

MOTHER FOUNDRESS

ST. CLAUDINE THEVENET

Claudine Thevenet was a woman called by GOD to lay the foundation for the Congregation of the Religious of Jesus & Mary in 1818 in France. Her work was born in a heart crushed by the pain of personal tragedy. During the French Revolution, two of her brothers were shot to death before her eyes in 1794.

For nineteen year old Claudine, the tragedy metamorphosed to a decisive turning point

in her life. God works in wondrous ways to realize His plans. Led by the spirit of God, Claudine opened her door first to welcome orphans. Later, her response to God's call took shape in a total commitment of herself. As a result, a religious family was born. A few of her companions in the course took an arduous journey from France and made their way to India in 1842 to undertake the education of girls. Claudine's ideal was to make 'God known and loved' by means of Christian education in all social milieu. This ideal remains the aim of the congregation whose preference, inherited from the Foundress, is for the young, and among these, for the poor. Her last words were-
“ How good God is!”



HER CONCERNS FOR GIRL CHILD

- They should become women capable of being good wives and mothers and creating happy homes.
- Women, whose very presence anywhere would exude goodness and touch other lives.
- Women capable of earning a living by their honest work.
- To be living witnesses in their own lives....of values they teach.
- To have foresight and thoroughness in preparing and carrying out their duties.
- To have great simplicity in doing things to please God.
- To be clean and orderly in their work and in their personal appearance, but without pretense.