

## TESTIMONIES:

The "Amigos de Pedro Vigne" share the homily preached at Mass in the Chapel of the Community del Faro – Burgos SPAIN on the Feast of St. Andrew.

"To celebrate the Feast of St. Andrew and the foundation of the Congregation guided by Blessed Peter Vigne is a great grace! Today's Gospel tells us that God calls and waits for an answer. At the clear and direct call of Jesus "Come....." the response of Andrew and the other Apostles was amazing: "Leaving all they followed him". Each one of us has received the call to root our Christian vocation in a particular lifestyle: priestly, religious, married, or lay and our joy and happiness as well as that of others depends on the right response. **God continues to call men and women every day** and it's not good to keep him waiting for an answer!. His call is a call to holiness that grows daily through small gestures of love and kindness. It is also a call to discipleship... Like Andrew who leads his brother Peter to Jesus! To bring the Good News to others we need to communicate an experience of a living encounter with the Lord. **Blessed Peter Vigne lived with passion the Call that seriously disrupted his life and led him to a high degree of personal perfection and intense apostolic work for others** without fear of failure, hardship or misunderstandings etc. Today, November 30 that same programme is presented to all of us" Don Fermin Rilava.

### FATHER VIGNE, ARDENT MISSIONARY.(2)

In the Community of **Bezerro, Brejo Santo, Ceará, BRÉSIL**

Our follow up to last month's testimonies continue to show the confidence people have in Blessed Peter Vigne. During the home visits of the statue of Father Vigne around the parish, families not only took him into their homes but also into their hearts, resulting in many graces. Francisco Clebson 21 years of age, injured in an accident, was taken to Barbalha where he remained in a coma, in intensive care. His condition continued to cause concern. Someone thought of bringing the statue to his home. His mother readily agreed and joined in the prayer of intercession for the recovery of her son; that he would wake up from the coma and be able to go home regardless of his physical condition. The next day Clebson woke from the coma and came out of intensive care. A few days later he returned home and resumed his usual activities. That is the latest information we have.

### DATES for these two months

**24 January:** Conversion of St. Paul. End of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

**2 February:** Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple: also known as Candelmas Day, when candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the Light of the world. World Day for Consecrated Life: those in consecrated life are called to

"May Jesus bless you, protect you and lead you!" each step of this year 2019 and may our hearts be open to receive Peter Vigne's blessing spreading it wherever we are in blessings of PEACE, LOVE and JOY.

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December 31 marked the end of a year of happy events but also of tragic ones; of joys and sorrows within our families and communities. A year is a "gift" which we do not always fully unwrap....

With the beginning of January, the first month of the New Year, once more God gives us the "gift" of abundant life every day. Naturally, after the excitement of holidays and the New Year's Day celebrations returning to ordinary life can appear dull and unexciting! However.... Peter Vigne invites us to a fresh start every morning. With increased vitality and renewed dynamism let us make every day the first day of a new year. That might come as a surprise but "all we have to do is to use wisely the gifts God gives us" Peter Vigne tells us.

How can we best discover those gifts, be aware of them and attentive to them?



# Throughout the year..

*"Jesus, my Saviour, the Prologue of Saint John's Gospel read at the end of Holy Mass enlightens and consoles me. You are God and you have existed before time and from all eternity. You are one with the Father "et Deus erat Verbum" "the Word was God" and yet you are a distinct and unique Person.*

*You are the Creator of all things and without you nothing was made. We are therefore the Work of your hands, your masterpiece, and yet we do not know you. We close our minds and shut our eyes to the wonders you display in the heavens and on earth.*

*Sent by the Father like the dawn from on high, you came to visit us here on earth. Unfortunately, we give so little thought to the wonder of the Incarnation that we fail to acknowledge your Presence and welcome you as we should.*

*And yet, to become children of God Your Father and live in union with his holy will, all we have to do is to use wisely the gifts you bring us. Jesus, Word made flesh, how humble and vulnerable you became for*

*Vigne P. Missionnaire.*

*love of us!  
..in the Light of the Gospel*



## Get to know Jesus and grow in his love.....2019

Peter Vigne invites us to live this year, 2019 in the light of the Gospel. The meditation he proposes is based on the opening verses of St John's Gospel: the Prologue which, up the 1965, used to be read at the end of Mass. It was both a blessing with the Word of God and a reaffirmation of our Faith. Peter Vigne understands and proclaims it. Do likewise on your own on your faith journey this year!

**I believe in Jesus Christ, "God...before time...and from all eternity"**

I believe that He is "one with the Father.... yet a distinct and unique Person"... **"and the Word was God"**. I believe that he is "the Creator of all things and that we are the Work of his hands".

**Ask Bl. Peter Vigne to accompany you** and keep you focussed on the wonders

God offers you "in the Heavens and on earth". May you experience deep joy as you try to live more and more as a "child of God", of infinite worth and deserving respect, as well as those around you. Remember to sing in unison with Mary your **MAGNIFICAT**. It is through her and in her that "the Word was made flesh....for love of us". Jesus came into our world to be fully involved in it and remain close to us. If you feel you have been keeping him at a distance then let 2019 be the year when you'll draw closer to him. **Just take the key, unlock the door**

**of your heart today and let him step inside!** Every day this year say to him:

*"Come and make your home in me; help me to cultivate trust and to sow the seeds of Hope, Peace and Goodwill during the month of January and every day after that!"* Then, you will find that

the **New Year will be one of peace and happiness under the loving gaze of God the Father.**

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### JESUS... AT THE CENTRE OF THE YEAR

"We can compare the cosmos to a "book" - Galileo himself used this example - and consider it as "the work of an author who expresses himself through the 'symphony' of creation. In this symphony one finds, at a certain point, what would be called in musical terms a 'solo', a theme entrusted to a single instrument or voice which is so important that the meaning of the entire work depends on it.

**THIS "SOLO" IS JESUS.** ... The Son of Man recapitulates in himself earth and heaven, creation and the Creator, flesh and Spirit. He is the centre of the cosmos



Missionary activity was particularly important throughout Father Vigne's life. What was happening for him 300 years ago? The Congregation of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament was already four years in existence, and our missionary priest, so highly esteemed by the clergy and those who met him or heard him preach was in constant demand by the bishops. His diary for 1719 filled up very quickly with requests for help coming from several dioceses. The long lonely roads that wound their way through the mountains, echoed to the sound of the

heavy clogs of our intrepid missionary, as he made his way intent on bringing to others the light and consolation of the Good News. On February 22 he arrived in Alex where the mission he preached was much appreciated. At Easter, he left for Pradelles in the Auvergne Region where he was invited to preach. Before undertaking any mission work he made sure to obtain from the local bishop the faculty to hear confessions and the authority to preach. The reply from Bishop Gabriel de Cosnac, Bishop of Die, on March 23, 1719 to one such request, shows how well he esteemed this missionary priest who was 49 years of age:

*"Believe me when I say, no one could be more touched than I am by the kindness you have shown me and by your edifying and tender zeal for holiness in the diocese. So it is with great pleasure that I grant you permission to hold missions in Pradelles, Brettes, Béconne and wherever else in my diocese you are needed. Convinced of your Prudence and spiritual insight, I give you permission to forgive the sins reserved to me alone by virtue of my office. You may use this letter as a "celebret" in any parish in my diocese. Please remember me whenever you celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Your most humble and obedient servant. Gabriel Bishop of Die"*

Ten years later the same bishop asked Fr. Vigne to send some of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament to Die. This, further confirms his esteem for him and the Congregation he founded.

On May 15, 1719 his missionary journeys took him to Saint-Benoît and to Saillans. He then evangelised in the diocese of Gap where he preached three major missions in Neffes and Curbans both villages in Provence. He travelled throughout the Hautes-Alpes where he visited families and met abandoned children. In October of that same year he went to Salette, known to us today because of the Apparition of Our Lady in 1846. At the end of November he left for the Hautes-Alpes, this time to St-Didier in Dévoluy....As directed by the bishops, the aim of his missions was always to rebuild Church unity, still impacted by the wars of religion. Fr. Veyrenc writing in 1868 said: "For a long flight one needs a lot of air and strong wings. To preach from so many pulpits, addressing so many varied congregations, never yielding under the load, constantly sought out, called upon, heard with delight, are the characteristics of God's special envoy..." At least eight of his missions lasted at least three weeks and some more than a month. Peter Vigne was passionate about his mission to the people he loved, who listened anxiously to sermons that touched their lives and awakened and strengthened their faith. 1719 was a very busy year for him with so much missionary work and without "holidays". Fr. Vigne spent the last month of the year in Boucieu-le-Roi where he preached to pilgrims doing the Stations of the Cross and also gave a Retreat! What will 2019 ask of us? It will surely challenge us to a renewed missionary awakening!

**"YOU TOO need to see the entirety of your life as a mission.** Try to do so by listening to God in prayer and recognizing the signs that he gives you. Always ask the Spirit what Jesus expects from you at every moment of your life and in every decision you must make. so as to discern its