

The Letter to Anne de Guigné's Friends

Centenary of Anne's conversion

If, on July 22nd 2015, we celebrated, rightly, the centenary of Captain Jacques de Guigné's heroic death, this leads us to the beginning of another centenary; that of Anne's conversion.

Does one celebrate a conversion ? When we know what repercussions were caused by the determination of such a small girl, declared "venerable" in 1990, we can hope that this year will be, in a widespread manner, rich in grace for many people, including Anne de Guigné's friends, perhaps, even more numerous than we can imagine.

There have been very many visits during this summer 2015, by all sorts of people, for instance irakian refugees who have been living near Nice for nearly a year.

A mother came from the German part of Switzerland with her companion and their daughter. The father had often spoken to his daughter about Anne when she was little. As she was going through a period of spiritual research, she wished to follow in Anne's footsteps. On their return journey , they were going to stop at the Annecy-le-Vieux cemetery.

At the beginning of September, Sophie, a young Down's syndrome child, arrived in Cannes. She was a great admirer of all young saints and her mother had been preparing this pilgrimage for several months. The high spot was, of course, Anne's bedroom at the beginning and the end of the stay. During the stay, they had the joy of visiting all the churches in Cannes where Anne had worshipped, especially that of the Suquet quarter, Notre-Dame de l'Espérance where Anne herself liked to come on a pilgrimage. Sophie, radiant after her pilgrimage with Anne, found it very difficult to leave the house.

It had been noticed that Anne attracted the mentally handicapped. During the month of October, after the bad weather on the Côte d'Azur, we lodged a couple, friends of ours, and their adolescent son, badly handicapped physically and mentally. He asked to go to Anne's room.

Amongst Anne's young friends, is one of "Tante Nénette's" nieces, named

Anne de Guigné, like her aunt. She is two and a half and came with her five brothers and sisters and her parents, to pray in the room in Cannes. It was August 6th 2015, feast of the Transfiguration. This important date reminds us that in her last months, Anne sometimes appeared to be transfigured.

Thus, Jesus really dwelt within her. From Heaven, she never ceases to turn people's hearts towards God. Recently, a young woman came on a pilgrimage to Anne, after having been prepared by a novena, she was touched by one of the last photos of Anne at ten and a half, taken at a wedding. The young woman said: "Whilst looking at this photo, it was not to Anne that I prayed but, through her, to Jesus."

The prayers that are regularly addressed to her, are often to ask for the conversion of someone close or help for one's own conversion. Very rarely, are people indifferent to Anne's contact. "*Your room is very beautiful, one can see that you have lived there ?*" This was written in the visitor's book in the room and also: "*Help me every day, please*". "*Anne, help us to become saints*". In a letter, an American teen-ager asked for more information about Anne, as she wanted to choose Anne as godmother for her confirmation, after having read her biography.

Many prayers are addressed to Anne to ask for healing and especially for sick children. Anne can not remain inactive. This summer, during the colony Notre Dame des Neiges at St. Pierre de Colombier, a child had to interrupt his stay after five days, his cornea having been damaged by a branch and his pupil enlarged. It was a hard sacrifice for the child to leave the colony and great anguish for his mother, worried about her son's eye. The doctor was very pessimistic about the healing of the eye and did not hold out much hope. Someone suggested to the mother to do a novena to Anne de Guigné. This proposition was accepted with great spontaneity: "*Do you know that at this moment Sixte is resting and under his pillow he has a photo of Anne because we pray to her to help him not to get angry.*" We learn from the rest of the conversation that Sixte was born on January 14th and his mother on July 22nd, feast of Saint Mary Magdalen. In this year 2015, moreover, July 22nd reminds us of the death of Anne's father. In addition to this, this date is, in a way, the opening of the centenary of Anne's conversion, which summons us to be converted as she was.

The child who risked losing his eye, was looking at himself in the mirror and, when he saw there was no improvement, was surprised: "*It looks as though Anne doesn't want to be beatified, she is not doing a miracle !*" Days passed, another doctor found a treatment for the damaged eye, putting aside the hypothesis of a miracle, but not diminishing in any way Anne's intervention. Anne was always full of compassion and took very much to heart each intention which was

entrusted to her. From heaven, her intercession knows no limits, other than our lack of faith and perseverance in prayer. As for Sixte's mother, she is very grateful to Anne and is convinced that her help is very efficient.

After the canonization of Louis and Zélie Martin, will we soon be able to rejoice in the beatification of Anne de Guigné? We do hope so. "*We can ask everything to Jesus*" said Anne. Well, we have learnt that Sixte is going to write to the Holy Father (he has perhaps already done so) to bear witness to Anne's marvellous intervention in the healing of his damaged eye. This little fellow asks no more, no less, than that the Pope Francis uses this incredible grace for Anne's beatification. Let us pray, let us pray and obtain with Sixte the other half of the miracle: that Rome accepts, in spite of the medical intervention, which has not diminished the celestial intervention, to beatify our dear little Anne.

Without any noise, grace has acted in an admirable way in Anne. Today, in this Holy Year of Mercy, let us open wide our hearts to Jesus as Anne knew how to do and perhaps we will see the dawn of a renewal in our world, starting with our own inner world.

With Sainte Thérèse de l'Enfant Jésus who was much loved by Anne, at the end of the year of consecrated life (many years follow each other, offered by the Church to put our feet into the footsteps of the blessed ones in Heaven) let us love Jesus with the simplicity of a child. Then, indeed, the world may change.

The Missionary Family of Our Lady