

17. Testimony of Marie Jotillon

From June 1825 through to 1838, Sr Marie (Marie Jotillon) held the dual role of Assistant to Mother St Joseph and Novice Mistress. Various texts show that their partnership was respected and appreciated by all the sisters at Bon Repos. In 1835 Sr Marie contracted an illness with which she suffered greatly until her death on February 25, 1838. On one occasion when the doctor indicated that there was every chance she would die, the community gathered around her bedside. Mother St Joseph was holding her, when she attempted to sit up and managed to speak the following words to the assembled sisters. Her words refer to Mother St Joseph.

**“Behold your mother,
respect her, love her, obey her
as your tender mother.
It was she
who brought me forth to the life of grace.”**

Recollections of Mother St Joseph
Doc. 241: 96
Recorded by Sr. Jacques

We can see this as an expression of Marist mission:
firstly as the mission of Mary,
then as that of Jeanne-Marie Chavoin towards all those she met,
and now as the mission of Marist sisters today
in whatever ministry they find themselves –
bringing forth others to the life of grace
and, at the same time,
themselves being brought forth to that same life of grace.

