



6-9

**Sending  
on a mission**

Towards the eastern  
Timor Oriental



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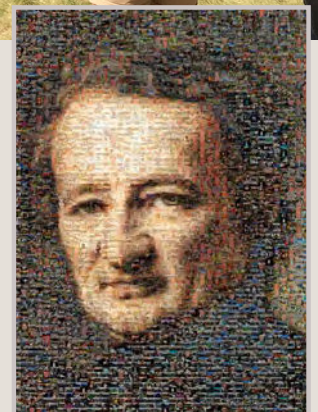
**Testimonials**

Session of  
young Brothers



*Festival of the Bicentenary of the Mother-House, September 15, 2024 in Ploërmel: the first Brothers arrived in Ploërmel (Morbihan) in 1824. This is the beginning of the history of the Mother-House of the La Mennais Brothers. Brothers and Lay of the Mennaisian family as well as the parishioners of Ploërmel ended up in the park to celebrate this happy event under the sun! Read P. 3*

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*new portrait composed  
of 1000 faces,  
[click here to download it.](#)*

Editorial

# Magnificat for our Mother-House!

On November 3, 1824, a dozen novices and three or four brothers settled in their new house summarily furnished in Ploërmel, bought by Gabriel Deshayes and made available to the Congregation. On November 16, Jean-Marie de la Mennais joined them there and lived there until his death.

This brief historical reminder is enough to camp the training and resourcing mission to which our two founders were intended for this new house. In fact, several thousand brothers were educated, trained and accompanied there. It has hosted a number of annual retreats, as well as many other moments of rejuvenation. She witnessed temporary and final commitments of several thousand Brothers. For our institute, it is therefore a real mother, because in her, all brother, so to speak, was born (cf. Ps 86, 5). It is the source we all like to quench our thirst. How not to render thanks to the Lord for this place which still expresses today our belonging to this body, which is the Institute? How not to be grateful to Gabriel Deshayes and Jean-Marie de la Mennais who left us this magnificent heritage? How not to celebrate the fidelity of all these Brothers who planted, dug, watered, weeded and dirtied their hands so that our parent company is what it is today, whether they are the first, of the third, sixth, ninth or eleventh hour?

Gabriel Deshayes bought the Ursulines' building and Jean-Marie de la Mennais restored it, enlarged, rebuilt to make it the cradle of our Institute. This corresponds to the logic of the Gospel: Who is Gabriel? Who is Jean-Marie? Who are these pioneers? Simple servants who have planted and watered, but it is the Lord who gives growth (1 Co 3, 5-6)! It is up to us today to continue their work! In Ploërmel, in Lantuka, Riimenze, Manatoto (East Timor) and elsewhere!



Bro. Hervé Zamor, s.g.  
superioregenerale@lamennais.org

## Faced with violence and insecurity

In this year 2024, many Mennaisian Brothers and Lay People must continue to live and continue their missions with great courage in particularly difficult situations. With young people and their families, they face daily war, violence, insecurity, health risks ...

We are particularly thinking of those who live in Haiti, east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, north of Togo, South Sudan. They need our support and our prayer.



Center Noël des Anges, Cité Soleil, Haiti. The education mission goes on.



Ogaro, North Togo. 463 students in primary school and 205 students at the college of the La Mennais School Center, despite the threat of nearby terrorist groups.



Ogaro, Carto, Agricultural training for adults.



## 200 years of the Brothers' Mother-House in Ploërmel

200 years! This anniversary had to be highlighted. The Saint-Jean-Baptiste province wanted a starting point to launch «the year of the bicentenary» (2024-2025): September 14 and 15, 2024.

**Reminder: the first Brothers arrived in Ploërmel (Morbihan) in 1824. This is the beginning of the story of the Mother-House of the La Mennais Brothers.** At the time, three brothers and ten young people left Josselin. They will settle in Ploërmel, in the old property of the Ursulines bought by Father Gabriel Deshayes.

**1st memory act** : Saturday, September 14, two groups of Brothers and Lay Mennaisians walk again the road from Josselin to Ploërmel. The air is fresh, but the sun is radiant!

The day ends with the inauguration of the **new exhibition on the Mother-House**: «The secrets of the Mother-House». This is the **2nd memory act**. (see, p. 13).

Sunday, September 15 : **Memory act 3** : The brothers of the province were invited early to the traditional meeting to celebrate the Jubilee Brothers and especially Brothers Jean-Paul Peuzé and Mario Forino who celebrate their 50 years of religious life.

**The Memory Act 4 will be the celebration of the bicentenary in the Mother-House's greenery cathedral.** For this party, the whole parish is invited to unite the brothers and share with the whole Mennaisian family present, the history of the 200 years of the Mother-House.

This «memory» day ends with **sending 3 Brothers** to the new mission of the Congregation: East Timor! A moment of emotion certainly for our two brothers present: Brothers Stéphane le Pape (from France, missionary in Indonesia for more than 20 years), Christian Usengimana (from Rwanda). Brother Philippe Douti (from Togo) is absent.

**200 years of history ... A page turns ... another opens!!!**

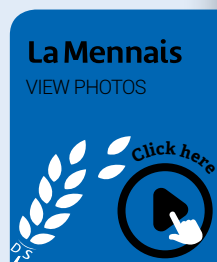
*At the end of the day of September 14, 2024, Brothers and lay people meet for the inauguration of the new exhibition of the 200 years of the Mother-House.*

*Jubilee Brothers.*



*Bro. Christian brings the East Timor flag during the September 15 Eucharist.*

*Sending on mission of the Bros. Stéphane Le Pape and Christian Usengimana - Bro. Philippe, absent.*





# ASIA



## Philippines

### A new postulate in San Jose

A new postulate opened in San José in July 2024. It welcomed 8 second year postulants (7 Indonesians, 1 Filipino).



Learning English for postulants.



Apostolic activities at the Postulate.

## Indonesia



Brother Francky Gua Making, director, in one of the classes of the SDK La Mennais primary school.

### Accreditation for the SDK primary school La Mennais of Larantuka

Accreditation is a compulsory step to claim Indonesian state subsidies. Its obtaining is now done in continuous control via the ministry's computer system. The school obtained a satisfaction rate over 85%, a score based on the results of the national evaluation. School accreditation is now «A» until 2029, which will considerably help its development.

### En route to the 25th anniversary of the mission

To support the animation of the jubilee of the 25 years of presence of the Brothers in Indonesia, an application has been launched ... We find there the proposals on the theme of this jubilee year for Indonesia «Pilgrims of Hope: Build and forge ahead together!», the history of the mission told by the Brothers themselves (and by the Lay People from January), photo and videos galleries.

After the activities proposed around the founder week in November, an online seminar on education will be organized in January 2025 ...

The final celebration will take place on July 5, 2025 in Larantuka.



Flash this QR code



# AFRICA



## Benin

### A new step in Thian

Since September 16, 2024, students in Benin have reunited with the school roads after two good months of vacation. The Catholic School Complex Jean de la Mennais in Thian (Parakou / Benin) saw its school population going from 70 (2023-2024) to 208 (this year). This thanks to the brand-new building of 11 classes incorporating the administrative block, which allowed the opening of 3 new classes (CE2, CM1 and 6th). This institution is only in its genesis and augurs for a bright future.



Brother Christophe Mateyendou, with his CP students before his departure for a new mission.

## Uganda

### Mennaisian schools day celebrated in Kisubi

On October 1, as for a few years, the Mennaisian Family has met to celebrate the patronal feast of Ste Thérèse of the Child Jesus Province, as well as the Day of Mennaisian Schools. The Brothers, the Mennaisian laity, the pupils and the students of all the institutions led by the Congregation met in Kisubi. The day started with a well-lived mass, followed by family celebrations.



After the Eucharist of the day, a group of students present a stage performance to the whole Mennaisian family gathered.

## Congo RDC

### New director at the Bunia school (Congo DRC)

The opening of the year at the Jean-Marie de la Mennais School Complex in Bunia took place in September. Here we see some of the 3000 students! The new director spoke to the students to launch the year and thank the former director.



Opening of the new school year at CS Jean de la Mennais in Bunia.

# AMERICAS



## Haiti

### Mennaisian training sessions (2021-2024)

For four years, at the start of each school year, the Mennaisian Family Commission in Saint Louis de Gonzague Province has organized a Mennaisian training session for the educational communities of the FIC network in Haiti. Four themes are already discussed: «Mennaisian identity», «Fraternity: sign of hope», «Servants of hope», «Loyalty in creativity to the Mennaisian spirit in our schools in Haiti». This year, despite the conjuncture unsuitable for traveling, the members of the MF committee set out, as pilgrims, to meet members of the educational communities of the FIC network. The objective was to train them in the Mennaisian spirit in order to bring them to appropriate the educational ideas of Father de la Mennais for better support to the children and young people in their care.



Mennaisian training at Les Cayes with the educational community of the Brother Odile Joseph school.



Mennaisian training at the Saint Louis de Gonzague institution.

## Argentina

### Brother Frantz Caleb Museau - Future Missionary in South America



Bro. Frantz Caleb.

«As the time of departure for the mission approaches, a mixture of emotions overcomes me. There is joy, of course, but beyond emotion, I feel a deep humility in face of the mission that awaits me. Going to Argentina is leaving the comfort of my bearings to surrender myself in the hands of the Lord, in an environment where everything is to be discovered. I feel a sweet apprehension, that of the unknown, which reminds me of how much I am dependent on the grace of God. I know that my own forces will not be enough; I need to let myself be guided, to listen to each divine inspiration. My heart is preparing to meet other souls, listen to them, learn from their lives and their faith. So, I leave with confidence, with gratitude and with an inner peace that only the love of the Lord can offer. »

## Bolivia

### 50 years of religious life - Brother Jesús Peña

Nice thanksgiving celebration for the 50th anniversary of religious life of Brother Jesús Peña, at the parish of San Francisco de San Borja (Beni - Bolivia).



Brother Jesús Peña celebrates his 50 years of religious life in San Borja, September 21, 2024.

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# EUROPE



## France-England (St Jean-Baptiste province)

### A new team for the animation of the Mennaisian Tutelle

Last September, a new team received the mission of supporting 76 schools in the province. We call it the supervision team. Its mission is to support and animate the entire Mennaisian network

of the 76 schools in the province. This team is made up of 4 lay people, tutelle delegates, one of which is more responsible for coordinating the whole. In addition, two other people have the mission to support the pastoral animation of our schools in a more specific way.



From left to right :  
Bro. Yannick Houssay, Provincial;  
Nathalie Biederman, in charge of school pastoral care; Loïc Le Touzo, supervisory delegate; Denis Chevrel, assistant to the provincial, secretary general; Benoît Cronier, head of school pastoral care; Thomas Marteil, supervisory delegate; Bleuenn Thoraval, MFI trainer; Patrick Bureau, Tutelle delegate; Bro. Régis Lefrère, MFI trainer; Bro. Olivier Migot, Director of the MFI.

### The Training Institute

Here is one of the rooms in the Mother-House's training center. This is a training time for school directors, teachers, pastoral animators, etc.



Training session in the renovated premises of the reception center.



A group of college students welcomed in front of the Mother-House.

### 1st year college children at the Mother-House in Ploërmel

During the year, students who are in the first year of college are invited to spend a day at the Mother-House. These days allow them to know the Brothers as well as with their Founders.

## Spain (Provincia Nuestra Señora del Pilar)

### Bolivia volunteer

Ana Díez Cano is an educator at the Mennaisian Center Zamora Joven. She works in a protective home for unaccompanied foreign minors.

During her summer vacation, she spent five weeks as a volunteer in our Mennaisian institution in El Alto (Bolivia).

She was thus able to realize the enormous work done at the Luis Espinal Educational Center, on the sanitary Antenna, at the crèche (Yuriñani), through the system for taking care of students with special needs (Antawara) and in Ainjasiñani which is the assistance service for families and young people sponsored by the Spanish NGO SAL (Solidarity with Latin America).

The welcoming of the Brothers' community and the contact with the Mennaisian family in El Alto left a lasting impression on our volunteer Ana.



At the bottom, on the left, Ana Díez Cano in El Alto, Bolivia.



# OCEANIA



## Marquesas Islands – Life at Lycée Saint-Athanase

**Lycée Saint-Athanase: A high school open to others!** Internship visits for students in CAP Agricole SAPVER (Services at People and sale in rural areas): **Kaire** doing his internship at the Saint Joseph de Taiohae school; **Koterani & Marie Elisabeth** during their internship at the Louis Rollin Hospital in Taiohae; and **Tepootu** at the Maison de l'Enfance.

Bravo to internship supervisors and the various structures for the reception and support of students from the Saint-Athanase high school.



Students of the Saint-Athanase Lycée on work placement.

## «Youth Movement of the Mennaisian Family»

On October 9, 2024, the presentation of the «Youth Movement of the Mennaisian Family» was held, it is a new commitment brought by the Brothers of Christian Instruction.

Inspired by the ideal of Jean-Marie de la Mennais and Gabriel Deshayes, this association's mission is to guide young people towards a deep meeting with Christ, helping them to grow «in wisdom, in size and grace before God and in front of men ».

This movement offers young people spiritual retreats, times of daily prayer, and biblical reflections to nourish their faith and bring them closer to the Lord.

Religious events such as the animation of masses and fraternal encounters, as well as spiritual journeys such as World Youth Days (WYD), are all opportunities for young people to strengthen their Christian commitment.n. (Bro. Xavier Frogier - Papeete)



Meeting of young people from the "Youth Movement of the Mennaisian Family" in Papeete (Tahiti).



St Hilaire - Meeting of the Mennaisian Family.

## The Mennaisian Community of Polynesia, on a pilgrimage «In the footsteps of Jean-Marie de la Mennais»

14 pilgrims (brothers, teaching staff and non-teaching) of Tahiti have walked for 10 days to discover the emblematic places of the work of Jean-Marie de la Mennais in Brittany. The idea of this pilgrimage was to revitalize the Mennaisian movement in Polynesia.





# Listening to the missionary Brothers and young Brothers

On the occasion of the Bicentenary of the Mother-House, the Brothers Stéphane, Christian, Philippe were officially sent on a mission. During the summer, 23 young Brothers met in Ploërmel, to prepare for their final commitment in the Congregation.

Let us listen to their testimony.

## Sending missionaries for East Timor

«I am full of thanksgiving due to the chance that I have been offered to make a new start. Our first steps together were seasoned with rich meetings in Brittany. The testimony and encouragement received are a «plus» as we are building the community and busy learning Portuguese, here in Carcavelos! Thank you to everyone! (Bro. Stéphane Le Pape)

«Leave to live and give life!» This can sum up for me the new mission that I prepare to live in Timor-Leste. This mission is really a new birth for me, and for the whole Institute. I am convinced that God can take care of those he calls and sends in

his mission; and he will do it for us. I am very confident and know that I am expected by the Timorese, by the Lord. Pray for us. » (Bro. Philippe Dadjibe DOUTI)

«I left my native country on September 12; it was the same date that the Canadian Brothers arrived in Rwanda in 1968. ... Being part of this team of pioneers is both a joy and, at the same time, a challenge for me, but I think Providence will always help me reach there. And of course, I am very sure that all of our brothers pray for us. Só Deus no Tempo! Só Deus na Eternidad e!» (Bro. Christian Usengimana)



Arrival in Lisbon (Portugal) for a learning time for the Portuguese language: from left to right: Bro. Christian Usengimana, Bro. Philippe Douti, Bro. Stéphane Le Pape.

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The 3 missionaries welcomed in Lisbon by Bro. Teófilo, Marist Brother.



## Preparation session for perpetual vows in Ploërmel

«It was a time of returning at the wellsprings, a time that helped us find our origins. An authentic time of meetings with Brothers from different parts of the world, a time when we lived a real fraternal life with its community project. A time of meeting with God and with our Founders, a time of meditation that transforms. A time to discover our Congregation. A time to let go in order to abandon oneself with all the heart to the will of God, to his Providence, to God Alone for the rest of our life. A time of miracles after miracles. A time of dialogue face to face with our Founders. I sat with them,

I shared with them and listened to their advice. » (Bro. Kagoda Richard, fic, Uganda)

From July 13 to August 13, I had the joy of participating at the Mother-House in the training for the Brothers who will do their perpetual profession ... Pilgrimage to Mennaisian places, retreat experience in a Trappist abbey, challenge of forming a community, knowing the roots of the Congregation...

It was an invitation to continue learning and delighting in the joy of being a Brother, as the founders dreamed of it and as we want to live today. » (Bro. Walter Muñoz, Argentina)

<https://www.lamennais.org/en/motherhouse-ploermel-23-young-brothers-are-preparing-for-their-perpetual-profession/>



The Brothers of the session, in Ploërmel, presenting themselves to the «friends» of Ploërmel who came to pray to the founder.



The group of young Brothers visiting Josselin.



The young Brothers and the Ploermelais around the tomb, with the community of the Mother-House.



At the Timadeuc Abbey, the young Brothers and the monks in the choir, at the time of the Eucharist.

## Summer 2024: Olympic Games in Paris

An unforgettable experience, told by Brother James Hayes, official chaplain of the Paris Olympics!

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Brother James Hayes on the left. Picnic at the entrance to the Hindu prayer room, Krishna's birthday day during the Olympic Games.





**1. Spain: Annual training day.** On September 29, 2024, Brothers and Lay People gathered on the occasion of their annual day of training, meetings and exchanges in Santo Domingo de la Cazalda. It was a great opportunity to strengthen the bonds of fraternity and thus learn to walk together, «in Mennaisian family mode».

**2. Haiti : Six Lay Mennaisians Associates (LMA) renew their commitment.** At the invitation of the Provincial Brother, six LMA from Saint Louis-de-Gonzague Province participated in the annual retreat of the Brothers which took place in the Juniorate de Pétiön-Ville, from August 4 to 11, 2024. At the closing eucharistic celebration of this intense period of time, Brother Hervé Zamor, Superior General, received the renewal of their commitment, according to the statutes of the association «Lay Mennaisian Associates». They are Pierre Hugues Henry, Jean Robert and Nicole Lebrun, Dalix Mathurin, Yvette Méus, Wilson Zéphyr. The «La Mennais» insignia was given to them.

**3. International commission.** New momentum for the International Commission of the Mennaisian family after the general chapter of 2024. Composed of 6 lay people and the 6 brothers of the General Government, it is now led by an international office: Yvette Méus (Haiti), Martha de la Cruz (Mexico) and Brother Jean-Paul Peuzé (1st assistant). Photo: Martha and Yvette speaking during the Chapter.

# WORDS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE



Meeting a group of young Mennaisians in Kisubi (Uganda).

## Young Mennaisian adults in Uganda

Faithful to the spirituality of Jean-Marie de la Mennais, Young Mennaisian Adults in Uganda, young women and men [18-35 years old] engage in the following activities: annual spiritual recollections and retreats, training camps, charities towards the poor, school visits to disseminate and encourage identity, spirituality and mennaisian vocation, missionary work, that is to say the christian education of children and finally development projects as a source of funding.



## Spain: young Mennaisians in Ploërmel

To roam the paths of Brittany is always a surprising gift. We appreciated the reception in the renovated center of the Mother-House and thus we peacefully approached small corners where Jean-Marie grew up, matured and finally deployed the Mennaisian work. We enriched ourselves a bit through his passionate faith, his warm kindness and his evangelizing fraternity project. Thank you.



Bro. Nicolás Urreta, on the left, some young people from the Nuestra Señora del Pilar Province.



The Menejoven group found itself this year, in a mountain setting that has favored, relaxation, sharing and fraternity.

## Chile: Menejoven

On October 4 and 5, the second meeting of young people was held in Llay-Llay (Chile). 65 young people from the two Mennaisian educational centers in Chile were welcomed there.

The theme of the meeting was the slogan of 2024: «Listening and on the way».

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# 200 years of the Mother-House of Ploërmel



## Bicentennial exhibition

A new exhibition opened its doors at the Mother house in Ploërmel on the occasion of its bicentennial! An exhibition that unveils its hidden secrets!

An exhibition that certainly combines **static**, with panels, but also a lot of visual «**dynamics**»: films, reports, interactive terminals, handling of computers, many QR codes which return you to explanations, recordings, photos ...

AI (Artificial Intelligence) made itself invited there! and makes the founders Jean-Marie de la Mennais and Gabriel Deshayes speak!

From the past ... of memory certainly, ... but also today, with dynamic visual representations of the 111 Mennaisian communities in the world ... The 170 Mennais works across all continents.

The visitor is invited to turn his gaze in all directions: the floor, the ceiling, the walls ... to read and reread these 200 pages of history.



To consult the exhibition support-guide, [click here](#)

JB Percier, designer of the exhibition.



Our Founders speak to us !!!!!

# 40 years of the arrival of the La Mennais Brothers in Culiprán (Chile)

As part of the 40th anniversary of the arrival of the first Mennaisian Brothers in Culiprán, the First International Seminar that we entitled: «Transforming education: global challenges, local solutions» took place.





# 1. Parakou, Benin

The 1st phase of the construction of the Thian school is completed. It has become filled up with students.



# 2. San Jose, Philippines

Renovated building for the Asian postulate in San Jose de Buenavista.



# 3. Kasasa, Uganda

Renovation of the novitiate buildings of the Eastern African Brothers.

The entry of the novitiate after the work.



# 4. Larantuka, Indonesia

New covered land for sports activities as well as for entertainment ... away from rains but also out of the sun ...



# 5. Bunia, Congo RDC

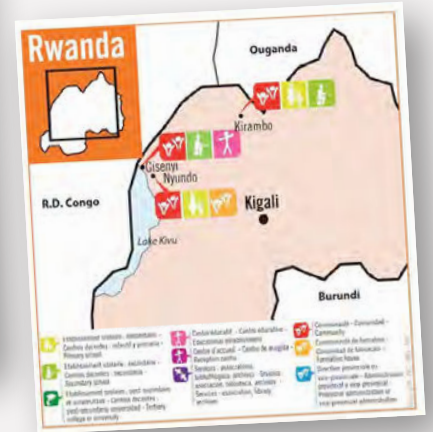
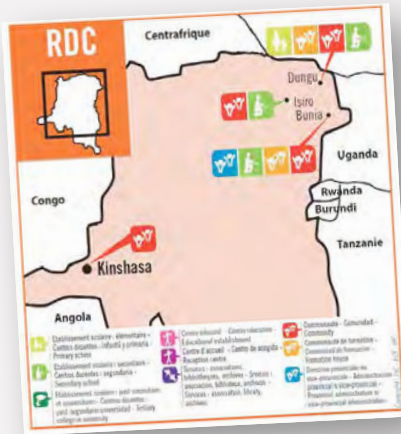
The Jean-Marie de la Mennais School Complex continues to grow. The nursery school under construction.



## Creation of two new districts in Central Africa

Two new districts replace Saint John Paul II District.

It will now be composed of two districts: that of the **Democratic Republic of Congo** and that of **Rwanda**. The names of their patron saints will be known later.



Brother Ewald Guerrier.

## From Mexico to the Philippines!

After being responsible for training in Mexico, Brother Ewald Guerrier has just been appointed master of novices in the Philippines. Here is his testimony: "Going on a mission was not part of my agenda at the start. The province of Saint Louis de Gonzague (Haiti) wanted to write a new page: the idea of going on a mission was discussed and has made its way. Meanwhile, there have been solicitations from the congregation. The province offered me to go on a mission to Mexico, I answered it favorably. From Mexico, the congregation asks me to go to the Philippines. I ask myself lots of questions, but confident in Providence, I advance in deep water. I hope to be able to flower where the Lord sends me. So help me God and his Holy Mother! » (Brother Ewald Guerrier)

## Project office

The Project Office is now in place at Casa Generalizia, Rome.

Its objectives: support provinces and districts in writing investment projects; search for funding; follow the realization of projects; supervise projects accounting; report to donors and the Institute.

**Brother Claude Grégoire : Director of the Project Office**

**Brother Joseph Kanaabi Zziwa : Coordinator**

**Brother Nicolas Le Meilleur : Accountant**



From left to right: Bro. Joseph Zziwa, Bro. Claude Grégoire, Bro. Nicolas Le Meilleur.



Cooks proud of their products.

## Nebbi: 10 years of the Providence Technical School

Started under the mango tree in 2014, by an emerging community, the Daughters of Providence of Nebbi, the technical school - Providence Vocational School - now has between 250 and 300 students.

Boys and girls between 15 and 25 years old, little or not educated, come to seek training which will give them hope that a better future is possible for them boys and for them girls. Providence does not forget anyone!

**Pilgrims on the way to prayer**, this is the year theme offered to the Brothers and Lay People of the Mennaisian Family. It invites us to be pilgrims following Jesus, the Path by which the Holy Spirit teaches us to pray. Without him, we can do nothing. In this pilgrimage, he is both our master and our model. By his life, he educates us in a life of intimacy with the Father. By his example, he leads us to make our life a permanent quest for God Alone.

It is a great opportunity for us to start afresh from Christ. The first perseverance that we are invited to develop is daily fidelity to community and personal prayer. Only the Holy Spirit can teach us to pray and remain true to our commitment. It is He who invigorates and gives strength and courage to face trials and difficulties. It is He who blesses the spiritual fight and brings into the incessant dynamic of conversion.



*Mennaisian Brothers and Lay people on the march from Josselin to Ploërmel, September 14, 2024.*