

## NOVENA TO THE VENERABLE BROTHER GABRIEL TABORIN - MAY 2024

This month, the novena is addressed to children and young people. Brother Gabriel wrote: 'Our Brothers are the first missionaries of the youth'. In the Spiritual Testament he tells us: 'I exhort you to love children in God and for God and to educate them with holy enthusiasm, especially by teaching them the principles of our beautiful and holy Religion and to love virtue; I exhort you also to give them always good example'.

### Prayer for each day

God our Father,  
who has raised up in the Church  
the Venerable Brother Gabriel Taborin  
to promote Christian education, catechesis  
and liturgical animation,  
grant that, sharing his charism,  
we may know how to carry out our mission today  
for the good of the family and of society  
with the strength of your Spirit.  
And if it is your will,  
grant that he may be numbered among the saints,  
granting us through his intercession the grace we need...  
*(mention the names of the persons for whom you wish to pray)*  
*We ask you this with insistence through Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen*



### Day 16

'The purpose we set ourselves in embracing religious life was, first of all, to work for our sanctification. But we have not become religious, dear Brothers, for ourselves. We have entered a Corporation dedicated to all kinds of good works, especially in the service of public education. We have therefore become religious for the children of the people, whom we try to educate in Christian schools. We have consecrated ourselves to God to assist the priest, catechizing, helping him in the services of divine worship, as catechists, cantors and sacristans. This is our mission among men' (*Circ. 9*).

### Day 17

'Thus, we can be considered as true friends of the fathers and mothers, since we offer them the important service of educating their children. We can be considered friends of the children, since, besides instructing them in the human sciences, we lead them along the path of virtue, the only way to make them happy. The priest is superior to us by his knowledge, by his priestly character and by the sublime ministry he performs. But we are united to him, and we have the honour of being his collaborators in educating the youth with a teaching of a paternal character and founded on the doctrine of our holy religion, without which man walks through life hesitantly and soon falls into the abyss. The priest must find in us respectful and self-sacrificing friends. Such is the spirit of our Rule.' (*Circ. 9*)

### Day 18

'We are also to be considered friends of the various Countries where Providence calls us, since we instil in the youth the respect, compliance and loyalty that are due to them. We are, finally, friends of the whole society, because we form men who should honour it by their good conduct, and not dishonour, as unfortunately happens too often in our days with those who have not received good principles in their youth.' (*Circ. 9*)

### Day 19

'Dear children, the hope of your parents and of society; it is for you that we have devoted some of our time in composing the grammar we publish today. Receive it as a sign of the religious affection we have

for you; if, as we hope, it helps to teach you to speak and write correctly, never make ostentation or misuse of your knowledge; if this were to happen, it would be much better for you never to have studied at all. We place all our glory in the hope of seeing you advance in science and virtue.' (*French Grammar*)

### Day 20

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'Hurry, therefore, dear children, to practice your duties and to be docile to the teachings of your teachers and attentive to what they ask of you. In this way, by following our advice, you will be the comfort and honour of your parents; this is how you will respond to what your teachers, your benefactors, the civil authorities and the friends of religion expect of you, and thus forge a happy future for yourselves. May our advice and our wishes bring you heavenly blessings and make you good citizens for your country and saints for heaven!' (*French Grammar*).

### Day 21

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Dear friend. The details you give me in your letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> of this month have given me great pleasure. I am happy to see a young man whom I have always loved and appreciated prospering. I reproached you very much for your way of dealing with me when you concealed your situation from me. Did you think I could have hurt you? Did you think I would have been sorry to see you prosper? You would have been wrong and would have misjudged me.

You are an architect now, my dear Joseph, and assistant to the architect of this diocese; I hope to see you sometimes in Belley when you come to inspect the work of the cathedral, the bishop's palace, or the choir-house. And then I think you will give me the satisfaction of coming and staying in your old house. Be prudent and you will be happy: this is my wish for you always. Rest assured of that, my dear Joseph, and believe me that I remain your friend. (*Letter of Brother Gabriel to Mr. Louis-Joseph Bouvier*).

### Day 22

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My very dear friend. Please receive my congratulations as I have received yours, which has been so pleasant to me. May God be pleased with both of us, and all will be well, for we will be filled with his bliss in this life and in the next. My best wishes for your kind and worthy companion are the greatest and most sincere. May they contribute to your happiness. To do this, you must know how to bear some little miseries and be of one heart to love God and to love one another. It makes me happy, my dear friend, every time you tell me that you are prospering in your business and that your health is going well, as well as that of Mrs. Dumond.

I am so fond of you, my dearest friend, that whatever interests you, interests me too. you deserve it, in return for the affection you had for me and your old community. I see that you still love it, but you are well rewarded: all our Brothers love you, and those who help me in my administration make me the interpreter of their feelings towards you, as to the wishes they express for your happiness. It is possible that this depends on our still considering you as one of our own, although God has deprived us of you bodily. He has placed you in the world where you serve as an example by the Christian life you lead: you will thus gain the esteem and confidence of those who have the advantage of being in relationship with you; you will also have the blessings of God. Therefore, as you have remained affiliated with the Holy Family, take part every day in the prayers, communions and good works that are done there. You can count on it. (*Letter from Brother Gabriel to Mr. Claude Dumond*).

### Day 23

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'The memory of you, of your qualities lead me to write you this letter. I cannot think of you without being moved: it pleases me to think that you will excuse me when you know that it concerns a female child from your parish, a poor child who has had an illness for ten years.

I can no longer work, I learned how to write because of you, and today I am happy because it serves to show you that I have not forgotten you. I have not seen you since 1824, when you said to me on leaving us, 'Farewell, be good; It will be for your happiness.' Reverend Superior, your words have not abandoned me; they have sustained me in the course of my life, and I have not forgotten them; Thank God, I have endured this great and long illness'. (*Letter of Françoise Humbert to Brother Gabriel*).

### Day 24

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My dearest uncle. I announce to you that I was just appointed corporal. I recognise once again, my dearest uncle, that it is to you that I owe the attainment of this rank. I know that without you, I would have remained in complete ignorance all my life. So every day I think of you; all the good advice and instructions you have given me remind me that I owe you eternal gratitude. Very often I pray to God to preserve you, to make you succeed in all your activities, to grant you the necessary graces in your painful but sublime duties, to free you from all pain, to grant you many happy days, while we wait for Him to reward you in heaven. (*Letter of Celestine Gaude to Brother Gabriel*).

Animation of the Cause of Beatification. May 2024