

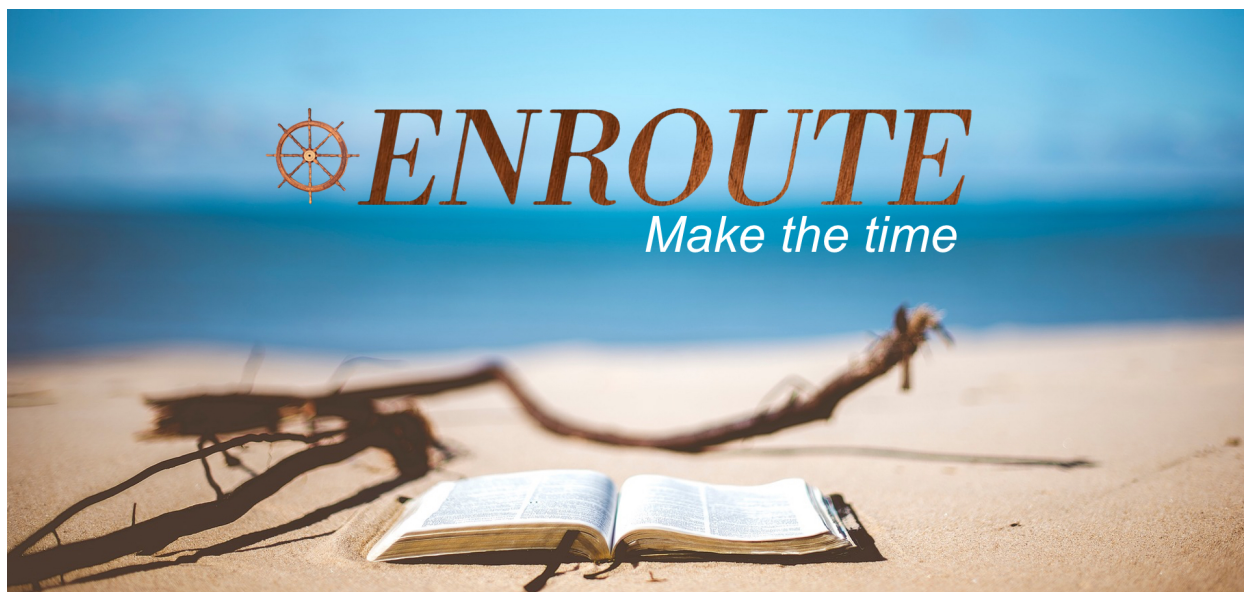


**ME<sup>4</sup>**

**“ME”:**

**ME**mories of **ME**aning **ME**nard

**also known as  
Vignettes with  
Reverend Father  
Eusébe H. M. Ménard, OFM**



## ME<sup>4</sup> Presentation



**ME<sup>4</sup> presents vignettes about Reverend Father Eusébe-Henri Ménard, OFM, highlighting his role in the Missionaries of the Holy Apostles (MSA). It explores his leadership, humility, teachings, and the spiritual wisdom he imparted, particularly regarding community life, perseverance, and love. It also touches on historical connections with the Franciscans, reflections on artificial intelligence, and the symbolic meaning of “Menard’s Mules” in handling challenges with patience and endurance.**

**(ME<sup>4</sup> Presentation, En Route Books and Media, 2025.03.08.)**



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**Reverend Father  
Eusèbe-Henri Marie Ménard  
and  
*Menard's Mules***

— — —

In the beginning, the title of these vignettes recalls Pope Francis in his Encyclical *Dilexit Nos*: “in this age of artificial intelligence, we cannot forget that poetry and love are necessary to save our humanity.”

The title, hopefully you didn't realize, it is for an egotistical boast: “Me, me, me ...”  
It is for a catalyst to honor a person, whom aims this: BLESSED BE GOD.

This title was meant, it is meaning, that those memories recall the warm thoughts that radiated from the nucleus of a loving human being: Eusèbe-Henri Ménard.

He was not a hard person in a negative way. He was in a hard working way: in his strong hands and in his human intellect. Note this Appendix in the article: *Artificial Intelligence its ...*

He could not to be blind to know that community life has its different difficulties. As he spoke several times that problematic persons are called “mules”. Basically, the early Missionaries remember his point about mules in community life. Father's lesson was in our spirituality. After many years, we are continuing to have opportunities to exercise the virtue: Love, Love, Love.

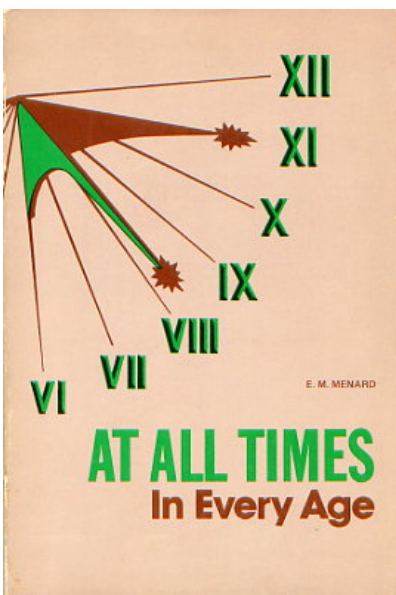
After years, yet we never read anything explicitly about the mules; yes, we heard them; the “mules” were implicitly, in the barn, yet they were explicitly in the field of community life.

So the essential points of the muleMSA was finally wrote in an article, which is archived somewhere and is now in its Appendix. The article is with the name:

***Menard's Mules.***

— — —

This vignette ends the front cover of the English edition of the book, that Fr. Menard give personally to myself, as he did **AND FOR MANY**. These last three words are in the consecration of the Lord's Supper.



“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard.”  
(Confer Matthew 20:1 ff.)

## MSA Co-founders

The Society of the Missionaries of the Holy Apostles (M.S.A.) Constitution, Article 210 states:

“In our Society an important place is given to Mr. Hector Durand, co-founder of the Work of the Holy Apostles.” Also, there is a footnote there, which includes part of a quote from Fr. Menard’s letter July 22, 1971 to Mr. Durand: “(...) and you have given both your life and your possessions in order to give priests to the world. I have always considered it a great privilege to have given you my collaboration.”

Note this honor: The tombstones of Fr. Menard and Mr. Durand are together.



Furthermore, in the past, Father Menard in several presentations to the Society similarly said:

***“YOU are a co-founder of the Works of the Holy Apostles.”***

This page here is a testimonial that: I personally heard that.

Additionally, this states:

Father Addison "Tad" Hallock, M.S.A. heard it, at least two times, that Father Menard, basically proclaimed the similarity quote: “You are co-founders of the Works of the Holy Apostles.”

## Statues

As Fr. Menard and myself were visiting the headquarters of the Rogationists religious congregation in Rome. We walking alone and as passed a statue of St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia, their founder. Fr. Menard, exclaimed as similarly these words: “We” - the Missionaries - “should have not make a statue of myself”.

I always remembered that. Father was not against statues/icons/et cetera for himself; it was just a humble act, and of course he honored statues.



Above there a photo of a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which was his favorite one.

### MATTER MATTERS:

“I do not worship matter,  
I worship the God of matter,  
who became matter for my sake,  
and deigned to inhabit matter,  
who worked out my salvation through matter.”

[from St. John Damascene *On Holy Images*,  
trans. by Mary H. Allies (London, Thomas Baker, 1898), pp. 10-17.]

# The Franciscans and the Missionaries

So here is a short story of a long story.

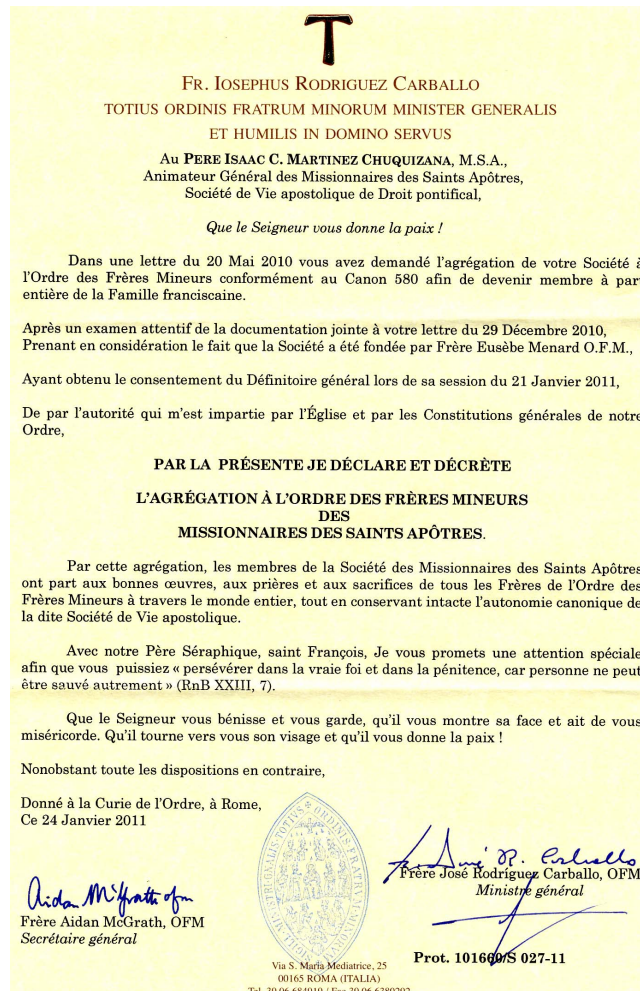
The MSA were formally (*de jure*) being in the family of the “Franciscan Order” (also known as the “O.F.M.s”), which was proclaimed in the below document in 2011.

Now, as you probably don’t know, the Missionaries were (*de facto*) as in reality were part of the Franciscans’ family in circa 1982 or 1983.

Why?

Because I  
said that here,  
because Fr. Menard  
said that here  
below:

Father Menard went for some Missionaries’ students to sign rooms in a Franciscan friary in Assisi. In the beginning, were not being allowed. After Father present our story; and we were *de facto* Franciscans!



## Ordination Dates

This is the story, of when a date was selected for my priestly ordination.

Fr. Menard said about his preference was for apostles' dates.

Note, this calendar below was published after Fr. Menard passed away.

### M.S.A. LITURGICAL CALENDAR:

<b>JAN</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>BIRTHDAY of FR. MENARD (*1916)</b>
	<b>24</b>	<b>AGGREGATION to the ORDER of FRIARS MINOR (2011)</b>
	<b>25</b>	<b>CONVERSION of PAUL, APOSTLE</b>
<b>FEB</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>CHAIR of PETER, APOSTLE</b>
<b>MAR</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>MR. HECTOR DURAND (M.S.A. CO-FOUNDER; +1972)</b>
	<b>26</b>	<b>FR. MENARD (M.S.A. FOUNDER; +1987)</b>
<b>APR</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>MARK, EVANGELIST</b>
<b>MAY</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>PHILIP and JAMES, APOSTLES</b>
	<b>14</b>	<b>MATTHIAS, APOSTLE</b>
<b>JUN</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>PETER and PAUL, APOSTLES</b>
<b>JUL</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>THOMAS, APOSTLE</b>
	<b>25</b>	<b>JAMES, APOSTLE</b>
<b>AUG</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>ANNIVERSARY M.S.A. FOUNDATION (1995)</b>
	<b>24</b>	<b>BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE</b>
<b>SEP</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>MATTHEW, APOSTLE and EVANGELIST</b>
<b>OCT</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>FRANCIS of ASSISI</b>
	<b>18</b>	<b>LUKE, EVANGELIST</b>
	<b>28</b>	<b>SIMON and JUDE, APOSTLES</b>
<b>NOV</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>ANDREW, APOSTLE</b>
<b>DEC</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>IMMACULATE of BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b>
		<b>(PATRONNESS and QUEEN of the FRANCISCAN FAMILY)</b>
	<b>27</b>	<b>JOHN, APOSTLE</b>



## **Take a Coffee**



**Father Menard and myself were alone in a kitchen in the Villa La Paz (circa 1984-86).**

**The short conversation was the subject of fraternal community life.**

**One said, that the other would be better to “manifest our spirituality, lifestyle and fundamental attitudes through this: Fraternal Community Life, MSA Constitution, Article 11, II.**

**The other, confessed that was not his best gift.**

**Perhaps this quote from a play is helpful:**

**“A peace is of the nature of a conquest;  
For then both parties nobly are subdued,  
And neither party loser.”**

**- Shakespeare, Henry IV, Part 2, Act IV, Scene 2**

**We enjoyed a take of cup of coffee together in our Fraternal Community Life.**

The Society of the Missionaries of the Holy Apostles  
was first founded in the  
**Apostolicus Vicariatus Sancti Iosephi de Amazones**  
Apostolic Vicariate of San José de Amazonas



**The Arapaima gigas (paiche) fish is hauled by a local fisher.**

**"For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."**

**Matthew 11:30**

Another "short" story.

Fr. Menard as a Franciscan was inscribed in the Province of St. Joseph in Canada.

The Franciscans there were the backbone of the Vicariate of San José in the Peruvian Amazon.

Fr. Menard need them as an ecclesiastical authority to sign for the Missionaries to be there.

I lived there about two years. The language grow and include a word: nightmare.

Within that time, I talked with Fr. Menard about transfer. He advised to stay that it for your life.

So, I kept in the end of the world ...

**The End / the Edge**

**of the Earth**

**ARRIVED.**

**It became the**

**CENTERED**

**of Christ's cosmos ...**

— — —

**BLESSED BE GOD via Father Menard.**



## **The Missionaries' General Council**

**Yes, another “short” story ...**

**In God's plan, Father Menard became the Missionaries General Animator (aka Superior) Emeritus.**

**I had positions in the Missionaries' General Council.**

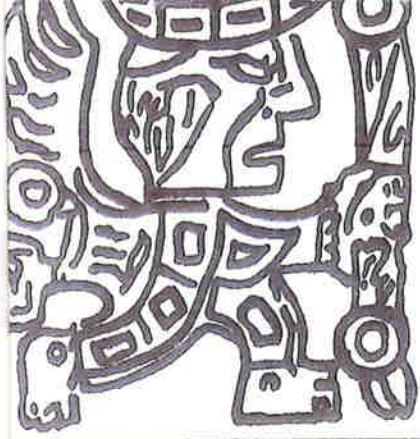
**We both lived in the Missionaries' Lima area.**

**Got or another story or no?**

**How about John “Duns” Scotus and Father Menard?**

**There was my story in the NEWS from the General House • 1995**

**More not now ... or find one somewhere.**



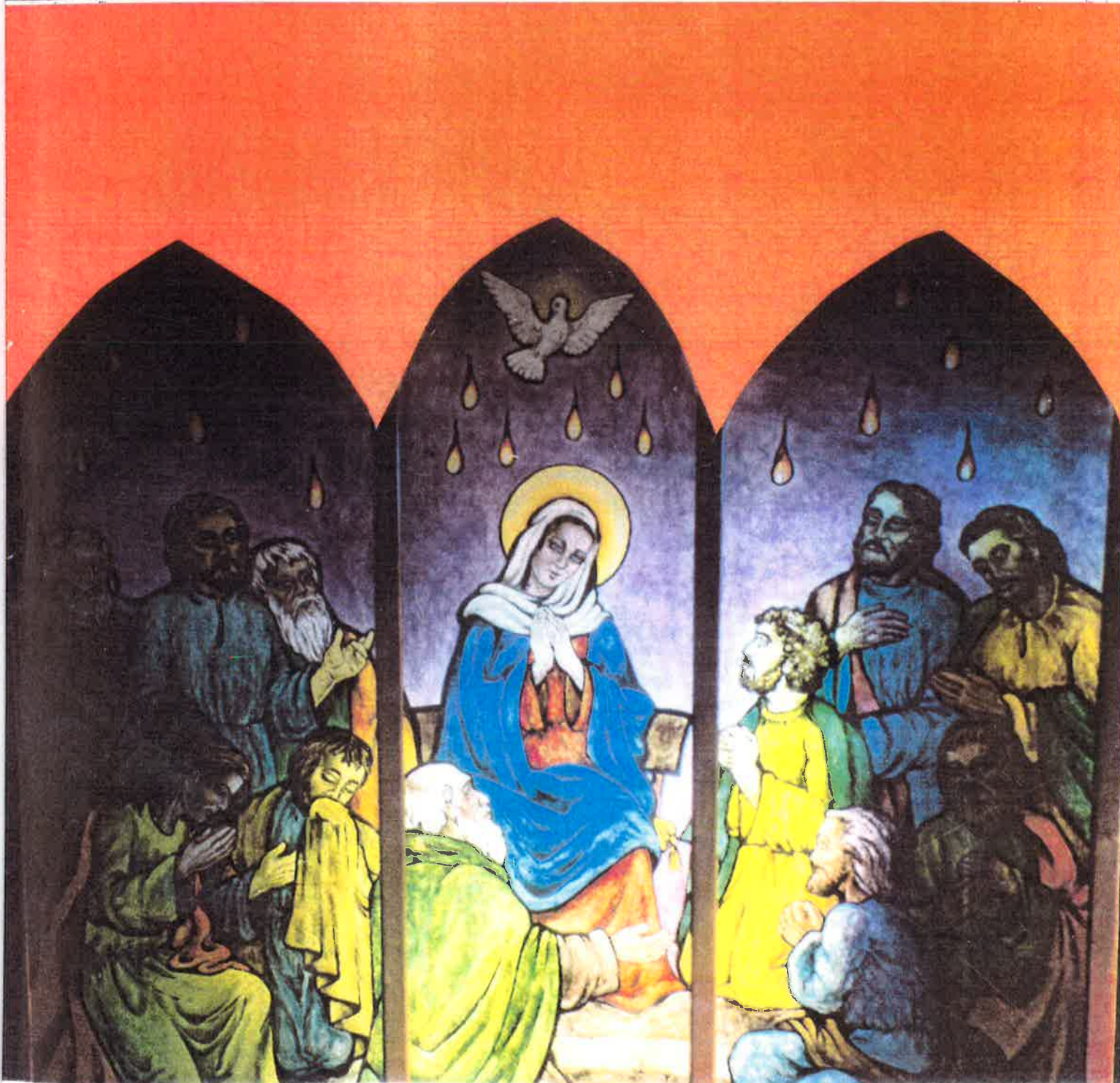
# NEWS

FROM THE GENERAL HOUSE

# INFORMACIONES

DE LA CASA GENERAL

AÑO/YEAR XXXII PENTECOSTÉS/PENTECOST 1995 Nº.25





## BLESSED JOHN DUNS SCOTUS

M.Ss.A. Spirituality is closely linked to Bl. Scotus. A study of the personal library, and the writings of our beloved Founder, a Franciscan, would tell us so. Of this I am sure after working years in the General House. But, I know some of you are not even after you have read the various publications that have been sent you. This article is not meant to repeat all that has gone before. Rather, the matter is opened once again, some new thoughts may enter and hopefully you yourself will shed more light through your own relation with Bl. John Duns.

Among his Franciscan spirituality books Father Menard had "The Sacred Heart's Universal Kingship and Mary's Immaculate Conception according to the doctrine of Blessed John Duns Scotus"<sup>1</sup>. It was Scotus who so profetically fought for the Doctrine of the Immaculate Conception when the vast majority disagreed. The ridicule that Scotists suffered even gave rise to the English word "dunce"!

But was this just another book among Father's many? Then why did he himself write "The Mystery of the Heart of Jesus, according to the Franciscan School of Spirituality, particularly according to Duns Scotus"?

The interconnection of the Mystical Body of Christ, unrestricted by time, is seen in his reflection, as Fr. Menard relates that Jesus told St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, that she should study the life, works and spirituality of St. Francis, Model of devotion to his Sacred Heart. Of course, Bl. Scotus is the most illustrious representative of Franciscan thought.

Fr. Menard explains that God "who could have placed the Heart of Christ in Adam, instead put Adam, the Universe, the Angels, in a word, all in the Heart of Jesus."<sup>2</sup>

Bl. John Duns who? The subject of this page is a more illustrious character than most of us realize. At least 12 Pontiffs have recognized his special place among the Franciscans, and Paul VI wrote in the Apostolic Letter *Alma Parens* that "It is universally recognized that John Duns Scotus surpassed the Seraphic Doctor" (St.

Bonaventure) and that "St. Francis of Assisi's beautiful ideal of perfection is embedded in his (Scotus's) work and inflames it". St. Bernard of Clairvaux, St. Bonaventure and St. Thomas Aquinas did not favor the idea of Mary's Immaculate Conception. Aquinas even wrote: "The Blessed Virgin did indeed contract original sin, but was cleansed therefrom before her birth from the womb" (*Summa Theologica III, 27, 2, ad2*).

It was Bl. John who championed the Immaculate Conception of Mary!<sup>3</sup> This Doctrine is linked to the Primacy of Christ because the Blessed Mother participated in the original Plan of God before the "felix culpa".

Another Franciscan, working under the guidance of an Apostolic delegate, realized the connection between Duns Scotus and modern scientific thought<sup>4</sup>, a sign of the times for the M.Ss.A. as the third millennium draws near.

May each M.Ss.A. reflect on "how excellent the Lord made you for he created and formed you to the image of his beloved son according to the body, and to his own likeness according to the spirit" (*Admonitions, N<sup>o</sup>. 5 - J.D.S.*). Blessed John Duns Scotus pray for us . . .

<sup>1</sup> P. SIGISMOND, O.M. Cap., *La Royauté universelle du Sacré-Coeur l'Immaculée-Conception de Marie d'après la doctrine du Bienheureux Jean Duns Scot*, "Les Vox Franciscaines", Toulouse, 1925.

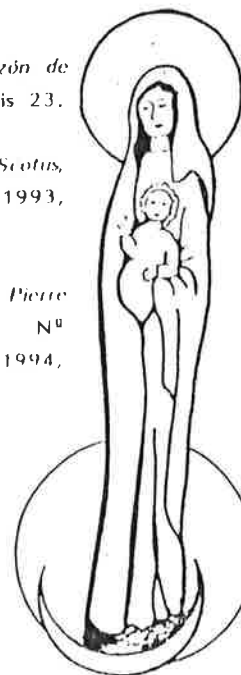
<sup>2</sup> MENARD, E., O.F.M., *El Misterio del Corazón de Jesús*, M.Ss.A. General House Archives N<sup>o</sup> Chris 23.

<sup>3</sup> WOLTER, A. & O'NEILL, B., *John Duns Scotus, Mary's Architect*, Franciscan Press, Quincy, IL, 1993, p. 1-7, 25, 55-57, 84.

<sup>4</sup> RIVERA, Enrique, *Beato Juan Duns Escoto y Pierre Teilhard de Chardin*. Cuadernos Franciscanos, N<sup>o</sup> 108, Santiago de Chile, Octubre/Diciembre 1994, p. 239-240.

Vincent

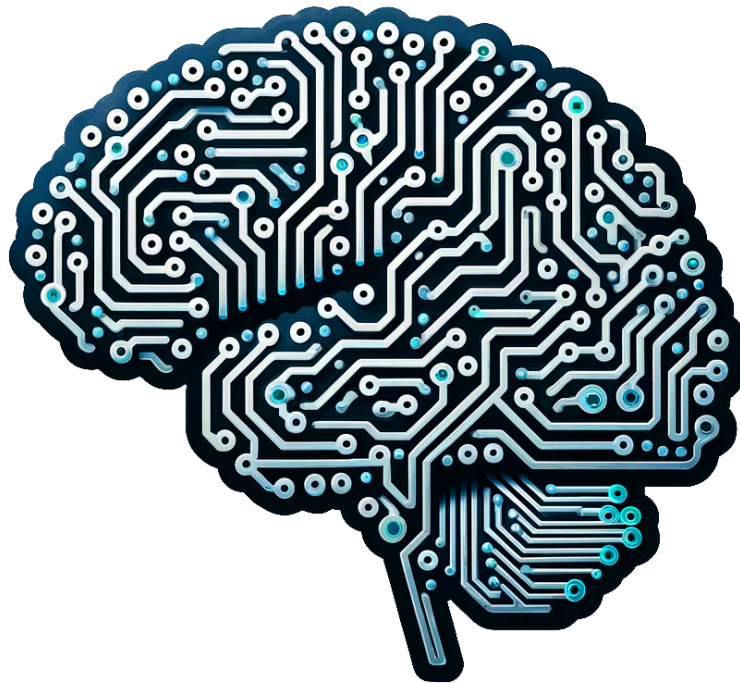
Vincent A. Salamoni, M.Ss.A.



## **APPENDIX:**

# **Artificial Intelligence**

(AI)  
**its ...**



# ANTIQUA ET NOVA

## Note on the Relationship Between Artificial Intelligence and Human Intelligence

*An Integral Understanding of Human Intelligence*  
27.

As Pope Francis observes,  
“in this age of artificial intelligence,  
we cannot forget that  
**poetry and love**

are necessary to save our humanity.”[\[59\]](#)

[\[59\]](#) Francis, Encyclical Letter *Dilexit Nos* (24 October 2024), par. 20:  
*L'Osservatore Romano*, 24 October 2024, 5.

This recalls:

POETRY ...

has an ancient category of acrostic poems.

The below are examples of two acrostic poems



# ***INTENTION***

**DEAR GOD:  
IN YOUR  
MERCIFUL PRESENCE  
WE PRESENT  
TO YOU  
OUR PRAYERS WITH:**

**SUFFERINGS,  
THOUGHTS,  
JOYS,  
ACTIONS, AND  
WORDS.**

**WE ASK THIS  
THROUGH YOUR WILL.  
AMEN.**

— — —

Confer:

The Liturgy of the Hours and traditional daily offerings.

— — —

---

# ST. JAW

This  
mysterious / mythical / marvelous  
saint would be helpful to you  
and / or others.

Here is an acrostic poem:

**S**ufferings,  
**T**houghts,  
**J**oys,  
**A**ctions,  
**W**ords.

---

Whom is another candidate to be the patron saint of  
Artificial Intelligence?

---

## Whom is the patron saint of AI?

Basically my answer:

There was that a unknown person and/or persons as was named:

**ST. JAW.**

As, E. Menard, O.F.M., the founder of the Missionaries of the Holy Apostles (M.S.A.) fondly recalled the Mystical Body of Christ, as we echo “Saint” Jaw, to reflect the Heart of Christ’s Mystical Body, which is beating from the great cloud of witnesses (confer Hebrews 12:1).

In human intelligence would the Heart of Christ’s Mystical Body is composed only from the Sacred Heart of Jesus, or it includes the Blessed Virgin Mary’s Immaculate and Sorrowful Heart? You have heart, if not have one. It would include yours! See the next paragraph.

The Word became flesh to make us "*partakers of the divine nature*" (confer the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraph 460, and “you may come to share in the divine nature” (2 Peter 1:4).

Furthermore, there is a section of the Heart of Christ’s Mystical Body in the book: *The Mercy Ocean*.

## MENARD'S MULES



**YOU are  
TOTALLY or PARTIALLY an \_\_\_?**

**Francis of Assisi would with a poetically license would charitably say: YOU are a Brother Ass.**

**Father E. H. Menard, O.F.M., the founder of the Missionaries of the Holy Apostles (M.S.A.) would say something about a problematic person, as like a stubborn mule. If you thrown out that person, and would replace with an another person would be worse. A saint said as this: My penance is to live the common life with charity, because it replaces my time in purgatory.**

**Mules are not only being stubborn. They are sometimes better than horses. Mules have harder hooves, they have better sure foots than horses. Mules have more stamina, endurance, more resistant of insects and rain inclement. They are patience to carry heavy loads than a donkey, a horse or any pack animal.**

**There are problems being troublesome to you and/or others. So, plow with Jesus' yoke.**

**Just trying to practice with the Serenity Prayer.**

**Be in community along your mule(s) and live with these spiritual works of mercy:**

**Instruct, correction, advise  
and/or  
forgive and bear wrongs patiently.**

**(Confer: *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraph 2447).**

**In any event, Fr. Menard's Spiritual Testimony has this:**

**The main thing in our life is not our never sinning again, but our learning to love.**

**— — —  
LOVE, LOVE, LOVE.  
— — —**