



# Antoinette Fage and Etienne Pernet

Founders of the Little Sisters of the Assumption

*Presented via*

- *A portrait*
- *An objet*
- *Writings they loved*
- *A place*
- *Their writings*
- *A manuscript*

# A portrait

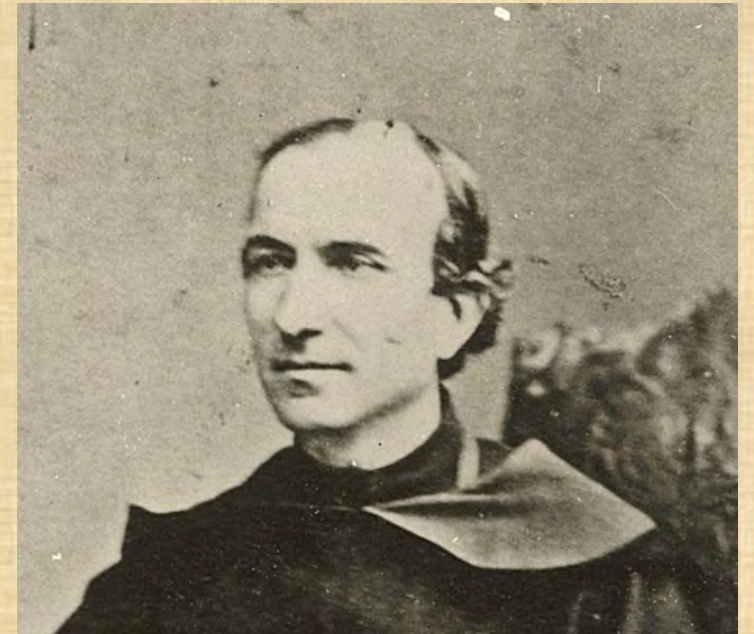
Antoinette



These two portraits date from roughly the same period: 1865, at the time of the Congregation's founding.

Antoinette wears the small bonnet that would later become the one worn by postulants in the Congregation. Both are around 40 years old.

Etienne



# An object

Antoinette



Medallion containing a list of  
the first LSAs

Etienne



Painting by Father d'Alzon which was  
in Etienne's room on rue François I<sup>er</sup>



# Favorite text or quote

We lack information about the writings that the founders loved. We must therefore make assumptions about quotes or excerpts that may have touched them or shaped their personality or spirituality.

## Antoinette

Letter of Etienne P. to Antoinette on January 22, 1866:

"I open myself to you, my daughter, you must see it, you are doing the same on your side; **this is a guarantee of a good and lasting understanding. I am convinced that it will**

## Etienne

Letter from Father d'Alzon to Father Pernet, September 11, 1849

"I can assure you, my dear friend, that you are the most mistaken in the world to believe yourself a stranger among us [...], and I assure you, I see you as a son whom I love with all my heart."

# Un lieu

## Antoinette

Grenelle, Motherhouse of the Congregation



## Etienne

Vellexon, native village





# A text

## Antoinette

Letter to Mrs. Tubino, a young sick woman cared for by Mother Mary of Jesus, February 1869

"I am therefore happy, yes, very happy at this moment to place at your disposal **this immense need that He has deigned to arouse in my heart to sympathize with all the and all the ills and to strive by all means to alleviate them.** Thus, dear child, if, near you, I have the happiness of being able to do something, you acquire a right to my

## Etienne

Instruction of July 19, 1894

**"Your predilection must be for the poor and not only must you respect them but love them with a love (...) which will have no limits because of their dignity which they derive from the fact that Our Lord wanted to be one of them and the first."**

# A manuscript

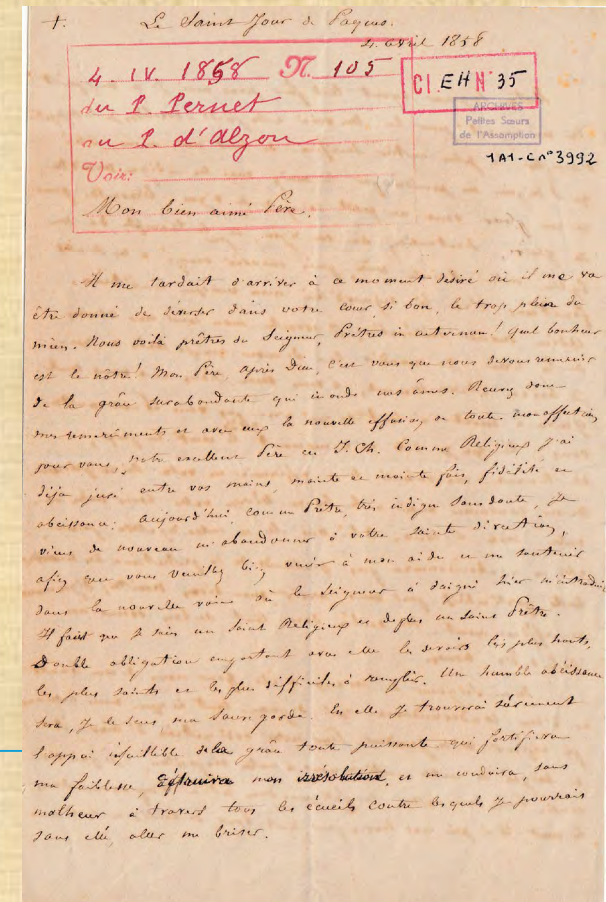
## Antoinette



Letter from  
Etienne Pernet to  
Father d'Alzon  
the day after his  
priestly  
ordination (April  
4th, 1858)

Letter from  
Antoinette Fage  
to Etienne Pernet  
(January 22,  
1866)  
(voir page suivante pour un  
extrait de ces lettres)

## Etienne

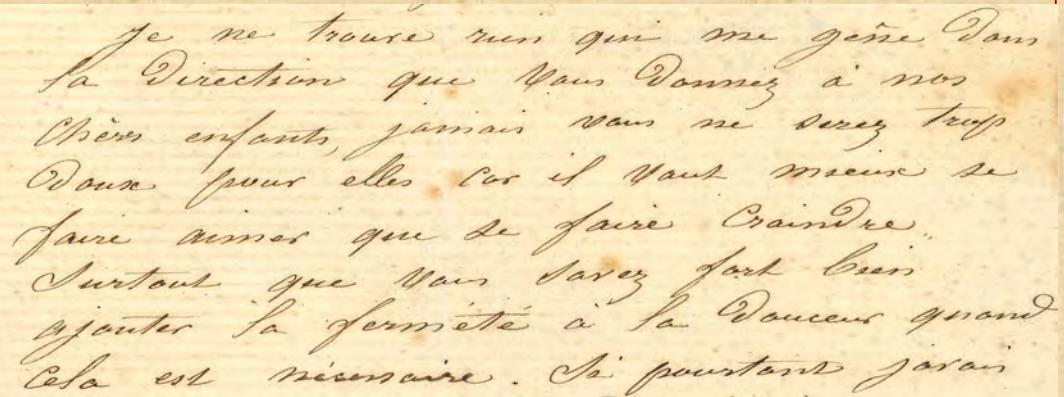




# A manuscript

(Extracts from the manuscripts proposed on the previous page)

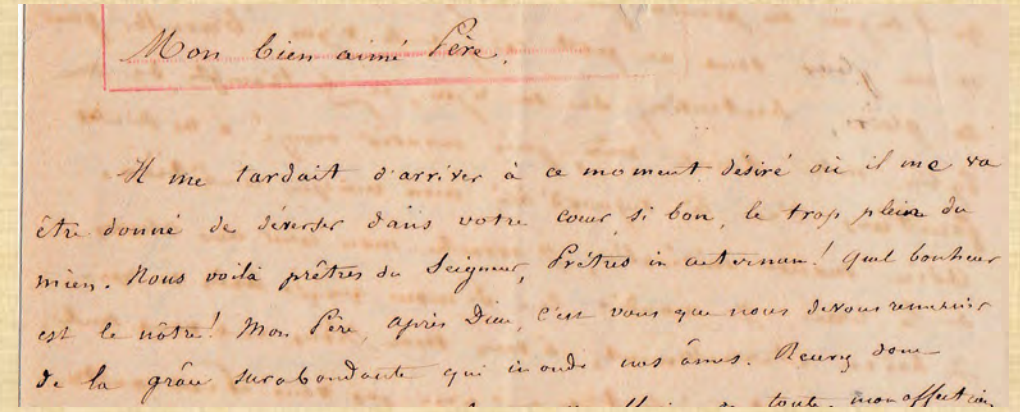
## Antoinette



Je ne trouve rien qui me gêne Dans  
la Direction que Vous Donnez à nos  
Chers enfants, jamais vous ne serez trop  
Doux pour elles car il vaut mieux se  
faire aimer que se faire Craindre.  
Surtout que Vous sachiez fort bien  
ajouter la fermeté à la Douceur quand  
Cela est nécessaire. Si pourtant j'avais

"I find nothing that bothers me in  
the direction you are giving to  
our dear children. You will never  
be too gentle with them because it  
is better to be loved than to be  
feared."

## Etienne



Mon bien aimé Père,  
Il me tardait d'arriver à ce moment désiré où il me va  
être donné de s'insérer dans votre cœur si bon, le trop plein de  
mien. Nous voilà prêtres du Seigneur, Prêtres in æternum! Quel bonheur  
est le nôtre! Mon Père, après Dieu, c'est vous qui nous devez remuer  
de la grâce surabondante qui inonde nos âmes. Reuey donc  
à tout. Avec toute mon affection.

"My beloved Father, I have been longing  
for this moment when I will be able to  
pour into your heart the overflow of  
mine. **Here we are, priests of the Lord,**  
Priests in aeternum! **What happiness is**  
**ours!"**