THE SMILING SAINT

DURING HER LIFE, JULIE WAS ALREADY PERCEIVED AS A SAINT

65 Years after Her Death

January – March 1881

Following floods in Namur, the sisters open the vaults of the superiors general in order to pump out the water that had penetrated the Garden Chapel. The issue of the introduction of the cause is then on everyone's lips. After a retreat, knowing that many ecclesiastics, sisters and others wanted to see Julie and Françoise canonized, Mother Aloysie writes to the Bishop of Namur who accepts the request.

Disappointment

April 28, 1881

Reverend Father Van Derker (postulator of the cause) makes known that it was necessary to separate the two causes for Julie and Françoise. Only those martyred and who died in the same persecution were able to be united in the same cause. The cause for Françoise is therefore delayed until later.

Closure of the Diocesan Process

May 22, 1883

The proceedings of the process are filed in Rome at the Sacred Congregation of Rites by Canon Henry. On July 29, 1883, he returns to Namur. His trip went well, except for some difficulties at Customs because of the volume of the proceedings. The originals of the process stay in the Archives of the Bishopric of Namur. The Friends of the Institute are busy obtaining the letters of postulation.

Announcement

April 4, 1881

Mother Aloysie sends a circular to the sisters of the Congregation and some letters to many bishops in order to inform them of the upcoming investigation as part of the diocesan process. She begins to assemble in Namur all the objects that had belonged to the two foundresses.

Opening of the Diocesan Process

June 20, 1881

The meetings of the diocesan process concerning Julie take place in Saint Joseph's Chapel in the convent at Namur. At issue is the establishment of Julie's "reputation of holiness." On June 24, 1882, as the diocesan process is coming to a close, Mother Aloysie chooses Monsignor Raphaël Marie Virili as postulator of the cause in Rome.