

20. The Burial of Mother St Joseph, Jeanne-Marie Chavoïn, Foundress of the Marist Sisters

mbre ent. A prominent layman of Jarnosse, Antoine Fouillard, wrote to his sister (who was a Marist, Sr Pelagie, living elsewhere at the time) to give her the details of Mother St Joseph's death and burial.

"She asked to be buried without fuss like the least of the sisters. The civil authorities wanted all the solemnity that it is possible to have in these parts. The bell was tolled every two hours and there was Mass with deacon and sub-deacon...."

The young girls of the village who had the honour of carrying the coffin were dressed in white, the community in black carrying candles, the nave of the church was full; there was solemn sung Mass. Dignitaries from the neighbouring villages, the community of Villers came, as well as relations from Coutouvre....

Her memory will remain. Is she not worthy that it should? "

Recollections of Mother St Joseph
Doc. 239: 2
Recorded by Antoine Fouillard

This extract is testimony of our foundress' connectedness with people,
people from everywhere, from all walks of life,
whose hearts she had touched.
This is how she understood the life of a Marist sister – amongst the people.
It is this connection with them and with her God,
that allowed her to be part of
their being brought forth to the life of grace.

