

## WHAT ABOUT GABRIELLE?

In a true missionary spirit she supported Father Vigne during his parish missions not only by providing funds but also by her “works of piety and charity”. Her way with people and her gentle manner drew many others who also came to listen to the Missionary. She made him her spiritual director to guide her on a path of life leading to Boucieu le Roi and the Community of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. The Lord now calls her to a life of praise and adoration and to accompany the pilgrims. “Believe me, go confidently to Jesus, your gentle Saviour”. She was 64 years of age at the time! With the Sisters she enjoyed the missions and retreats in Boucieu. In July 1740, she was present at Fr. Vigne’s obsequies and prayed at his tomb. Her death took place in Boucieu during Eastertide, April 25<sup>th</sup> 1747. **A generous, missionary and Eucharistic life “to the end”.**

**WHY TELL YOU HER STORY TODAY?** How does it challenge? Simply by the importance given to the **Eucharist our “daily Christmas”** in the lived reality of our lives and receiving as Gabrielle did, **the strength and joy of being a missionary!** Let that be our challenge for 2020. Happy New Year!. B.R.

**WITNESS** >>> I am a member of Peter Vigne Eucharistic Association in Brejo-Santo and the mother of a “gastro-surgeon”. One of his patients was his 65 year old aunt-in-law. All early signs indicated she had an ovarian tumour and it was probably malignant. He operated on her and sent it away for analysis, convinced that it was indeed cancerous. As soon as Francisquinha, the patient, was discharged from hospital I went to see her and gave her a chain and medal of Fr. Vigne. We immediately started a novena to Bl. Peter Vigne to pray for her recovery and that the biopsy would show that the tumour was benign. My son, the surgeon, didn’t want to give the family too much hope in case the results were not good. On the agreed date I went to collect the result at Juazeiro do Norte. When I opened the letter I read **“no sign of malignant cells”**. I called my son who didn’t believe it and wanted to see a photo of the conclusion of the procedure.

Today, Francisquinha is in good health and promotes devotion to Father Vigne. She always wears the medal with a grateful and happy heart!

Brejo Santo 19 July 2019. Lucia Ambrósio Basílio Gomes.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020.

PEACE AND JOY IN FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES.

RELIGIEUSES DU SAINT SACREMENT

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Happy New Year 2020...may it be a year full of goodness and beauty for each one of you, for family, friends and readers...for the entire world! The year always begins “bathed in the radiance of Christmas”. From a “Manger” comes Light and Life. This is what the Christmas story is really about but is often forgotten or airbrushed from the festive season which goes so quickly. Blessed Peter Vigne also wishes us a year during which Jesus by His Incarnation, his birth among us, and his Eucharist will be truly and constantly present in our lives.

## CHRISTMAS throughout the Year

*“To be intimately united with us and better enjoy his great happiness in conversing with the children of men, God, in his great tenderness took the initiative and reached out to us in the Incarnation and made us all sharers in it*

*through the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Hidden there under the signs of bread and wine, we can approach him freely and without fear. Can one go to greater lengths to show the signs of true love? “In finem dilexit eos” (He loved them to the end. Jn. 13, 1)*



*Truly, Jesus loving Saviour, our kind and compassionate King wishes to enter our lives and penetrate the confines of our heart. With love he bids us “Give me your heart” (Prov. 23. 26) Offer it to him therefore since he loves us so tenderly. Entrust it to Him but without reserve. Besides, it belongs to him. It was he who created it*

*and he who redeemed it. (Is. 43, 7) Let us make him Master of all that he redeemed at so high a price. What great happiness for us!”*

Discourse on Communion 70-80.

*Vigne p. missionnaire.*

## CHRISTMAS IN JANUARY—FEBRUARY?

*Why not? The "Christian" Christmas is not just about decorations, wreaths, fairy lights and Christmas trees. The Christian celebration of Christmas awakens us to the best of ourselves. Our deepest desire is to make it special, we prepare for it...We often gather together to celebrate it. "Christmas" is about remembering the day that Jesus was born, "He took flesh of the Virgin Mary" and became one of us. Christmas continues with the great Manifestation of the Epiphany, 6 January, and the feast of Light, the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, 2 February.....Of course, while all that is perfectly true, Peter Vigne also reminds us that each Eucharist is a continuation of Christmas! The Holy Mass, gives us the joy of having Christmas every day because Jesus, our Lord...comes into our hearts to stay with us. May the joy and peace of Christmas be yours every day.* B.R.

There is nothing authentically human – our thoughts and affections, our words and deeds – that does not find in the sacrament of the Eucharist the form it needs to be lived to the full. ....The worship of God in our lives cannot be relegated to something private and individual, but tends by its nature to permeate every aspect of our existence. Worship pleasing to God thus becomes a new way of living our whole life....n° 71

**The Eucharist, as a mystery to be "lived", meets each of us as we are, and makes our concrete existence the place where we experience daily the radical newness of the Christian life. ...The Christian laity... should cultivate a desire that the Eucharist have an ever deeper effect on their daily lives, making them convincing witnesses in the workplace and in society at large.... n° 79**

Apostolic Exhortation Sacramentum caritas. Benedict XVI

### FEASTS IN JANUARY

1=Mary, Mother of God and Day for Peace

6= Epiphany: Manifestation of God to the Magi who come to adore the Infant God.

12=Baptism of Jesus, end of the Christmas Season....Christmas CONTINUES!!

18-25= Week of prayer for Christian Unity

25=Conversion of St. Paul. Peter Vigne invites us to reflect on it as he does: read Acts of the Apostles 22, 3-16.

### FEBRUARY...

26=Ash Wednesday....Lent begins!



From one year to the next: 1729—1730

Peter Vigne, the village of CRESTET and Gabrielle.

Every year without fail, once winter arrived Peter Vigne would set off on his missionary journeys. Several parishes would invite him to be present for the passing of one year to the next. "The mission I preached in Crestet in 1729 and 1730 lasted 4 full weeks and it ended on January 7<sup>th</sup> 1730". Peter Vigne included that comment in the list of "Missions I preached alone". **The village of CRESTET** was well known to him. In 1726 he wrote: "On the feast of St. Andrew, November 30, 1726 I started a mission in Crestet and I finished it on Christmas day at the first Mass of dawn". It was during that mission he met the widow **Gabrielle Péliesson**, a fervent parishioner and a mother of three who gave him an offering "**to use for the charitable works she suggested and to pray for her husband**". Two years later, in 1728 she gave him another offering of 60 French pounds for a new mission "which she wanted preached in the church in Crestet during her lifetime or after her death". The following winter, Jean Louis Berrion, the parish priest, asked his friend Peter Vigne to come and preach an extended mission in Crestet. The entire population needed it. The people still felt the effects of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes which in 1685 had forced a good number of "returns" to the Catholic Church. From October to December 1685 the parish registers showed numerous "abjurations" or compelled conversions of Christians of the Reformed Church. This had obviously marked several generations.



Fr. Berrion knew Peter Vigne quite well as he had worked with him in Boucieu le Roi which is only 5kms from Le Crestet. He knew and appreciated how he lived and preached with conviction and how he affirmed and encouraged those on the margins. During Advent, Fr. Vigne encouraged "with zeal and gentleness" both Catholics and New Converts to live the faith received in preparation for Christmas. "The closer you get to the light the better you can see and that is how to follow Jesus. In his path there is no darkness." During his missions he invited people to welcome "**God, who in his great tenderness for us reached out to us in the Incarnation and made us all sharers in it through the Sacrament of the Eucharist**" Jean Louis Berron saw how the locals appreciated the missionary, Peter Vigne, and came in large numbers to listen to the Good News he proclaimed with joy: God is Love, God is with us every day. Peter Vigne wrote in his Journal: "This mission was ardent and had many positive effects...I often preached twice a day, and three times on Sundays and holydays". His days were well occupied: firstly celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and confessions, then visiting those who could not or were still afraid to come to Church, visiting families in general and especially the children often neglected and marked by poverty and the harshness of life.

