

Joseph Michel c.s.sp.

Claude-François Poullart des Places

Founder of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit

1679-1709

(Translated from the original French by Vincent O'Toole c.s.sp.)

Contents

FORWARD.....	4
THE AUTHOR.....	7
THE FIRST YEARS.....	8
THE FRIENDSHIP OF A SAINT AND THE LOVE OF POVERTY	12
SUCCESSFUL STUDIES	17
A SUMMER WHICH FINISHED BADLY	22
THE AFFAIR OF THE BARRISTER’S GOWN.....	28
A SENTMENTAL CHARACTER	31
“COME AND FOLLOW ME”.....	35
THE INFLUENCE OF MICHEL LE NOBLETZ.....	39
CLAUDE’S LIFE OF PRAYER.....	41
THE COURAGE OF A YOUNG SEMINARIAN	48
THE SAD STATE OF THE “POOR SCHOLARS” -	51
THE FOUNDATION OF THE SEMINARY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	58
UNDER THE SIGN OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	66
THE HOUR OF TEMPTATION	73
RUE NEUVE-SAINT-ETIENNE	80
A RESPONSE TO THE COUNCIL OF TRENT.....	85
A HOUSE OF CHARITY, CRADLE OF A GREAT CONGREGATION	95

THE PLANS OF SAINT JEAN-BAPTISTE DE LA SALLE.....	103
“THERE IS NO GREATER LOVE...”	107
TOWARDS A GREAT MISSIONARY CONGREGATION.....	116
THE SPIRITANS AND THE DE MONTFORT FATHERS.....	125
THE SPIRITANS AND THE DAUGHTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.....	136
AN APOSTOLIC SPIRITUALITY	141
A LASTING IMPRINT.....	145
PRINCIPLE SOURCES.....	155
THE WRITINGS OF POUILLART DES PLACES AND BIOGRAPHIES	
CHRONOLOGY	157

Translator’s note

Fifty years have now passed since Fr. Joseph Michel published his life of Claude François Poullart des Places but so far, it has never been translated into English. This means that most anglophones have been deprived of immediate access to the fruits of the immense amount of research undertaken by Joseph Michel in archives large and small throughout France and further afield. This translation is an attempt to fill that gap.

In 1959, Fr Henry Koren, CSSp published the invaluable resource: “The Spiritual Writings of Father Claude Francis Poullart des Places” (Duquesne University Press). In this, the French and English texts of the writings of Claude Poullart are presented on opposite pages for easy comparison. In the present book, Koren’s English translation has been faithfully followed, with the use of a more modern turn of phrase where this seemed to be appropriate.

Vincent O’Toole c.s.sp.