

11. Monsieur Benoît Alex is sheltered by the Chavoins

In the Chronology of the Marist Sisters we find a few references to a certain Monsieur Benoît Alex. Each reference, like the first of them quoted below, appears insignificant taken on its own. Together, however, they tell a fascinating story which gives a deep insight into the family background of Jeanne-Marie Chavoin. M. Alex was a priest who clearly agonised over his position in the aftermath of the French Revolution. His wavering between one side and the other endeared him neither to the revolutionaries nor to traditional loyal Catholics. When he was in danger of losing his life and still unreconciled with the Church, the Chavoin family gave him a place in their home at Coutouvre - not a popular action. He stayed until his death in 1818, having by then made his peace with God.

DECEMBER 8, 1793

M. Benoît Alex, ex-canon of Cambrai, constitutional priest renounces his priesthood. He is sheltered by the Chavoin family.

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Foundress of the Marist Sisters (1786-1858)
Chronology, p.111

Jeanne-Marie Chavoin learned from an early age
how to reach out to those in need
in a way that would not attract notice or acclaim,
but would develop in her
a hidden form of holiness.

