

Venerable Pierre-Bienvenu NOAILLES

Priest-Founder of the Holy Family of Bordeaux



"It is important that each person be himself; that he remain what God has made him to be, in order to achieve the goal that the divine Creator set for him ... >

P. B. Noailles

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Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Family of Pierre-Bienvenu Noailles,

At a time when, with the whole Church, we are deepening the theme of synodality and approaching the end of the Synod, once again we give thanks to God for the life and work of our Good Father, Pierre-Bienvenu Noailles. We all know that his birth was a providential gift for the Church and for the world, and his influence continues to make an impact through all that the Holy Family lives and does today.

Can we find traces of synodality in what the Good Father has left us as charism and spiritual heritage?

The answer is yes. We have already explored this theme through the reflections presented by Manolo and Marta at the last meeting of the Council of the Family which were subsequently shared in the booklet Meeting Point 7. This has enabled us to get to the heart of an issue that deserves to be followed up and taken forward. That's why I have chosen to touch on this theme here, on the occasion of our Good Father's 231st birthday.

In a deeply biblical sense, synodality means **"Journeying together as the People of God"**. We find much light on this in a document from the International Theological Commission, ***Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church*** (March 2, 2018) and we can find it in several languages at www.vatican.va Synodality as a term is rather recent and it would be difficult to find it in the Good Father's writings. The word as such doesn't exist there, of course, but everything about its meaning, the concept - we can well find it deep in his spiritual intuition and in our Charism of Communion.

Communion lived in the footsteps of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the first disciples of the Gospel and the first Christian communities, introduces us deeply to the spirit of this journey we are living together. Our Good Father invited us to live a simple life, in full equality and co-responsibility for the Mission.

His openness to collaboration was remarkable, and he gave proof of this right from the start: "In 1825, he wrote: 'We will certainly not refuse to help you by any means in your power [...] but we feel that our daughters can try to move on their own...'" And he was always seeking "Little by little, to put the government of the Sisters into their own hands" (cf. The New Dossier on Life and Virtues, Rome 1985, p. 495). The style of government he wanted was to be a service, an encouragement and a stimulus to put everything we are and have in common for the sake of the common Mission.

How can we, the Family of Pierre-Bienvenu Noailles, take further steps along the path of synodality in order to carry out our Mission of Communion today, wherever we are sent?

Sr M. Kinga, Rome.

The Good Father Intercedes



God our Father, who put into the heart of Pierre Bienvenu Noailles the grace to surrender himself unreservedly to your love, and inspired him to found a Family modelled on that of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, grant us to live according to the same spirit for the extension of your Reign and your greater glory.

Grant also that we may rejoice in the glorification of your Servant the Venerable Pierre Bienvenu Noailles, and obtain for us through his intercession...

We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

In the past...

We recall some graces received years ago:

Testimonies from 1925:

"A child of 8 or 9 fell from a car and, with a severely injured and fractured head, lost consciousness. The doctors said: 'She only has a few hours left... She probably won't make it through the night. The Novena and image of the Good Father were placed on her head. 48 hours later she regained consciousness. The Novena ended in thanksgiving". Concepción del Campo, Toledo. 21.05.1925

Statement by our Sisters and the child's parents

"The 9-year-old child was playing with gunpowder used for hunting, found in a box, and with matches. The explosion burned his eyelids and the cornea of both eyes, his face, neck, arms and legs. He went blind. Healing, which was supposed to be

very slow, was very quick, and after three months there was no mark left."

Gilberto Fagundas, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 15.10.1925
Report signed by our Sisters, parents and a doctor

...and still today

"My older sister Ivette MBALANDA is diabetic. She had a complication of diabetes due to a gangrenous wound at Idiofa General Hospital (R. D. Congo).

She was transferred in April 2024 to the Hospital of Kinshasa, the capital. Her condition was very critical. After consultation with the doctors, 90% of them opted for amputation of the leg at short notice.

As a Holy Family Sister and daughter of Lay Associates, I asked all our communities and my own family to pray for this intention through the intercession of Pierre Bienvenu Noailles. I gave my older sister the Founder's relic, which she placed right where the wound was. After three months, the wound was grafted and healed.

The healing was exceptionally rapid, which prompted the nursing staff to believe in divine intervention beyond the treatment given."

Sister Arlette MBALANDA

R.D. Congo

We thank God and continue to pray with confidence for his beatification.

Also, a renewed request to notify us regarding any graces received (email below):

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