



# Anniversary of Jean-Pierre Medaille's Birth

## VESPERS

# Opening Prayer



**Gracious God, giver of all good gifts, we come before you tonight, to remember and give thanks for the life of Jean-Pierre Medaille.**

**His birth, in the small town of Carcassonne, France, some 411 years ago, on this day, October 6<sup>th</sup> , reminds us that “the life and death of every person” makes a difference in our world.**

**May we be united in our prayers of thanksgiving as we celebrate this wise and saintly man of God. Help us to discover the ‘hidden treasures’ he came to teach us.**

**We make our prayer in Jesus’ name. AMEN.**

Pause and reflect ...



Come to VESPERS with your intentions!

What does your heart 'desire' -  
from Fr. Medaille tonight ?

# Carcassonne, France – his birthplace



# Antiphon #1



**Where could I go from your Spirit?  
Or how could I flee from your presence.  
Everywhere I go,  
Your hand will lead me  
and your Love will embrace me.**

**Jean-Pierre, holy is your birth...**



**Psalm 139:**

**O my Beloved, You have searched me and known me!**

**You know when I sit down and when I rise up;**

**You discern my innermost thoughts.**

**You find me on the journey and guide my steps;**

**You know my strengths and my weaknesses.**

# Jean-Pierre, holy is your birth...



Even before words rise up in prayer,  
Lo, You have already heard my heart call.  
You encompass me with love where'er I go,  
and your strength is my shield.  
Such sensitivity is too wonderful for me;  
it is high; boundless gratitude is my soul's response.

**Jean-Pierre, holy is your birth...**



**For You formed my inward being,  
You knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise You, for You are to be revered and adored.  
Your mysteries fill me with wonder!  
More than I know myself do You know me,  
My essence is not hidden from You.**



# Jean-Pierre, holy is your birth...



**When I was being formed in secret,  
intricately fashioned,  
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance;  
in your records were written  
the days that were numbered for me.  
How precious to me are your creations, O Blessed One!  
How vast is the sum of them!**

**Jean-Pierre, holy is your birth...**



**Who could count your innumerable gifts and blessings?**

**At all times, You are with me.**

# Antiphon #1



**Where could I go from your Spirit?  
Or how could I flee from your presence.  
Everywhere I go,  
Your hand will lead me  
and your Love will embrace me.**

# Commitment to following Christ



# Antiphon #2



**We are God's handiwork,  
created in Christ,  
to do good works.**

# Jean-Pierre, holy is your commitment



## **Psalm 119**

**Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,  
who live with spiritual integrity!**

**Blessed are those who honour the Inner Being,  
who follow You with their whole heart.**

**Who enfold the world with love,  
and walk on peaceful paths!**

# Jean-Pierre, holy is your commitment



**You have shown us the way of Truth,  
the way that leads to freedom.  
O that I might ever reflect the Light!  
Then I shall know inner peace, as  
I surrender myself into your Hands.  
I praise You with a grateful heart,  
as I lean on your great kindness.**

# **Jean-Pierre, holy is your commitment**



**I offer myself into your Hands,  
that I may live fully into your Life.  
Open my heart's eyes,  
that I may see the wondrous blessings of Creation.  
I am a sojourner on earth;  
yet I know myself as a spiritual being!  
My soul is consumed with an intense longing  
to be blessed and sustained by You, O Divine Lover!**



# Jean-Pierre, holy is your commitment



**Help me to know, O Teacher, the path to follow;  
Lead the way and I will come.**

**In your love is the power to calm the storms of adversity;  
show me the power of your forgiving Love.**

**O that I might learn to bless others selflessly,  
to be a silent benediction!**

**Incline my heart to Love Consciousness,  
and not to gain!**

## Antiphon #2



**We are God's handiwork,  
created in Christ,  
to do good works.**

# A life of self-emptying love ...



*Love Love  
and  
let LOVE  
love though you.*

# Antiphon #3



**Thanks be to God for  
His indescribable gifts!**

# Jean-Pierre, holy is your contemplation



## **Psalm 119**

I meditate on the words that I hear as You whisper in my heart,  
words that refresh and renew my soul.

This is my comfort when doubts arise, the secret Promise of Life.

Though others do not understand me,  
assurance and peace in You sustain me.

Let my self-made spirit decrease,  
that I may be rich in your Divine Spirit!

# Jean-Pierre, holy is your contemplation



**Let me carry the crosses that come to me,  
With your strength to bear me up.  
May I become hollow like a reed,  
So You may play your melody through me.  
For I long to be attuned  
to the great song of the Cosmos,  
to know the song of inner praise!**

# Jean-Pierre, holy is your contemplation



**Feel your heart expand in gratitude,  
and learn from the earth of humility.  
I will sing praises to You throughout the day  
and meditate on Love during the night.  
For You are Companion and Friend  
to all who reverence your ways.  
The earth is filled with Divine Love;  
O that I might know You in all things!**

# Jean-Pierre, holy is your contemplation



**O, how I love your friendship!**

**As we open our hearts to the spiritual life,  
we will be filled with wisdom and freedom,  
ready to serve.**

**O, how glorious are the ways of the Spirit!**

**How wondrous are your Works!**

**The path of love is sure,  
unhurried and filled with mystery.**



# Antiphon #3



**Thanks be to God for  
His indescribable gifts!**

# Jean-Pierre, “saint and apostle”



**In 2021 there are:**

**7,850 CSJ Sisters,**

**5,700 associates,**

**54 aggregates,**

**and**

**unknown number of Little Design  
communities**

**in 45 countries around the world.**

# Antiphon #4



**I know well the plans  
I have in mind for you;  
plans to give you  
a future full of hope.**

Jean-Pierre, “le grand missionnaire”



### **Psalm 67**

**The Beloved is gracious to us,  
a loving Presence within us;  
The Radiant One shines in us,  
O, that Love's Way would be lived  
throughout the earth,  
Love's abiding power embraced  
by all nations.**

Jean-Pierre, “le grand missionnaire”



**May the people ever rejoice in You  
singing songs of appreciation  
for all that You, O Beloved,  
freely give to us.**

**Let the nations listen and heed;  
We are all called to live  
with integrity and justice.**

Jean-Pierre, “le grand missionnaire”



**For You, O Blessed Counselor,  
will guide every nation on earth  
as the leaders and people  
open their hearts and respond.**

Jean-Pierre, “le grand missionnaire”



**Abandoning ourselves into the Heart of Love  
we need not worry or fret;  
for Love’s grace abides wherever we are.  
In Love let us make our home.**

# Antiphon #4



**I know well the plans  
I have in mind for you;  
plans to give you  
a future full of hope.**



## A Reading from the Writings of Father Medaille



**“So act, good Jesus, that, in all my relationships  
with whatever neighbour  
and in all I do for the furthering of your Father’s glory  
and the salvation of others,  
I form myself on your pattern;  
that I be a genuine reflection of your moderation, gentleness, humility,  
patience, graciousness, tireless zeal,  
in a word, of all your virtues; and,  
in order to engrave them in my soul, live eternally in me.”**

# Magnificat



- R. My soul proclaims your greatness, O my God and my spirit has rejoiced in you, my Savior.
- L. **For your regard has blessed me, poor and a serving woman.**
- R. From this day all generations will call me blessed.
- L. **For you who are mighty, have made me great, Most Holy be your Name.**
- R. Your mercy is on those who fear you throughout all generations.
- L. **You have shown strength with your arm. You have scattered the proud in their heart's fantasy.**
- R. You have put down the mighty from their seat, and have lifted up the powerless.
- L. **You have filled the hungry with good things and have sent the rich away empty.**
- R. You, remembering your mercy, have helped your people Israel.
- L. **As you promised Abraham and Sarah. Mercy to their children forever.**
- All: Glory be to the Father...

# Intercessions



Most gracious God,  
we place our trust in you.  
Now we pray...

**Response**

**All: May we all be one.**

# Sharing intentions and blessings



**SHARE**

**your spontaneous prayers, hopes  
for yourself and for humanity...**

**RESPONSE: “May we all be one.”**

Pause and reflect...



**It's time to give the 'gifts' of our lives  
in celebration of our  
"spiritual father"...**

**In thanksgiving for the spirituality he has imparted to us...**

**What gift do you bring...? (e.g. I love and live this particular Maxim...)**

Sharing hearts ... in visiting rooms



**What GIFT do you bring to  
celebrate Jean-Pierre Medaille's life?**

# 'THE GIFT' OF OUR LIVES IN THE FAMILY OF MEDAILLE



# Closing Prayer



**Loving God of the universe, you pour forth your goodness and kindness upon all of us gathered here tonight. You set your seal upon our hearts and we commit to remaining faithful and constant in all our undertakings.**

**Through the loving intercession of Jean-Pierre Medaille, our spiritual father and guide on the journey, we embrace the newness of EACH DAY with ready hearts and keen minds, open to whatever the Spirit desires for us.**

**We make our prayer in Jesus' name. AMEN.**



# Credits



PSALMS from the book:

**PSALMS FOR PRAYING: AN INVITATION TO WHOLENESS**

by Nan C. Merrill

READING from the book:

**WRITINGS OF FATHER MEDAILLE, S.J. 1610 -1669**

(Toronto edition)

Produced by Rosemary O'Toole, CSJ, Ottawa, ON

**THE UPPER ROOM HOME OF PRAYER**



*Beloved,*

I pray that you  
may prosper  
in all things  
and be in health,  
just as  
your soul prospers.

III John 1 : 2