

Several years after the miraculous cure, Pauline became seriously ill with a congested liver, an infected lung and a bad heart, conditions that would recur throughout the rest of her life. When she was sixty-one years old, these conditions became quite serious especially when she suffered from a buildup of body fluids which made her body grow larger and heavier. Doctors held no hope for her recovery. The poor who had benefited from her charity now provided her with food and comfort.

At the begging pardon of her companions for her faults, Pauline cried out, "Mary, my Mother, I am all yours!" and she died on January 9, 1862. The official opening of her cause for beatification was signed by Pope Pius XI in 1930. She was declared Venerable on February 25, 1963.



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## ***Heavenly Help for Those Who Suffer from***

***Liver Problems***

***Seek the intercession of  
Venerable Pauline Marie Jaricot***



***(1799—1862)***

## Venerable Pauline Marie Jaricot (1799-1862)

Pauline was the last of seven children born to a wealthy silk merchant of Lyons, France. Little is known of her early childhood except that when she was prepared for Holy Communion, Jansenism was then in full force. This was an extremely rigorous spirituality that consumed young minds with the horror of sin and doubts about forgiveness. For years Pauline is said to have haunted confessionals, seeking assurance of God's mercy.

She grew into a young woman of great beauty and grace, which attracted many admirers. She is said to have had a slender figure, dark eyes and dark curls that framed her oval face. She was something of a flirt, attracting male attention and female envy. Pauline herself wrote, "I dressed myself in all my finery, believing myself worthy of universal admiration and preening myself with the conceit of a peacock. Self-love came forcefully into my heart... I would have had to be made of ice not to enjoy the flattery, complements and gentle words of praise I received..."

Life for Pauline was beautiful. She had wealth and position; but all that changed for a time in 1814 when Pauline fell from a chair on which she had been standing to reach something on the top shelf of her wardrobe. Although no bones were broken, the remedy employed for the pain she continued to experience was bleeding, which was then a common medical practice. This only produced a general physical deterioration, convulsions, back spasms, loss of weight and erratic speech. Pauline slowly regained her health during an eight-month visit to the family's country estate at Tassin, which was located not far from Lyons.

After Pauline was fully restored to health and was again participating in her former activities, Divine Providence intervened when one day she attended Mass in the Church of Saint Nizier. Dressed in one of her most sumptuous outfits, she heard the priest give a scorching homily against vanity. She was greatly affected and afterwards visited the priest, who became her spiritual director. Now only seventeen years

old, Pauline made a drastic adjustment in her life when she sold her jewelry and distributed the money to the needy. As a sign of her final break with the past, she gave away her beautiful dresses. She clothed herself in a plain purple dress that she disliked and began works of charity. She attended Mass daily, advanced rapidly in virtue and made a vow of perpetual chastity.

Pauline was a born organizer. She gathered together wayward girls into an association named *Reparatrices* – "Women of Reparation" – and gave them a simple rule of life. They had regular meetings, worked at positions that Pauline found for them and assisted the poor and the sick. Pauline began another organization by collecting from workers pennies which would assist the missions. This organization became known as the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Pauline also founded the Association of the Holy Childhood, by which pennies were collected for the ransoming of pagan babies. Still another organization she founded was that of the Living Rosary, in which fifteen members each adopt a Mystery of the Rosary to recite each day.

All her life, since the time of establishing these organizations, Pauline would suffer from criticism, harassment, insults, false rumors and envy. She was also destined to suffer physically from a variety of ailments.

While staying in Rome, she was diagnosed as having a growth on her lung. At this time she met the future Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat. Too sick to visit the Pope to speak with him about her organizations, Pauline had the rare privilege of the Pope visiting her in her sick room. She was again privileged – after being cured at the shrine of the martyr, Saint Philomena – when another devotee of Saint Philomena, St. John Marie Vianney, the famous Cure of Ars, visited her to learn about the cure. For a time he served as Pauline's spiritual director.