

..During the month of August we have two “memorial” days. On August 20, 1670, in Privas, the Vigne family celebrated the birth of their youngest son: PETER and his baptism took place on the 24<sup>th</sup>. In 1694 he was ordained a priest and so began his long missionary journeys. The Bishop of Gap wrote to him saying: “The Spirit of the Lord will lead you, so just let yourself be guided”  
 The goal of all his endeavours was “to make Jesus, known, loved and served”. That same burning desire underpinned everything he undertook, his missions, his Calvaries, the Stations of the Cross.....and the foundation of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. His life is a message for our lives today.. BR

### A LITANY TO BL. PETER VIGNE

**Response: Blessed Peter Vigne pray for us.**

Disciple and priest of Jesus Christ

Missionary priest of the Eucharist and bearer of its divine Light

Humble servant attentive to the Holy Spirit

Witness to the Love and Mercy of God

Peace and comfort of the sick/Hope of those who suffer

Apostle of Mary "Beautiful Tabernacle of God among men"

Servant of Mary the Incomparable Queen of Heaven ...

Missionary Apostle of Unity

Evangelizer of the people of God, sower of the Gospel

Apostle of the priesthood and the consecrated life

Master of the spiritual life and guide of pilgrims

Educator and friend of the youth / Servant humble and constant,

Man of God and faithful friend: **accompany us.**



### Pope Francis on BLESSING

“**Why is it good to bless?** Because it turns a word into a gift. When we bless, we are not doing something for ourselves, but for others. Blessing is not about saying nice words or trite phrases. No, it is about speaking goodness, speaking with love. That is what Melchizedek did, when he spontaneously blessed Abram, who had not said or done anything for him. Jesus did the same thing, and he showed what the blessing meant by freely distributing the loaves. How many times too, have we been blessed, in church or in our homes? How many times have we received words of encouragement, or a sign of the cross on our forehead? We were blessed on the day of our baptism, and we are blessed at the end of every Mass. The Eucharist is itself a school of blessing. God blesses us, his beloved children, and thus encourages us to keep going. And we, in turn, bless God in our assemblies (cf. Ps 68:26), rediscovering the joy of praise that liberates and heals the heart. We come to Mass, certain that we will be blessed by the Lord, and we leave in order to bless others in turn, to be channels of goodness in the world.”  
 (23 June 2019)

Prayers for our General Chapter of the Congregation 15 July to 05 August.



N° 07. 08—2019



Life is not possible without water..During the months of July and August, many people will have the opportunity of spending more time outside and enjoying the natural world. The words of Blessed Peter Vigne remind us that prayer is not too unlike a garden.....it will be fertile and fruitful.....as long as we ensure there is an adequate supply of water! Even holidays can offer us time to pray and reflect!

### Jesus prays in a Garden.

*The Garden where he prays is a place not only of various plants but it is also part of the Mount of Olives. A follower of Christ who has cultivated a habit of prayer is surely on the Path to Salvation, to union with the Lord, where he now dwells following his ascension from the Mount of Olives, near the garden of Gethsemane.*



*Therefore, the soul that receives this grace, the gift of daily mental prayer, is like a well-watered garden producing all kinds of spiritual plants, spiritual fruits, virtues with the fragrance of Christ himself, which render it pleasing to God. These are like evergreen leaves, an indicator of a genuine spiritual life.*



*So, whoever meditates on the Word of God is filled with many graces, producing abundant fruits. Such fruit is rich and tasty and of great benefit in due time. And whatever activity or work is undertaken it will surely be*

*successful.*

*On the other hand, a follower of Christ who doesn't pray or reflect on the Word of God is like a land without water, without these abundant graces!*

Such **earth is not only barren, it is also sterile**, where no virtue can be seen, none of those beautiful and appealing plants we mentioned. It's true that from time they do produce some, but unfortunately, they are transitory and die quickly. This is because they are not watered and neither are they **planted beside the living water**, the fountain that springs up to eternal life." Jn. 4, 14



Peter Vigne's Fountain  
Boucieu le Roi

*vigne missionnaire*

PBL V.1. 117-118

## Your garden?

There are all kinds of gardens everywhere. We see fewer however, in towns where green open spaces are limited. Like people, gardens too have their own "identity". Everyone has a unique appearance....which can attract or reject. There are gardens that are functional and productive, while others are commemorative, theme gardens, pretty gardens, productive gardens, even therapeutic gardens to improve communication and relaxation. The gardeners love them and cultivate them with patience and tenderness. The gardener knows the soil, its secrets and needs. He knows when the soil is poor or rich or when it needs to be improved. He spends time digging, sowing, watering and weeding. He has a vision for his garden and gives time to it. He prepares the flowers and fruits by pruning his roses and fruit trees then he patiently awaits the harvest.



**The heart is also like a garden.** It is God's garden and yours too. How is your garden? Jesus the gardener loves it and knows it. He is expecting those "beautiful spiritual plants" which he can give us as Peter Vigne tells us. He is always willing to offer the water and graces it needs to yield those "beautiful fruits"

The soil in your garden needs to be nourished. Prayer and the Gospel strengthen it and the Living Water of Jesus restores it daily. **Do you let the gardener work in it for you? B.R.**

# With Peter Vigne 1670-1740

In July we celebrate the anniversary of the death of Fr. Vigne (8 July 1740 in Rencurel) and in August, his birth and baptism. (20 and 24 August in Privas)

**That same year, 1740 a witness who was present at his death wrote:**

"On the feast of St. John the Baptist, 24 June this pious and zealous priest.....made every effort, weak though he was, to preach from the pulpit.....and chose for his subject the necessity of penance, in imitation of the Precursor of Jesus Christ. At that moment his strength failed him and with great difficulty he managed to descend the pulpit steps. After that last sermon, he celebrated the holy sacrifice of the Mass three times.....He sent for his niece and the superior of the convent he founded and they came immediately to keep vigil and to be with him when he died. He expired peacefully returning to his creator his sweet soul on Friday 8 July 1740 at four o'clock in the afternoon. His death was felt throughout the parish. As soon as the news got about, a crowd assembled, weeping and mourning the loss of this holy Missionary. A number of priests gathered to sing the praises of God" A true account of the death of Monsieur Vigne



*notre pere vigne digne missionnaire  
royal est mort dans la paroisse  
nommee rancurel diocese de guenebe  
en faisant la mission la messe est  
mort en saint, le huitieme de juillet  
mille sept cent quarante et enterré  
- boucieu*

- Handwritten account by one of the First Sisters in Boucieu who had the joy of knowing Blessed Peter Vigne, and saw how he lived, prayed and served..and who already considered him to be a "Saint"!

The same witness made this further observation: "The first missions he preached were so successful.... that he was called from all sides.

Here, however is not the place to recall the fruit of his missions, since this account is a record of his death only, while we wait for God and the Church to make further statements"! Fifteen years ago, on October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2004, the Church recognising his holiness proclaimed him "Blessed" Peter Vigne .We celebrate his **Feast on July 8 every year.**