Dates & Events:

- **1807**: 1st meeting with Bishop Pisani in Namur
- **1807**: February 21st – the 2nd secondary house of Notre Dame opens at Montdidier
- **1807**: March 10 – Napoleon signs final approbation
- **1807**: June – De Sambucy gets Bishop Demandolx to over-ride Julie’s wishes and name Françoise as superior of Namur; gets Françoise to sign over power of attorney before she leaves
- **1807**: June 30 – Françoise departs Amiens for Namur where she is to be Superior – arrived in Namur July 7 (Julie goes with her)
- **1807**: July 1 – Bishop Demandolx appoints de Sambucy ecclesiastical superior of SND (he is still confessor)
- **1807**: July 23 – Père LeBlanc shows up at Namur and tells Julie and Françoise what has happened.
- **1807**: July – before Julie departs Namur for Bordeaux, Françoise experiences in prayer that Julie will return to Namur and die there
- **1807**: August 5 – Julie arrives at Bordeaux after “5 days walking and 3 nights in a carriage”.
- **1807**: Fall – de Sambucy writes letters to bishops maligning Julie’s reputation
- **1807**: September 8 – Bishop of Bordeaux gives SND habit to 18 sisters
- **1807**: November 1 – Fathers of the Faith are suppressed
- **1807**: November 12 – Julie departs Bordeaux for Amiens after receiving letter from Bishop of Amiens to return as soon as possible
- **1807**: November – Julie breaks journey at Poitiers and joins Sophie Barat’s sisters in retreat with Père LeBlanc, but intuition tells her to continue journey
- **1807**: November – Superior of Sisters of Charity of Paris gives Julie a letter telling her that she is not allowed to return to Amiens
- **1807**: November – Sees Père Varin and has horrible visit (de Sambucy is in Paris at the time)
- **1807**: December 3 – Julie enters Fauborg-Noyon by back stairs & collapses sick, exhausted & confused without letting Sisters know she is back

1807 Journeys – map on next page

1. Bordeaux
2. Poitiers - Sophie Barat
3. Paris - Père Varin
4. Amiens
5. Namur

Namur to Bordeaux: 580 m.
Bordeaux to Poitiers: 157 m.
Poitiers to Paris: 212 m.
Paris to Amiens: 90-100 m.
- **1807: December** – Bishop Demandolx appoints Père Cottu ecclesiastical superior, Père de Sambucy continues as confessor
- **Early 1808:** Bishop Demandolx names Julie superior at Amiens
• **1808: March 23** – foundation at Jumet made – Julie is not allowed to go, NOTHING is ready

• **1808: April** – Bishop Demandolx sends Julie to Jumet; she goes from there to Namur

• **1808: late April** – decided Françoise must return to Amiens with Julie to take back power of attorney from de Sambucy after they discover he secretly sold some of her land

• **1808: May 5** – Julie and Françoise arrive back at Amiens

• **Summer, 1808:** Julie asks Françoise to write to Père Minsart to ask him to find a bigger house

• **1808: August 1** – Julie departs for Bordeaux where she is hoping to get some resolution on rule; only gets as far as Paris where Père Varin tells her to return to Amiens & have de Sambucy write the rule

• **1808: August** – Julie asks de Sambucy to draw up rule – there’s “a good deal of talk, little communication”

• **1808: August** – Françoise warns community a “storm is brewing”

• **1808: October** – Julie gets permission from Père Cottu for a much needed trip to Flanders; moves the Sisters into a different house at Sint-Niklaas; arranges to rent larger house in Namur

• **1808** – typhoid epidemic breaks out in Amiens in Julie’s absence, Julie “cures” all but 4 sisters

• **1808:** Julie tries to delay conversation with Père Cottu about rule, he is very upset

• **1808: December** – Julie writes letters to Bishop Pisani & superiors of secondary houses to tell them about situation at Amiens (Letters 89, 91 & 92)

• **1808: Christmas week** – Père Cottu gives community retreat

• **1808: late December** – Père Cottu presents Julie & Françoise with THE rule

• **1809: January** – Père Minsart answers on behalf of the Bishop of Namur that the whole community is welcome in Namur

• **1809: January 5** – Julie begins novena to Child Jesus with 6 of the older Sisters

• **1809: January 10** – Julie is at peace with what will happen

• **1809: January 12** – Père Cottu says they have to come to agreement about settling Françoise’s income on Amiens (she’d rather give her money to the seminary); de Sambucy does not agree with the demand

• **1809: January 12** – letter of Bishop Demandolx taking back convent & telling Julie she is free to leave his diocese (code for get out!)

• **1809: January 15** – Julie and 1st carriage leave Amiens for Namur. Françoise is summoned to M. Cottu’s house so de Sambucy can terrorize Sisters left in Amiens and villainize Julie (Memoirs, pages 86-92)

• **1809: March 1** – Françoise leaves Amiens after 7 weeks of attacks as she emptied house

**Places:**

• Amiens: becomes hotbed of trouble

• Sint-Niklaas: house is making Sisters sick, Julie moves them to 2nd house in 1808

• Montdidier: 2nd secondary house – opened February 21, 1807, Abbé de LaMarche is pastor

• Namur: 3rd secondary house – opened in July 1807

• Namur: Mansion of Counts Quarré – rented and moved into on Dec. 6, 1808 (becomes motherhouse)

• Bordeaux: Julie makes 1st trip late July to November 12, 1807

• Jumet: began in March, 1808 without Julie & nothing is ready

• Rubempré: foundation made in October, 1808

• Ambleville – very brief existence as secondary house

Map on Next Page
People & Relationships between them: There are mini-biographies of many of these people at the back of the Memoirs of Mother St. Joseph.

- **Napoleon**: considering making 2 big religious orders in 1807
- **de Sambucy**: begins taking more control/exerting more authority in Julie’s absence in late 1806/early 1807
- **Sophie Barat**: cold to Julie when she stops to see Sophie in 1807
- **Père LeBlanc**: arrives in Namur July 23, 1807 and tells Julie and Françoise what de Sambucy has done and that house is no longer theirs
- **Madame Leclercq**: friend Julie stays with in Paris in 1807 after leaving Bordeaux, on way to Amiens; writes to Père Duminy in Amiens to get him to intercede for Julie with Bishop
• Abbé de La Marche: is not home when Julie gets back to Amiens
• Madame de Rumigny: friend, houses Julie for 2 days
• Bishop Demandolx: goes from refusing her entrance to his diocese to naming her superior of house
• Fathers of the Faith/Jesuits: suppressed November 1, 1807
• Sœur Anastasie Leleu: Mistress of Novices at Amiens, Julie wants her to be superior at Amiens when Julie and Françoise leave for Namur in 1807; is 1st superior at Jumet
• Sœur St-John Garson: superior at Sint-Niklaas, Julie and Françoise bring her back from Sint-Niklaas in 1808; Julie takes her home where she dies January 27, 1809
• Sœur Firmine Queste: sent to Jumet in Fall of 1808
• Sœur Victoire (Thérèse Boutrainghan): made superior at Amiens by de Sambucy after Julie leaves; infirmarian during 1808 typhoid epidemic; January 30, 1809 writes to Julie that she will stay in Amiens
• Mother Vincent: leader of community in Bordeaux
• Elizabeth Leroy: Sœur Anne, entered at Namur July 29, 1807 and started lacemaking school, very quickly struck with TB, dies February 18, 1808
• Père Varin: dealing with suppression of his own community
• Père Duminy: rector at Cathedral in Amiens; friend of Julie
• Père Minsart: appointed spiritual director of Namur community
• Sœur Catherine Daullée: superior at Montdidier, sent to replace Sœur St-Jean at Sint-Niklaas
• Sœur Marie-Caroline Cardon: replaces Catherine as superior at Montdidier
• M. Van Schouwenberghe: Bishop de Broglie's secretary & Julie's constant supporter
• Bishop Maurice-Jean de Broglie: replaces Bishop Beaumont at Ghent, was in seminary with de Sambucy but listens to Sœur St-Jean over him in regards to Julie; quote about Julie’s vocation is to go all over the world
• M. Fournier: Vicar General in Amiens, horrible in 1809, tries to pressure Françoise and other Sisters into staying
• Sœur Xavier: sent to Namur with Françoise to head boarding school
• Sœur Eulalie: sent to Namur to replace Sœur Xavier when she becomes so ill
• Sœur Louise: Bishop Demandolx’s spy in the Amiens house
• Sœur Gertrude: Ciska Steenhaut who is absolutely put through the ringer when she wants to go with Julie to Namur

Impact of War/Political Unrest:
• The uncertainty about what Napoleon was going to do is a huge part of the reason Julie and Françoise do not want to finalize the rule
• The lack of stability for the Fathers of the Faith is directly due to civil politics: how might Père Varin have dealt with Julie differently during this time if his own community were not in jeopardy? His own men in danger?
• On the plus side: part of what makes the expansion possible is that Napoleon controls all the areas that invite Julie to make foundations
• The church politics at Amiens eventually leads to losing Sisters & schools in Bordeaux

Relationship with Hierarchy & Clergy:
• It is definitely a time of darkness, but in spite that there are those who never waver in their support of Julie: Père Le Blanc, Abbé de LaMarche, M. Van Schouwenberghe, Père Minsart are examples.
In Amiens – the Bishop is like a toddler going through rapprochement: push-me/pull-me. Julie must have felt like a yo-yo.

In Namur – Bishop Pisani is wise: he supports, but he makes sure he has all the information. He interviews Julie when she arrives in January 1809. Then he interviews each Sister after they arrive. He doesn’t know Julie as well as he does Françoise. He wants to make sure everything de Sambucy has written is false. Once he is satisfied – he is a friend for life! (Although he is resistant at first to Julie moving the community out of the house he owns to a bigger house.)

After Julie’s death said she would be canonized because she never lost her charity during the trials at Amiens – Clare, page 175

“I asked for three of them...and here I find myself with 30 on my hands. I rejoice at it, and I bear them all in my heart, for they will transform my good town of Namur. They have the hearts of Apostles and a courage which does not know what difficulty means.” Clare, pages 235-7

Writes 8 page letter to du Sambucy refuting charges against Julie & sends explicitly order to Francoise telling her to return to Namur Clare, pages 245-6

A big part of why Julie and Françoise do not act more quickly is there is no protection for them under canon law; Julie doesn’t have power of attorney: de Sambucy does

**Primitive Spirit:**

- It is what Julie and Françoise are fighting to preserve:
  - A mother general for unity (we are to be ONE)
  - No choir or lay sisters
  - A common pot out of which all houses will be supported
  - Apostolic mobility – freedom to go where they are called
  - 3 vows are set by 1807 (Sœur Clothilde’s vow formula)

- Simplicity, obedience, charity are already 3 clear virtues

- Another reason Julie and Françoise do not want to finalize the rule is that the expansion is happening so quickly. They want to make sure what is written fits the lived reality of the Sisters

- Letter writing! (Between Julie and superiors as well as with Françoise. It is another tool to build unity)

**Spirituality underpinning everything:**

- Humility – for Julie to have to return to her own house by the back door; having to co-exist with Victoire as superior

- God’s goodness in suffering as well as when things are going right: deep union with God – “Let us go on from day to day, my dear good daughters, leaving the next day in the hands of the good God.” (Letter 86)

- Trust: “I am like a blind woman”

- “Now we have set out on this road, let us walk with courage; let us take our way through brambles and thorns. Let us remember that our good Master, our Jesus, leads us - our good Jesus, our loving Saviour.” (Letter 57)

- We are founded on the cross

- Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament

- Novena to the Infant Jesus

**What touched your heart?**

- What they were willing to go through because that’s what faithfulness required

- Françoise’s charity towards those who villainize Julie (de Sambucy in particular)
• Française’s commitment to Julie, even though it causes some harm to her relationship with Madame Franssu
• The solace both found prayer

**New insights?**

• Notre Dame’s beginnings were a huge experiment. In many ways it was like gold being refined in the furnace (not just Julie, but the congregation)
• Bishop Demandolx was not always against her – the “push-me/pull-me” stuff
• De Sambucy saw himself as founder of the SND from the beginning of his interactions with the community; his cunning ways of trying to pull off HIS vision for Notre Dame
• Namur was only open for 9 months when Française had to return to Amiens – and then it survived for 10 months without her! Such a tenacious hold on life but the roots were there for it to survive.
• Gratitude for Française’s gifts AND her income
• Great appreciation of Française’s frankness
• Françoise, in her own right, was just as much a visionary as Julie