

OEUVRES PONTIFICALES MISSIONNAIRES  
de la Propagation de la Foi et de St Pierre-Apôtre

Conseil Central de Lyon

Lyon, le 1er août 1991

COPY

Son Excellence  
Monseigneur Urbain Joseph KIOKIO  
Bishop's Residence  
MACHOKOS, KENYA

Monseigneur,

En tant que biographe de la Vénérable Pauline Marie Jaricot, Fondatrice du Rosaire Vivant, j'ai encouragé Patti Melvin dans son beau travail. Le Rosaire Vivant, dont elle est actuellement l'animatrice, est une oeuvre bénie de Dieu. Elle compte plus de 60,000 associés dans 40 pays du monde et 8,670 au Kenya.

J'espère que vous pourrez, Monseigneur, la soutenir dans votre diocèse et je m'en réjouis beaucoup d'avance.

Je vous écris de la ville de Lyon où je prie Pauline Jaricot d'obtenir de Dieu toutes les bénédictions que je souhaite dans votre tâche pastorale et je vous présente mes respects in Christo.



*G. Naidenoff*

Georges Naidenoff, S.J.

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This is the English translation of the above text.

Monsignor,

As Biographer of Venerable Pauline-Marie Jaricot, Foundress of the Living Rosary, I have encouraged Patti Melvin in her beautiful work. The Living Rosary, of which she is actually the animator, is a work blessed by God. She counts more than 60,000 associates in 40 countries of the world, with 8,670 in Kenya.

I hope, Monsignor, that you will support this in your diocese, and I am much delighted over this in advance.

I write to you from Lyons, where I pray that Pauline Jaricot will obtain from God all the blessings that I wish for your pastoral task, and I send my respects in Christ.

Georges Naidenoff, S.J.

FR. GEORGES NAIDENOFF  
(1910-1998)

Pere Naidenoff spoke little of his difficult childhood. He was born in Odessa in 1910, to a Russian Father and a French mother. In 1912, he visited his mother's family in France, and in 1919 he went to France with his mother to live there permanently. Georges and his mother lived for a time in a refuge camp near Voreppe. Then, they moved to the Parisian area.

In Secondary School, the priest encouraged Georges to attend a Catholic private school in Lisieux. It was here, at the age of 12, convalescing from an appendectomy that someone put into his hand the book, "Story of a Soul" by St. Therese of Lisieux. This was at a time that she was not yet beatified. The book revealed the depth and scope of God's love for him. Georges liked to speak of this experience as his 'conversion'.

At the end of the Petit Seminary, his spiritual director suggested a novitiate in the Order of the Jesuits, he entered in 1931. During the 40 years which followed, the name of Pere Naidenoff would be associated with the magazine MISSI. (Magazine d'Information Spirituelle et de Solidarite Internationale).

This Magazine showed the Christian view of the world. Many issues were focused on a specific country; one finds precise information on the history, geography, economy, and the culture of the country, and of course on the place and role of the Church in that specific country. The photographs, as well as the articles give an impression of the country and its peoples which brought forth their most positive aspects for the reader. In order to achieve this, Pere Naidenoff looked for the best sources for his information and endeavored to communicate with local writers so that he could follow the current events of the country.

Pere Naidenoff had the soul and the competence of a professional journalist. One admired the quality of his writing and editing, the choice of photographs and the skillful way they were laid out on the page. Pere Naidenoff did not turn down the chance to see places for himself. Two voyages are noteworthy: the first to Vietnam (under Bao-Dai), the second to Bulgaria (while still under the Iron Curtain).

His work as a journalist and as director of the magazine left him little time for other things. One sees, however, that, until 1970, he assumed the role of the Director of "Ad Lucem" a charitable society for the laity who wished to devote their lives to the missions. Father was not a "satellite" distant from his community; he was near them, and when they asked things of him his reply was always without hesitation, "YES"! When Fr. Madelin, Provincial of France, envisioned putting a book together commemorating the Ignatian anniversaries, which would be attractive, well illustrated and easy to read, he turned to the journalistic talent of Pere Naidenoff. The realization of this project took much time and work, and the first issues of "Jesuites" came out by the end of 1983. In his announcement of the book to the Press, he said simply that the request by the Order to do the work pleased him very much.

In 1986, Father stepped down as Director and Editor-in-Chief of the MISSI. The last issue of the MISSI was in 1991. But the team of collaborators kept the title and the spirit of the original magazine and, in 1992, with more modest means, "Missi Synthese" came out. Even when no longer with the MISSI, Pere Naidenoff would remain a writer almost to the end of his life. In 1986, the very year the Living Rosary was revived in Dickinson, Texas, Father published 'The Life of Pauline Jaricot' with a preface by the Cardinal DeCourtray. At the same time he diligently began work on an exhaustive biography of Pauline Jaricot. All the archives were placed at his disposal. Until illness interrupted his work in 1995, more than 500 pages of the manuscript had already been typed. He then went to Chauderaie. Father suffered a stroke and was paralyzed in the limbs of his right side. His speech was affected as well. He never again was able to hold a pen or pencil, to continue his work. This never affected his morale or his sweet manner. Even though loyal friends often visited him, he was left alone for long periods, yet he suffered patiently and never complained.

When at his communal meals, he would communicate in a loud voice without the ability of inflection, but with a jovial tone, he happily called out to others with a jest, or a dialogue punctuated with "Ah, ah", accompanied by a mischievous smile. The manner in which he expressed himself revealed a lucid mind at peace with the diminished state in which he found himself. It was in this way he was found ready when the Lord called him to Himself.

"Well done, good and faithful servant of God!"