

This pilgrimage was a response to the challenge launched by Pope John Paul II during the Beatification of Peter Vigne.: **"May the Church in France find in Fr. Vigne an example to raise up new sowers of the Gospel"** A time of Adoration was held in Tournon and the P.P. Father Frédéric Seiller writes: *"I consider it a great blessing for the parish to welcome all those who have undertaken such a journey. The Saturday prayer vigil was greatly appreciated by all the parishioners who were present and we were extremely happy to extend a warm welcome to everyone."*



Some prayer requests: **"Lord, I entrust to you all those who want to hear where you are calling them. Help them listen with an open heart. Lord, I entrust to you my friends and family who will be affected by my decision to leave, because it is not their choice. Help them to accept it in peace and love".** **"Jesus, I implore you to sanctify and call souls to follow you in the priesthood and consecrated life".....** **"May our two daughters, 30 and 26 years of age, be guided towards the Eucharist"**

****In September the Benedictine monks from Trirs Abbey (Drome, France) also made a pilgrimage to Boucieu and followed Peter Vigne's "Grand Voyage" "the Great journey to Calvary" "Let us learn at the school of Bl. Peter Vigne,** so approachable and yet so ardent at the same time. *Lord, strengthen my faith when it is weak. Beautiful Sun of the world, flood my soul with your light".*



"Our meeting during the Missionary Month of October focussed on Pope Francis' Apostolic exhortation, the Joy of the Gospel, N°. 120. These are some of the convictions we brought to the Eucharist: to be a missionary disciple and follow Christ with conviction and commitment we need a stronger faith. We must be like the Apostles, carrying the love of God within us to evangelise those around us.....relying on Mary's help. Friends of Peter Vigne we must imitate his faith and be resolute in our Christian commitment, determined to live it with boldness and enthusiasm, without wavering". Amigos de P. Vigne—Spain.

DATES to REMEMBER:

21 November: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

30 November: Feast of St. Andrew, 304th anniversary of the foundation of the Congregation

29-30 November and 1st December: 150th anniversary of the First foundation in Italy.

1 December: ADVENT BEGINS—our journey to Christmas ...Why not celebrate it by putting up an Advent wreath or placing a lighted candle in the window.

8 December: Feast of the Immaculate Conception

25 December: The Nativity of the Lord—Christmas.

29 December: Feast of the Holy Family...we pray for all families.

31 December: Thanksgiving for the year that is ending....and blessings for the New Year.



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PRAYER and its three stages

*A practical tip to make the most of your morning prayer is to divide it into three stages: **the past, the present and the future.** During the first part take time to **carefully consider and appreciate the many gifts and talents God has given you** which you often take for granted. Sometimes, instead of thanking him from the bottom of your heart for his abundant gifts, -evidence of his great love- you simply remain indifferent, choosing instead to ignore him.*

*During the second part **approach the Lord with a lively faith.** Long to see him with **hope in your heart,** remembering his compassionate goodness and the merits of his Son Jesus. In*



giving yourself completely to him, have no

other intention but to please him, serve him and glorify him with a true and generous love.

*Let the third part of your prayer be a time of offering: **offer to the Lord all your thoughts, words, deeds, and all the trials and tribulations you are going through.** At the same time, do not forget to ask God to help you avoid sin, especially your most common sin. Be certain of this, God's grace will never abandon you.*

So then, a time of prayer that is well prepared has these three stages: focus on the past with thanksgiving and contrition; on the present with devotion, humility, faith, hope and love; and the future shaped by prayer and offering.

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Every day..... a time to pray

New beginnings each day...new opportunities to start afresh and new opportunities also to re-engage with the Lord in prayer. What is true of life in general is also true of the spiritual life. To the Christians in Thessalonica St. Paul writes: *“Pray without ceasing.....do not extinguish the Spirit”* (1Th. 5, 17) What that simply means is that the time you give to prayer will shape the way you live your day, turning its most humdrum moments into prayer. It is important that we all give time to prayer. It is a source, which must be kept alive and active. By way of analogy think of the car, it has to be regularly “serviced”, making sure there’s an adequate supply of petrol in the tank to avoid running out of fuel and damaging the engine! Peter Vigne shows us that our prayer time is one of friendship with God, in faith and offering. In his Book of Prayers, “Heures Nouvelles” he told those who attended his missions, whom he called his “dear Christians” to *“Approach the Lord...”* Today he invites you and me to *“Come to the Lord”* and put our entire life under His gaze. Filled *“with hope remembering his compassionate goodness”* we place our past, present and our future in his Heart. Of course, to be faithful to a daily time of prayer, whatever our vocation, we must make as Peter Vigne tells us a *“determined commitment”* to keep that specific time, and not “give up” too easily. During this month which reminds us of “All the Saints”, Pope Francis declares: *“I do not believe in holiness without prayer, even though that prayer need not be lengthy or involve intense emotions”*. (Gaudete et exultate 147) May your Advent Prayer journey this year guide you to Bethlehem! B.R.

..... PRAYER: GIFT AND RESPONSE

Prayer is both a gift of grace and a determined response on our part. It always **presupposes effort**. The great figures of prayer of the Old Covenant before Christ, as well as the Mother of God, the saints, and he himself, all teach us this: prayer is a battle. Against whom? Against ourselves and against the wiles of the tempter who does all he can to turn man away from prayer, away from union with God. **We pray as we live, because we live as we pray.** If we do not want to act habitually according to the Spirit of Christ, neither can we pray habitually in his name. The "spiritual battle" of the Christian's new life is inseparable from the battle of prayer. **C.C.C 2725.**

PRAYER

Lord

You search me and you know me
you know when I sit
and when I rise;
you are familiar with all my ways.
Even darkness is not dark for you
and the night is as bright as day...

You created my inmost being;
you knit me together
in my mother's womb.

I praise you
because I am fearfully
and wonderfully made;
How wonderful are your works

Oh Lord.....

Search me, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.

See if there is any
offensive way in me
and lead me on the path
of everlasting life.

Psalms 138

*God offers to humanity,
which no longer
has time for him,
further time,
a new space in which
to withdraw into itself
in order to set out anew
on a journey
to rediscover
the meaning of hope.*

Benedict XVI 1-12-2007

FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY

November is a very important month for the congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. We celebrate the anniversary of the birth of our Congregation in the church and the special gift of the Holy Spirit to our Founders: Fr. VIGNE and the First Seven Sisters. The following is an extract from Fr. Veyrenc's book: THE LIFE OF FATHER VIGNE written in 1868.

Father VIGNE wanted the new Foundation to be marked by a special ceremony. **He chose November 30 1715, the feast of St. Andrew Apostle**, to bless the habit and cross the Sisters were to wear. The feast fell on a Saturday, a day consecrated to the Blessed Virgin. He saw it as an invitation to place this first step under the name and protection of Mary. **The Sisters, seven in number**, must have received Jesus in Holy Communion very fervently that day ...and their venerable Father ...found in his heart words of inspiration that they would always keep and treasure throughout their lives. **The beginnings of institutions are very important.** All the graces, virtues, and all the sources of life reserved for a



Congregation are to be found there like a seed that is sown and continues to grow and spread during the course of time. Father Vigne must have spoken with great eloquence when, at the foot of the altar, **he addressed for the first time...the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament”**.

***This year November 30th falls on a Saturday: an invitation to pray to Mary for the Congregation and for sacramentine vocations in France, Italy, England, Brazil, Ireland, Spain, Tanzania....and wherever the Spirit wishes.*