

INSTITUTE HISTORY WORKSHEET

TOPIC: Birth to Adulthood: Julie's Family of Origin

Places:

- Cuvilly: town Julie is born in
- Picardy: region of France Cuvilly is in
- Amiens: larger town to the north
- Beauvais: larger town, seat of bishop, at least 2 journeys there
- Abbeville: larger town
- St-Éloi: parish church of Cuvilly
- Maignelay-Montigny: mother's hometown; 9.3 miles west of Cuvilly
- rue Lataule: street Billiarts' lived on in Cuvilly (today it is rue Julie Billiart)
- Cistercian Monastery at Montreuil-sous-Laon: held a copy of Holy Face of Rome; mother arranges pilgrimage and both Madeleine & Julie receive healing of eye problems; around 50 miles east of Cuvilly
- Gournay-sur-Aronde: home of Madame de Pont- l'Abbé, hiding place of Julie
- Compiègne: town where Julie is hidden, has vision of founding

People & Relationships between them:

Family:

- Jean-François Billiart: father, died in 1792
- Marie-Louise-Antoinette de Braine: mother, died in 1795
- Louise-Antoinette Billiart: 1st child & 1st daughter, 1739-1741 died at 2 (Julie never knew her)
- Marie-Louise Angélique Billiart: 2nd daughter 1742-1764 (Julie is 13 when she dies)
- Marie-Rose Billiart: 3rd daughter, 1743-1750 (Julie never knew her)
- **Marie-Madeleine-Henriette Billiart: 4th daughter 1744-1819; married name: Léon Dégouy, had 4 daughters including Félicité**
- Bonaventure Billiart: 1st son, 5th child, 1747-1750 (Julie never knew him)
- Jean-Baptiste Billiart: 2nd son, 6th child, 1749-1765 (Julie is 14 when he dies)
- Baby Billiart: 7th child, 1750
- **Marie-Rose-Julie Billiart: 5th daughter, 8th child, 1751-1816**
- **Louis-François Billiart: 3rd son, 9th child, 1754-1832; crippled, brother Julie was closest to, Norbert's father**
- Marie-Madeleine Demonchy: maternal aunt, godmother
- Pierre Courtois: distant cousin, godfather
- Thibault Guilbert: Cuvilly schoolmaster, uncle
- **Félicité Dégouy Thérasse: cares for Julie until 1803 when she marries the teacher of Saint-Ouen whom she met while staying at Bettencourt. She has a daughter and two sons**

Church:

- Père Pottier: pastor at St-Éloi when Julie is born
- Abbé Dangicourt: nephew of Père Pottier, arrives 1759, pastor most of Julie's years in Cuvilly
- Etienne-Réné Potier de Gesvres: Cardinal Bishop of Beauvais who confirmed Julie
- Bishop de la Rochefoucauld: Bishop of Beauvais who interviewed Julie
- Père Sellier -testimony, Father of the Faith
- Abbé de LaMarche - non-juring priest in Compiègne; testimony
- Carmelites of Compiègne – friends of Julie, taught her fancy embroidery and lace-making;

Aristocracy:

- Madame de Séchelles: sees Julie as saint; has Julie oversee her almsgiving
- Madame Baudoin: brings 3 daughters & father to see Julie, invites Julie to join her in Amiens
- Count d'Arlincourt: father of Madame Baudoin, bequeathed 600 francs a year to Julie
- Madame de Pont- l'Abbé: built door in Julie's room, takes Julie to Gournay to hide her

Others:

- Chambon Sisters - 1st to give Julie refuge in Compiègne
- Camus & Revolutionary – Camus is the son-in-law of revolutionary who managed of Gournay-sur-Aronde, both keep Julie's presence a secret; arranged haycart ride

Dates & Events:

July 12, 1751 born & baptized same day

1758: catechism memorized by 7

1760: 1st Communion at 9 in secret

1762: begins receiving Communion in public; begins visiting the sick at 11

1764: Confirmation – receiving relic of true cross

1765: vow to live for God alone/vow of chastity

Work in fields (as a child on the Billiard plot of land) and to support family 1768-1774

1774: beginning of illness

1782: fever in Cuvilly, doctors' treatments leave Julie paralyzed

1791: taken to Gournay

1792: haycart ride to Compiègne

10/1/1794 – last visit to mother on her way to Amiens

Impact of War/Political Unrest:

France helping American Revolution leads to their own

Increasing violence as economy worsens—even in little Cuvilly,

Having to leave her home

Threat of death, psychological effects of having her friends killed

Relationship with Hierarchy & Clergy:

Very positive growing up

Julie is almost a pastoral associate in Cuvilly – incredibly collaborative

Secure enough in herself and her sense of God to be interviewed by the bishop

Experience of the people as church: even revolutionaries risked their lives for her

Absolute resistance to schismatic priests

Primitive Spirit:

Union of action & contemplation even as a young person

Teaching

Educate for life (story of Beggar Boy)

Spirituality underpinning everything:

Mother teaches her to pray

Mme. Berthelot (grand-niece: devotion to Sacred Heart was a family devotion)

Absolute dependence on God WHO IS SO GOOD,

Prayer before Blessed Sacrament

Devotion to Our Lady

Night prayers as a community at St-Éloi

Julie and the Cross – Good Friday was her day as a member of the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart to pray before the Blessed Sacrament

What touched your heart?

The amount of loss she experienced in her life

Story of the beggar boy – educate for life, dignity of each person as a beloved child of God

Woman of Courage p. 8-9; Memoirs p. 216; 1909 biography: p. 7

Her ability to build deep relationships with people of all ages, social/economic classes

New insights?

Her willingness to build those relationships in spite of the loss she experienced

The sheer wideness of her outreach to the people of Cuvilly before she was paralyzed and how it continued during her illness

Her ability to deal with pain: jaw ache, eye problem, attacks of neuralgia (intense, typically intermittent pain along the course of a nerve, especially in the head or face, can result from tooth decay, poor diet, eye strain, nose infections, or exposure to damp and cold)

17 when she is making journey to Beauvais, working in field

Julie was not poor in her younger years

40 when she leaves Cuvilly for Gournay

Witness of her charism throughout her life – do we share the story of her early years enough?