

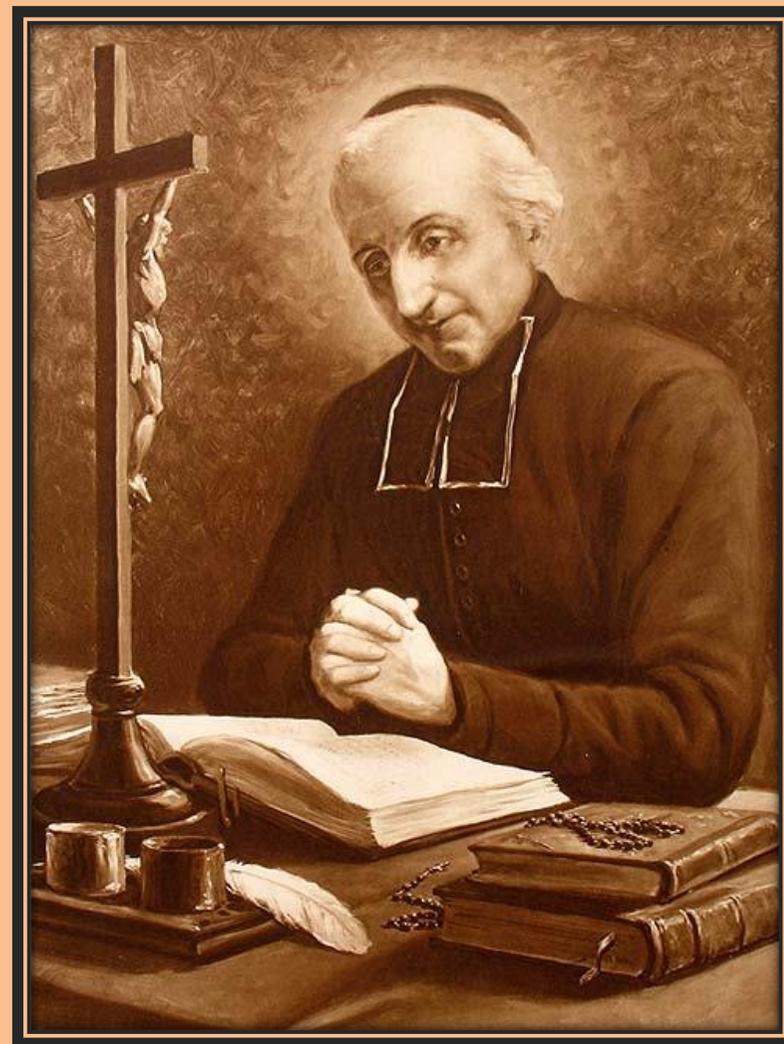
13 May

Saint André Hubert Fournet, Priest

Optional Memorial

Born in Pérusse (sic) (in Saint Pierre de Maille, Poitou) on Dec. 6, 1752. He was ordained priest in 1776. Since his childhood, he was a little rebellious and difficult, and the only person who could endure him was only his mother. At school, he continually created problems. He studied philosophy at Poitiers but without quieting his head. He entered the army and afterward he made a try at being a civil servant, but he did not succeed. Finally, he was sent to live with his priest uncle, who was a holy man and who helped him change his life.

Ordained a priest in 1778 in the parish of Saint Pierre de Maille, he was appointed coadjutor to his uncle. He learned to preach with simplicity and not with rhetoric that seeks to dazzle. However, when he was appointed pastor of his own parish of Saint Pierre de Maille, he began to worry more about living an easy and comfortable life in his ministry. The experience of the poor who came to implore him for help caused him to become aware of his situation, and he chose to engage fully in his ministry, with special attention to the poor.



Mr. Abbot Rion, a maternal uncle and godfather of the Good Father Joseph Coudrin was appointed Vicar of Saint Phêlé Maille, belonging to the parish Andre Fournet. Both of them were of the same age, they were friends and companions in the seminar. At that time, the young Pierre Coudrin, while studying at Chatellerault, would spend his holidays with his uncle. André lived in the parish house, with two priests, which surely assisted him in maturing his priestly vocation.

Later, in 1787, when Pierre Coudrin studied theology at the College de Saint Martha in Poitiers and the economic situation of the family demanded that he seeks work. It was precisely Andrew Fournet who gave him the address to contact François Chocquin, Councillor of the Court of the Great Parish, a good person with good relations to his family, for whom Pierre worked as tutor to his children.

As the French Revolution arose, André was sought after and he must live in hiding to escape the persecution. After his life was miraculously saved several times, he finally decided to flee to Spain, so as not to endanger the brave people who hid him. First, he moved to San Sebastian and later in Los Arcos in Navarre. He lived in Spain for five years (1792-1797). When the Executive Board took power, the ardor of persecution diminished, therefore he returned to his parish, and he devoted himself with great zeal to his people, organizing parish missions and was ready to give many hours of hearing confessions.

In 1789, he met the woman who would be Saint Jeanne Elizabeth Bichier, niece of the Vicar General of Poitiers, a hardworking and active person in favor of persecuted priests. He would help her to found the Congregation of the Daughters of the Cross, 1807.

During these years he sent several vocations of the region at the seminary of the Congregation in Poitiers. In 1810, he would work with the preeminence, among them Father Joachim Deletang and, two years later, Father Hilaire Maigret came. He continued his commitment to pastoral work, spiritual directing many people, support for religious Daughters of the Cross, until his death in Puy on May 13, 1834, where he established the Motherhouse of the Daughters of the Cross.