTION**
- **CONFESSOR**





THE JESUIT  
RESIDENCE  
AND  
CHURCH  
IN LE PUY.





## L'EGLISE DU COLLEGE

Church opened with its  
first Mass on  
December 24, 1618.



## AROUND 1646... IN LE PUY

Father Médaille met with some women who had a desire to consecrate their lives to God and serve their dear neighbours “outside the cloister”.











The Spirit is doing something new ...

*M. Southard, CSJ*

*Illumination by  
Mary Southard, CSJ*





Religious life for women up until now had to be

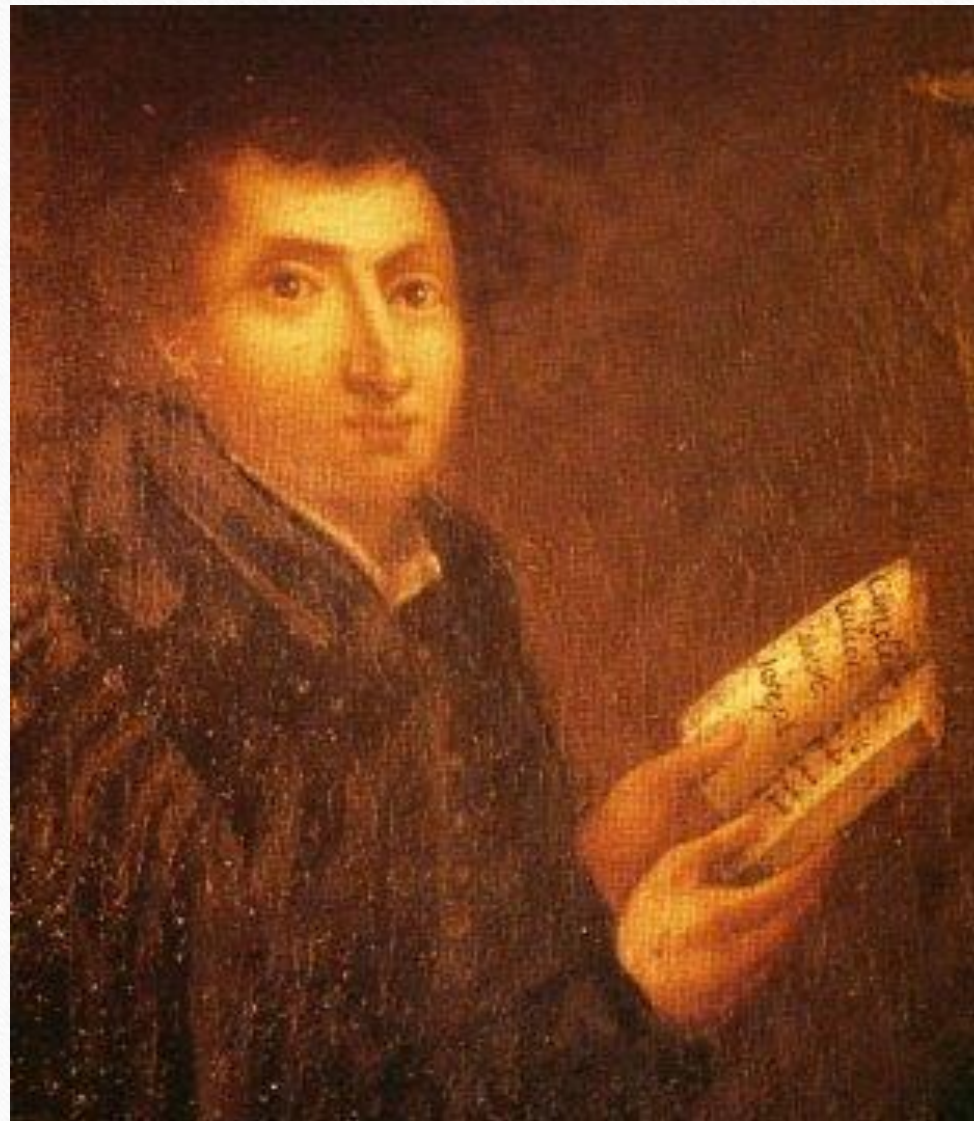
- ✓ Cloistered
- ✓ Monastic
- ✓ Canonical



**FOUNDER OF THE  
SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH**

---

**OCTOBER 15, 1650**





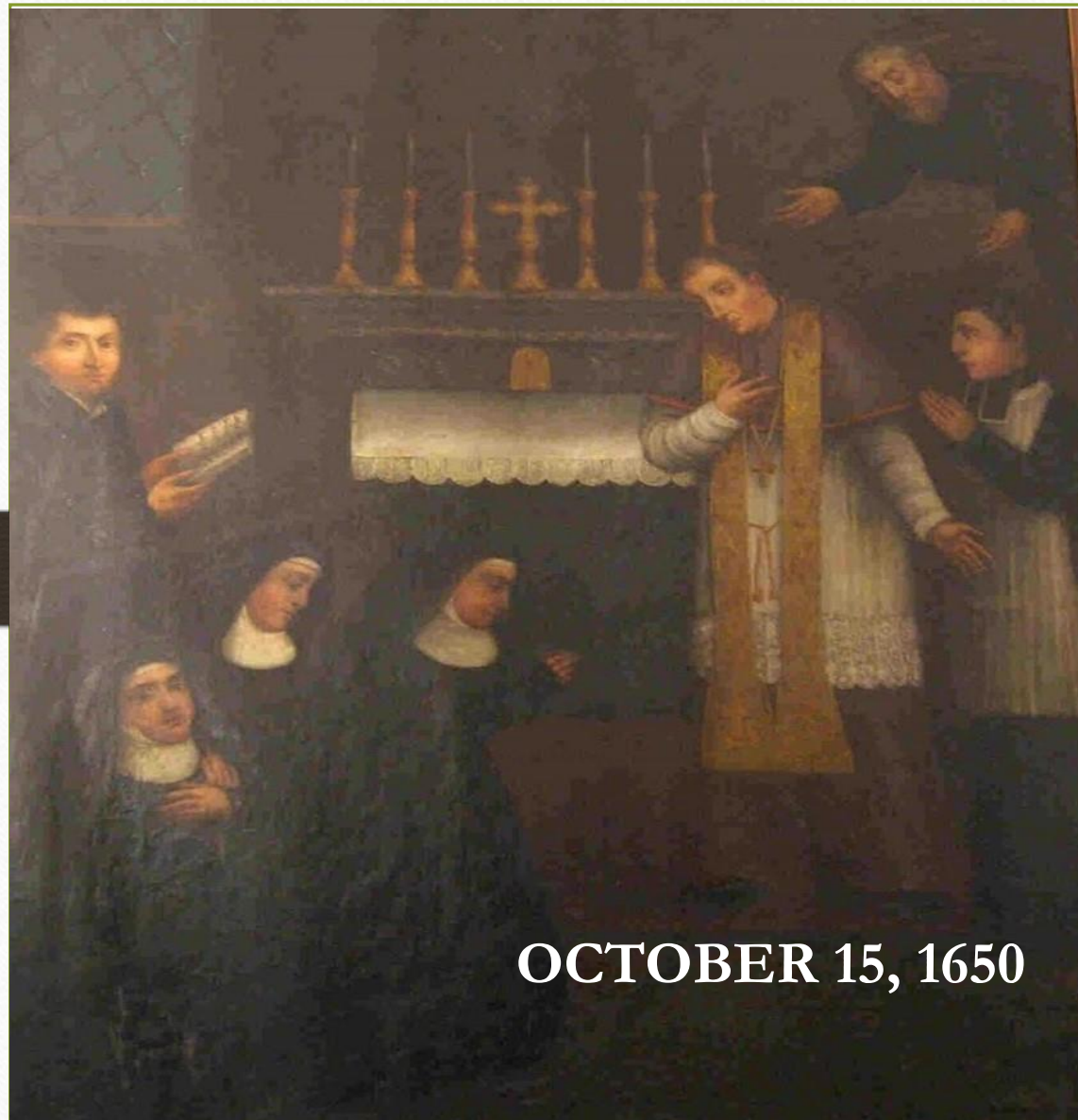
# BISHOP DE MAUPAS

---

We can suppose that Father Médaille met with the Bishop many times before the official recognition of the Sisters of St. Joseph was made public.







OCTOBER 15, 1650

# FIRST SIX SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH

Francoise Eyraud

Clauda Chastel

Marguerite Burdier

Anna Chaleyer

Anna Vey

Anna Brun



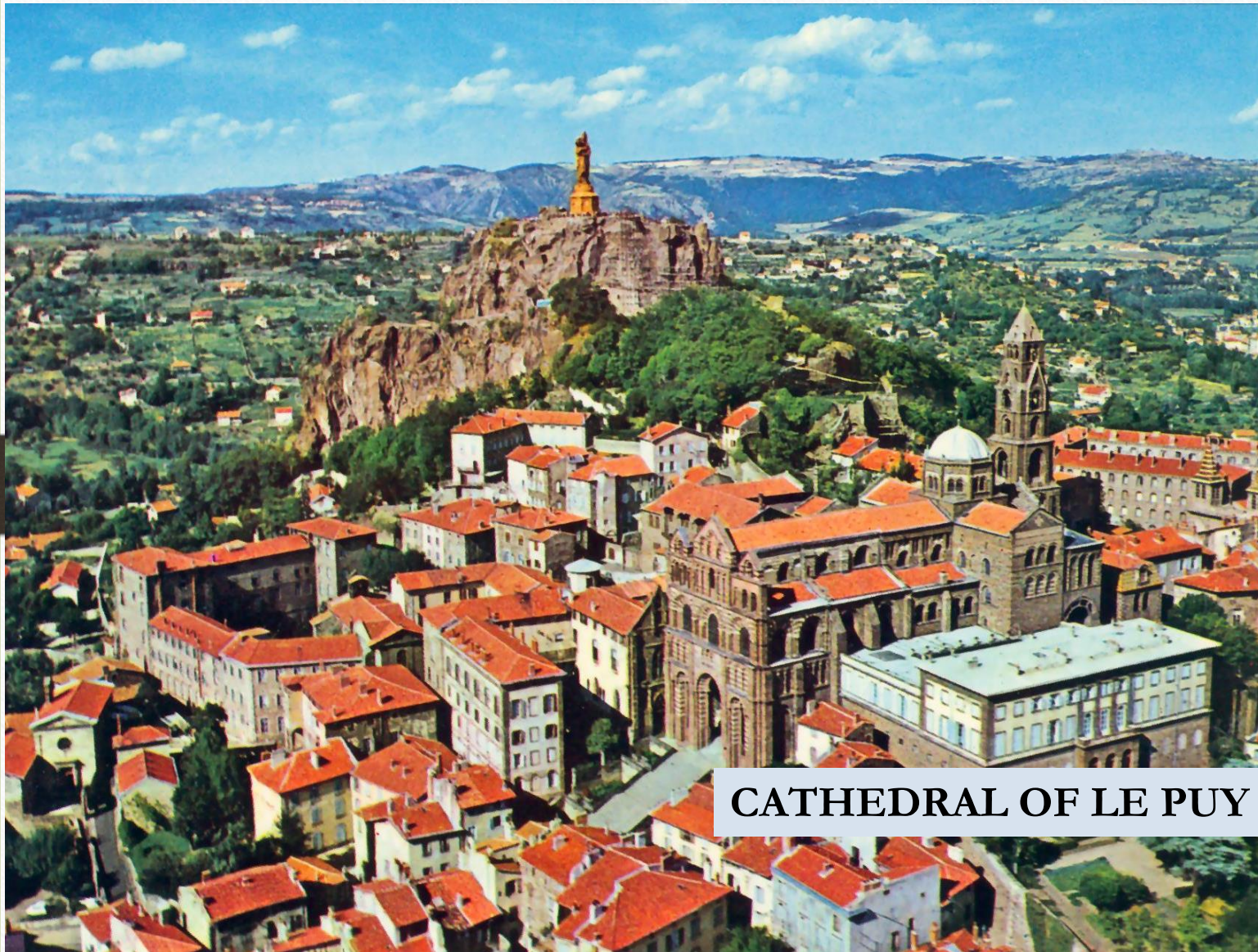
*ayant été disposées par  
Mondit Seigneur l'Evê-  
que , pour l'exécution  
d'un si Pieux dessein ;  
Sa Grandeur assembla tou-  
tes ces Filles dans l'Hô-  
pital des Orfelines du  
Puy & leur en donna la  
conduite , & le quinzié-  
me jour du mois d'Octo-  
bre , Fête de Sainte The-  
rèse , de l'année mil six  
cents cinquante : cet Il-  
lustre Prelat leur ala fai-  
re une Exhortation , tou-  
te pleine d'onction de  
l'Esprit de Dieu , par la-*



**OCTOBER 15, 1650**

**Bishop de Maupas gave the Sisters his blessing and placed them under the protection of St Joseph . He established that their congregation would be called the **Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph**.**





**CATHEDRAL OF LE PUY**

**AN-EXTRA-ORDINARY  
CALLING  
FOR JEAN-PIERRE  
MÉDAILLE, S.J.**

**God's instrument  
for the church,  
the sisters,  
and the world!**





NOTRE DAME  
CATHEDRAL  
IN  
LE PUY





**BLACK MADONNA  
IN THE SANCTUARY OF  
NOTRE DAME  
CATHEDRAL**





**THE FIRST KITCHEN  
OF  
THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH  
IN LE PUY, FRANCE.**





# LE PUY, FRANCE

---

They went out daily in pairs  
to serve the needs of their  
dear neighbours.

**CIRCLE THE CITY WITH LOVE!**





LE PUY

ALONG THE  
STREETS

where it all began ...

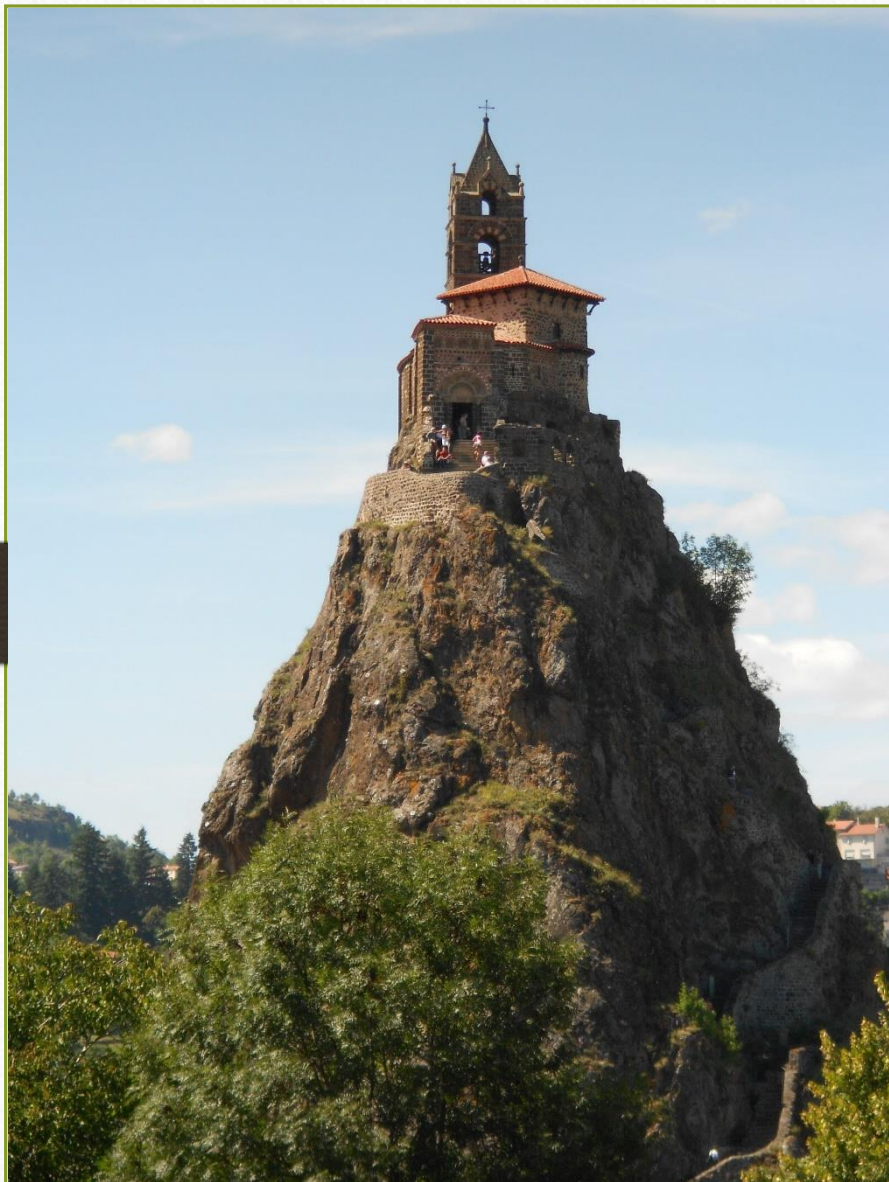




**LE PUY**

**NOTRE DAME DU FRANCE**





**CHAPEL OF ST-MICHEL**  
**d'Aiguilhe Le Puy-en-Velay**



**FEB. 20, 1651**

Again we find  
Médaille's work with  
women is under  
scrutiny  
from his new  
Superior General.

The Jesuits had some  
unhappy experiences  
which urged caution  
in the setting up of  
any pious groups of  
women.

Amicum P. Gabrieli Garreau R. Lator vobis omnia satis prospere fluere, quod post Deum, cura  
et sollicitudini R. V. tribuendum iudico; qui porro sum Laboris non  
atque in re temporalis adeo amantes, coadiutores, stimulo indigem ut excitentur; Deum Laudo quod  
meliorum statum adhuc ob-  
tineat, debet R. V. omnem de consilio P. Petri Médaille ad Proilem scribo; Elogium vero P. Petri  
fabricam interrumpere donec  
omnia exoluta sive delicta franc. Regis Societatis martyrologio inferendum curabo, ubi ab auctore  
ipsius vitæ illud accipere: Ad hæc me commendando etc. Roma 20 febr. 1651.  
Amicum P. Claud. La Broüe: Celestini Grata mihi fuit plurimum P. Petri franc. Regis vitæ  
narratio a R. V. conscripta accurato stylo, gratior utiqz futura  
aliquando si Latinitate donetur ut galliæ finibus non contineatur.  
ceterum operam ut spero authoris compensabit is qui scribendi  
præbuit argumentum, Ego aut R. V. S. S. et orat. commendando.  
Amicum P. Ignatio Gras. Littera vobis eff. prospera necessarium unum habuisti R. V.  
quod me monendum putaret de nova illa institutione ~~congregatio~~  
feminarum, quam habet in mentis P. Petrus Médaille, rem Proili  
commendabo: De cetero Deum precor ut vestram qualemcumqz felicitatem  
augeat: quælo ut meo nomine saluta P. Jac. Montal, P. paulum  
aymar. puechoultraq, P. petrum Parriel, omnium S. S. et orat.  
me commendans. Roma 20 febr. 1651.  
Litteras P. Petri Médaille ad Proilem scribo; Elogium vero P. Petri





Father Médaille is  
asked to leave Le  
Puy and move on ...

**FATHER Médaille  
LIVED HIS OWN  
MAXIM**

“Continue the good works  
you have begun until near  
their completion, and then,  
if you can do so, let them be  
finished by somebody else  
who will have the credit for  
them in the eyes of others.  
Then you will have greater  
glory in heaven.”

(M.P. 3:15)





1651

MISSIONED  
BACK  
TO  
AURILLAC





1651

Father Médaille is moved back to Aurillac, further away from Le Puy.



**MARCH 10, 1651**

**THE OFFICIAL ACT  
OF FOUNDATION**

**and then on ...**

**DECEMBER 13, 1651**

**a contract of Association  
between the first Sisters and  
the Bishop.**

**It is from this we get the  
names of the first six Sisters.**

**Fr. Medaille  
gets back to Le Puy  
for both these  
events.**





**AT AURILLAC  
FATHER MÉDAILLE  
IS  
IN-RESIDENCE.**

**He is the  
Assistant Superior  
of the College.**





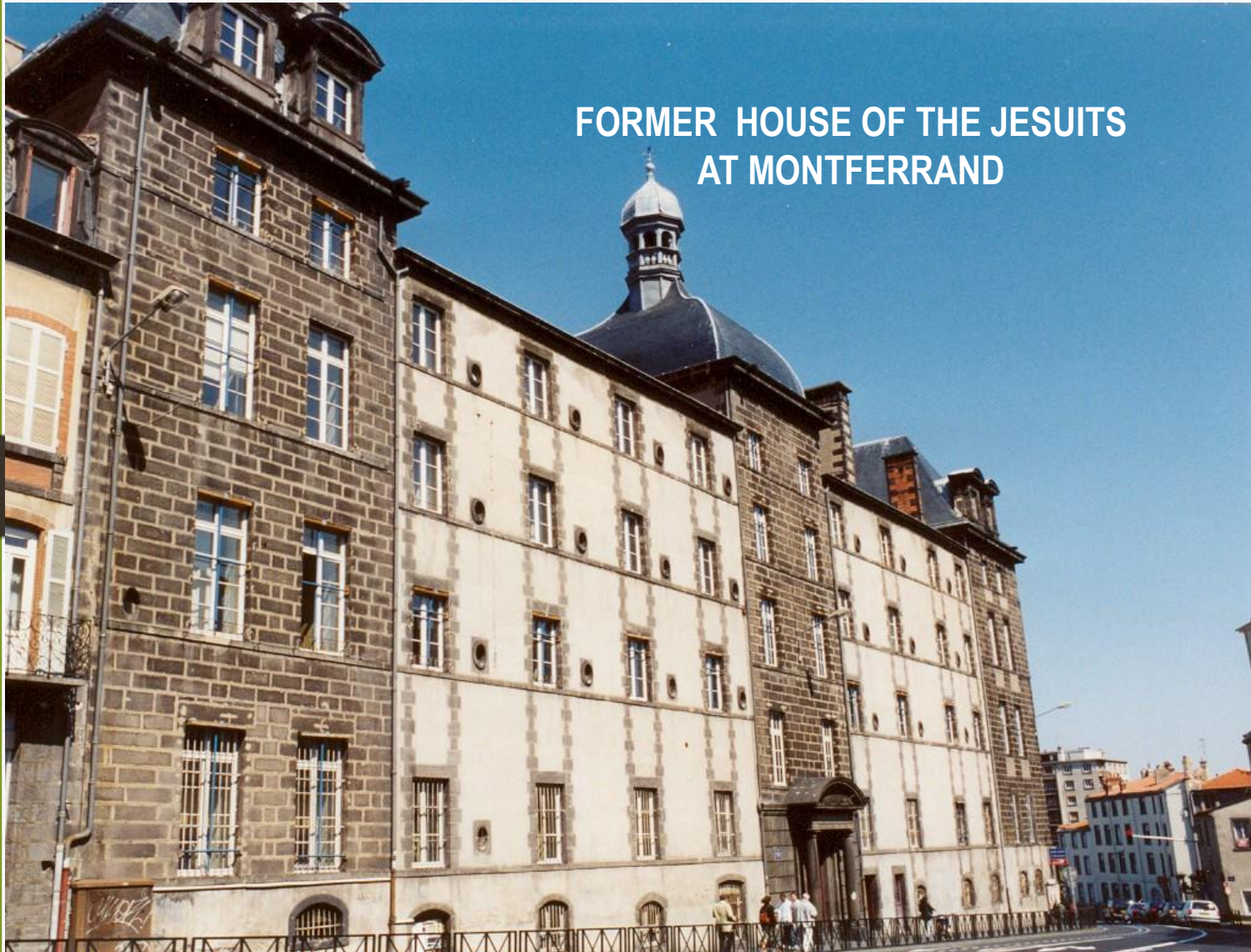
# HIS MISSIONARY WORK

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1654 - 1669 (FIFTEEN YEARS)

AROUND SOUTH-CENTRAL FRANCE





FORMER HOUSE OF THE JESUITS  
AT MONTFERRAND

**October 1654**

**Fr. Médaille is transferred to the College of Montferrand. He was aged 44 at this time. He had a great gift for missionary work.**

**His superiors said**

**“He was a born missionary.”**

**This was the time when rural missions were at their peak for the Jesuits. Fr. Médaille was a great mission preacher.**



Or Coustume de  
L'An. 1661

Monsieur

On m'a dit, que Monsieur Fourmier le  
jeune vous inquiet beaucoup, a l'occasion  
de la transaction, que vous avez dressé par  
mon ordre, je vous prie de luy en expedier  
une copie, et de luy dire de ma part, que  
s'il y a du tort il est amoy et non pas a  
vous, et que quand il luy plaira, je luy rendray  
bon compte de tout ce que j'ay resigné, et que  
fort assurément je luy ay beaucoup plus accordé  
que le conseil ne m'en a marqué si j'ay le  
bien de l'intérêt il verra contre de moy  
je suis ravi de voir deplaire et soy parachever

Monsieur

Vos très humble et  
obéissant  
J. Médaille de  
com. de 1661

A copy of a letter in Médaille's handwriting,  
written when he was in Clermont-Ferrand.

It is dated 1661.



1657

# MAXIMS OF PERFECTION

---

WRITTEN BY JEAN-PIERRE MÉDAILLE, S.J.





## THE PREFACE

Christian soul, chosen by God to live the perfection of the Gospel in religious life or in the world, read the following Maxims attentively, meditate on them frequently and I hope through Divine Goodness that they will enlighten you, let you know in what great virtue consists, and help you to practise it.

Read and re-read them often with profound attention, weighing even their least words. There are very few words that do not have their own special meaning and that do not shed new light on truths which they explain...

## HE WROTE THE MAXIMS OF PERFECTION

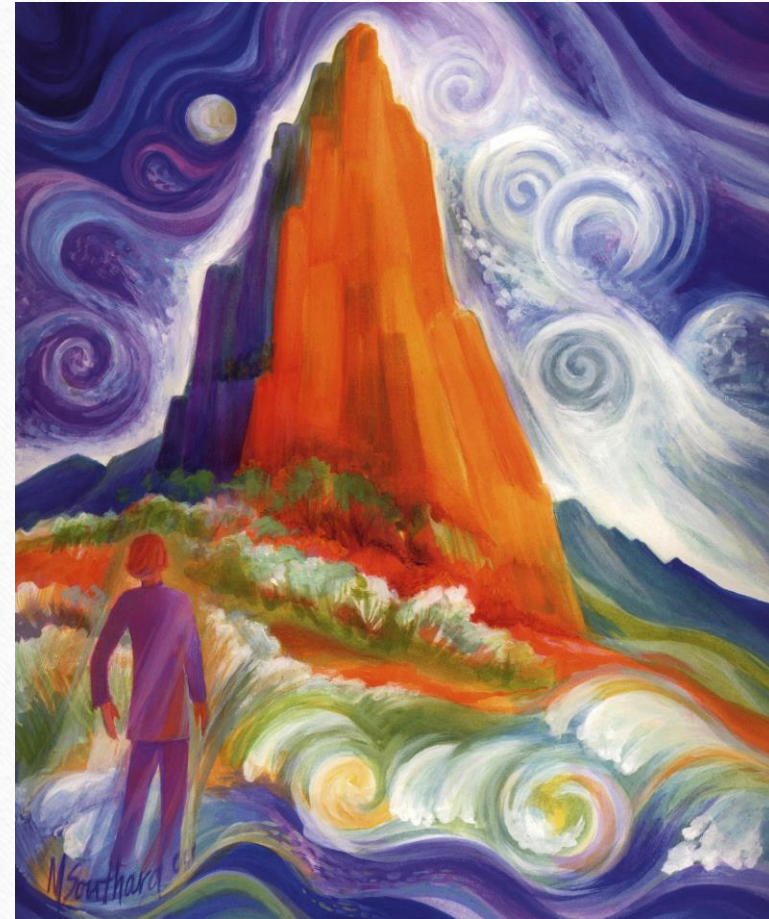
## 128 wisdom sayings!



# MAXIM OF PERFECTION

Have only one desire  
throughout your life:  
to be,  
and to become,  
what God wants you to be  
in nature, in grace,  
and in glory  
for time and eternity.

M.P. 10:6



*Amazed by Wonder by Mary Southard, CSJ*



# MAXIM OF PERFECTION

Never go ahead of grace  
through imprudent eagerness  
but await its moment in peace,  
and when it comes to you,  
follow it with great gentleness and courage.  
Once you have obeyed,  
take care lest complacency rob you  
of the fruit of your obedience.

M.P. 6:9



*Circle of Life Winter by Mary Southard, CSJ*





*Woman's Song of Peace by Mary Southard, CSJ*

## MAXIM OF PERFECTION

Anyone who knows how  
to let God act in and through her  
without too much interference  
on her part,  
does many things in a short time  
and never loses peace of heart.

**M.P. 7:5**



# 1660

## THE EUCHARISTIC LETTER

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FATHER MÉDAILLE RECEIVED A DIVINE REVELATION  
CONCERNING THE 'LITTLE DESIGN'



**THE EUCHARISTIC LETTER  
WAS NOT CIRCULATED MUCH  
AMONG THE SISTERS IN THE  
17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY.**

**TODAY, A COPY IS FOUND IN  
THE LYON SISTERS' ARCHIVES.**

