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My dear Sisters

October is the month devoted to the Holy Rosary. This is the perfect time for us to reflect upon the meaning of the Rosary and its significance in our walk of faith.

Our greatest spiritual fathers and mothers were devoted to the Rosary. JPII, St. Maximilian Kolbe, Mother Teresa, Padre Pio, St. Therese, and so many more.

But why? What is so important about this string of beads and prayers?

As Our Blessed Mother said to Blessed Alan de la Roche, “When you say your Rosary, the angels rejoice, the Blessed Trinity delights in it, my Son finds joy in it too, and I myself am happier than you can possibly guess. After the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, there is nothing in the Church that I love as much as the Rosary.” Mary is delighted when we pick up our beads and pray the Rosary.

Mary, the great Mediatrix of Graces, the Mother of God, the Spouse of the Holy Spirit, and Queen of Heaven and Earth, is so pleased when we recite the prayer that she herself brought to the faithful through St. Dominic that she will spill countless blessings on the faithful that cling to their Rosaries.

We NEED the Rosary to live a life connected to Jesus Christ

We know that Jesus lived here on Earth...

But the world He lived in feels pretty removed from the world of technology and comfort and secularism that we live in.

It can be very difficult to feel connected to Jesus. Even in prayer, it takes time and focuses to feel Jesus’ real and enduring presence. The Rosary provides that time and focus.

THE ROSARY MEETS THE NEEDS OF OUR TIME

There is a revival that taps into a reaching for the of modern-day

The medium for is the centuries-repetitive prayers intuitive, but brings quiet inner peace.

Pope Francis has avail themselves linked, in the fifty Hail Mary's – prayers of praise and petition – to the Mother of our Redeemer.



for the rosary today very deep need for Divine in the midst chaos and noise.

this search for God old tradition of that in a counter-proven, manner meditation and

urged the faithful to of this devotion recitation of over

Hers is the story of sorrow, resurrection, and hope, the Pope Francis reminds us. Our Lady shared in the struggles of her son, Jesus Christ. She suffered along with him and was the first to receive redemption at his resurrection.

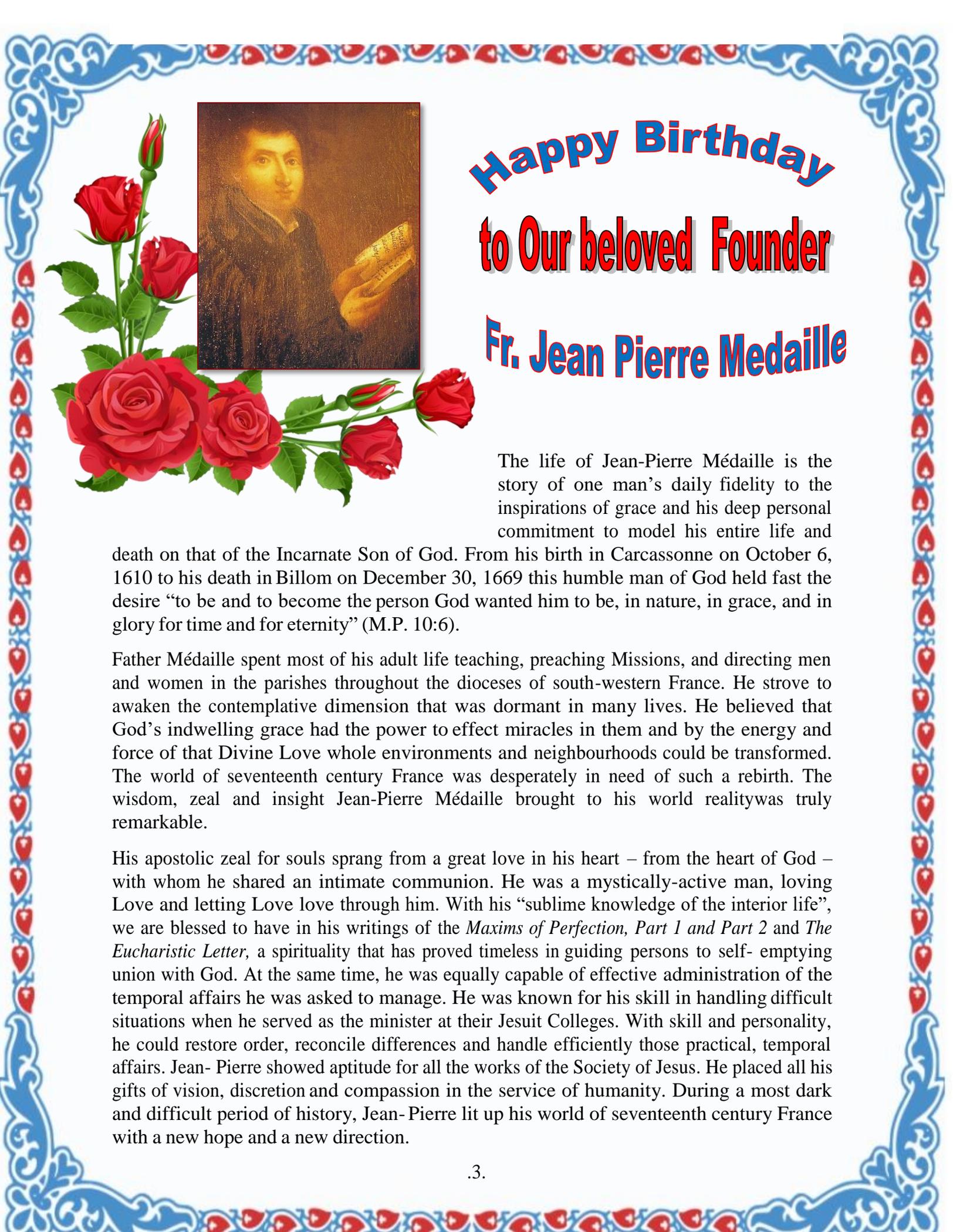
Mary “is the Mother who points to the path we are called to take in order to be true disciples of Jesus,” the Pope said. “In each mystery of the rosary, we feel her closeness and we contemplate her as the first disciple of her Son, for she does the Father’s will.”

“Throughout her life, Mary did everything that the Church is asked to do in perennial memory of Christ. In her faith, we learn to open our hearts to obey God; in her self-denial, we see the importance of tending to the needs of others; in her tears, we find the strength to console those experiencing pain. In each of these moments, Mary expresses the wealth of divine mercy that reaches out to all in their daily needs.”

In a mysterious way, praying the rosary is both about us and about others. Whether we pray alone or with others, we shut out worldly distractions around us and at the same we time join others – and the world – in a time need.

Recognizing our frailty, we ask on the behalf of all us, “Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and in the hour of death. Amen.

So dear sisters, let us continue praying the rosary with deep faith and love and implore graces and blessings for ourselves, our families, our ministry and the people we work with and for our congregation and the needs of the church in particular.



Happy Birthday

to Our beloved Founder

Fr. Jean Pierre Medaille

The life of Jean-Pierre Médaille is the story of one man's daily fidelity to the inspirations of grace and his deep personal commitment to model his entire life and

death on that of the Incarnate Son of God. From his birth in Carcassonne on October 6, 1610 to his death in Billom on December 30, 1669 this humble man of God held fast the desire "to be and to become the person God wanted him to be, in nature, in grace, and in glory for time and for eternity" (M.P. 10:6).

Father Médaille spent most of his adult life teaching, preaching Missions, and directing men and women in the parishes throughout the dioceses of south-western France. He strove to awaken the contemplative dimension that was dormant in many lives. He believed that God's indwelling grace had the power to effect miracles in them and by the energy and force of that Divine Love whole environments and neighbourhoods could be transformed. The world of seventeenth century France was desperately in need of such a rebirth. The wisdom, zeal and insight Jean-Pierre Médaille brought to his world reality was truly remarkable.

His apostolic zeal for souls sprang from a great love in his heart – from the heart of God – with whom he shared an intimate communion. He was a mystically-active man, loving Love and letting Love love through him. With his "sublime knowledge of the interior life", we are blessed to have in his writings of the *Maxims of Perfection, Part 1 and Part 2* and *The Eucharistic Letter*, a spirituality that has proved timeless in guiding persons to self-emptying union with God. At the same time, he was equally capable of effective administration of the temporal affairs he was asked to manage. He was known for his skill in handling difficult situations when he served as the minister at their Jesuit Colleges. With skill and personality, he could restore order, reconcile differences and handle efficiently those practical, temporal affairs. Jean- Pierre showed aptitude for all the works of the Society of Jesus. He placed all his gifts of vision, discretion and compassion in the service of humanity. During a most dark and difficult period of history, Jean- Pierre lit up his world of seventeenth century France with a new hope and a new direction.

Médaille dreamed his dream, lived his dream, shared his dream, and wrote down his dream - for all time to be discovered. In the fall of 1669, his spiritual journey on earth was climaxing to its apex in his personal death. Three short months of enfeebling health at the Jesuit retirement home in Billom precedes his death on December 30, 1669. For the three months he was at this house of retreat he was assigned to be a confessor. This “traveler on the road of God’s glory” came home to rest after fifteen years of active missionary service to his own people in southwestern France. We have some insight into his expansive soul when he shares his Contemplation on the Passion and Crucifixion of Jesus:

The final archival statement in his necrology reads:

Father Jean-Pierre Médaille of Carcassonne, professed of four vows, died at Billom, December 30, 1669, at the age of fifty-nine. He had been in the Society for forty-three years. The greater part of his life was spent in the missions of the Province (Toulouse) and with such zeal and so great a reputation for holiness that here and there he was called “the saint”, “the apostle”; nor were the fruits of his apostolic labors of every kind less than his reputation, so much so that he was highly esteemed by rich and poor alike, but especially by the bishops in whose dioceses he labored.

The people called him “the saint” and “the apostle”. At age fifty-nine, this humble man of God disappears into silence leaving a legacy in word and example that still speaks to the heart. He gave us words for life. “After his death, his Jesuit brothers indirectly confirmed the reputation for sanctity that Father Médaille had been accorded by the simple people whom he evangelized. By having his Maxims of Perfection published in 1672, particularly the second part, Exercise for being stripped of self and putting on Jesus Christ, they demonstrated, that even if it is not exceptional as a literary work, the contents reveal an uncommon experience of spiritual realities. For his Jesuit brothers, too, Father Médaille was a man of God. The Jesuit archives in Rome contain the yearly reports on Father Médaille written by his Provincials.

It is our joy and mission to spread this expansive charism of communion to the ends of the earth.

15th October is a milestone in the history of the life of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry as we celebrate the 372nd birth anniversary, the Foundation Day of our congregation. It is a day to celebrate with profound gratitude to God and our Founder Fr. Jean Pierre Medaille and our Founding Sisters for the gift of our Congregation and the good we have achieved worldwide. We have been loved greatly by the Lord, that after so many years of ups and downs due to war and calamities we are enabled and empowered to serve humanity in our own humble way in many continents even to this day. As our General chapter invites us to live as a Community Immersed in the Spirit Connected with the World, let us be daring in spirit to be the a unifying presence in our community and in our place of work as we are challenged each day to live up to this call of Communion. Let us also remember that we stand on the shoulders of those who have toiled much and have gone before us.

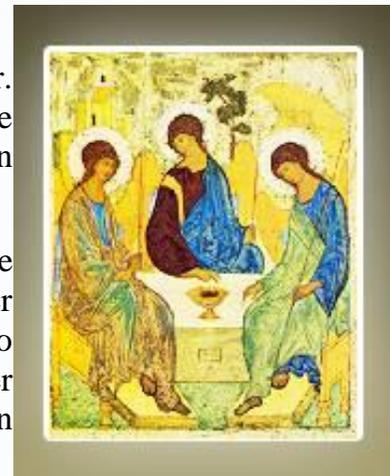
Let us once again remind ourselves, the spirituality and Charism of our Congregation and make a renewed effort to live it to the full. May our founders and Founding Sisters intercede for us.

SPIRITUALITY

Spirituality of the Sisters of Saint Joseph

Our spirituality is a basic Gospel call to love of God and neighbor. It is characterized by a deep relationship with the persons of the Blessed Trinity and with Jesus, Mary and Joseph as a human community of love.

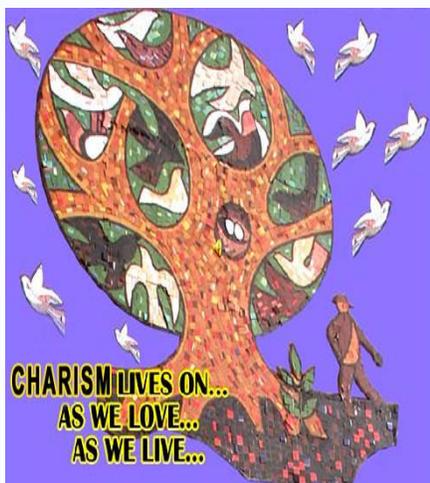
The distinguishing mark of our Congregation is simplicity, and we try to accept God's invitation to grow both individually and together in humility and charity. The spirit of the Congregation urges us to resist complacency, to nourish mutual healing and to foster reconciliation. It animates us to move always toward closer union with God and neighbor.



We share a rich spiritual heritage with other Sisters of Saint Joseph throughout the world, and work together to find inspiration for our 21st-century lives in the writings that are part of our heritage. We ponder the words of our early documents, hoping to become by God's grace the Congregation of the great love of God

CHARISM

To strive to bring about the total union of ourselves and others with God, union of others among themselves and with us, but all in Jesus and in God his Father.



It is to a world suffering from poverty and alienation that we as Sisters of St. Joseph must respond – for our Charism is one of establishing and building unity where it is lacking. Rooted in the Trinity which both realizes and symbolizes the deepest form of unity which both creates bonds and brings forth life, we are called to be the sign and source of unity for all those with whom we live and work.

**WISH ALL OF YOU DEAR SISTERS
A VERY HAPPY FOUNDATION DAY!**

S. Maurice George (Provincial)