

NOTES ON THE LIFE OF SISTER JUSTINE CHARRET

FRANCE

19 January 1790 – 19 April 1877

Marie-Therese Charret, daughter of Hilaire Charret and Madeleine Chabanis, was born on January 19, 1790, at La Garde-Sainte Eulalie (Ardeche).

Marie-Therese, a pupil of our Convent in Mende, was fourteen years old when the Good Mother visited the establishment. The young girl made known to the venerable Foundress her desire to give herself to God. So favorably did she impress the Good Mother, that the latter took her to Picpus where at the age of fifteen and a half Marie-Therese, with five other Novices, pronounced her vows. This ceremony of religious profession took place on November 17, 1805, and was the first to be celebrated at the Mother House.

Sister Justine lived in great intimacy with Mother Henriette. At a particular period it was she who laundered the Good Mother's linens, blood-stained as a result of the Foundress's constant use of penitential instruments.

In 1817 Sister Justine was named Superior of at Sees.

Being in Picpus in 1837, she accompanied the Very Reverend Mother Francoise de Viart to the deathbed of the Good Father and was to assist him during his last moments.

In 1843 she requested and was permitted to be relieved of her office as Superior. She passed some time at Tours, at Chartres, and at Coussay. With customary zeal she volunteered for the foundation in Chili but was not accepted. In 1850 to Sees as Superior, and in 1854 she went to Le Mans.

In 1859, having become somewhat infirm, she went into retirement at Tours. She died in Tours on April 19, 1877, after having been a professed religious for seventy-two years—"A model of religious virtue, and a living rule."

Justine Charret in one of the most important chroniclers of the Congregation. In 1866, while in Tours, she finished writing "Notes of the life of the Good Father Joseph Marie Coudrin with the Good Mother Henriette Aymer de la Chevalerie of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary and of Perpetual Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar".