



Reverend Mother Clare of Jesus

Superior General of the Sisters of St Mary of Namur

1811 — 1871

Rosalie Niset was born on the 23d of February, 1811, at Balotre Sainte Aldegonde, a village in the diocese of Namur. Her childhood was characterized by kindness, gentleness, a most tender affection for her own, and a great love of mortification, which she indulged to such an extent even in her youth as to permanently affect her health. The Blessed Sacrament attracted her so forcibly, that often, even in the most rigorous weather, she was seen on the threshold of the Church long before the door was open. In early girlhood she felt that she was called to intimate union with the Divine Spouse of Virgins, and ardently desired to become a nun; but not being acquainted with any, and not knowing to what Order she was called she consulted her Confessor and calmly awaited his decision. He directed her to a priest of Namur, a friend of his who was then laying the foundation of a new Institute.

This friend, Dom Jerome Minsart, was a Cistercian Monk, in the Abbey of Boneffe, and just ordained when the Revolution broke out. Banished from his cloister he joined the ranks of the Clergy of Namur, first as vicar and later as Pastor. He was a man of lively faith, ardent zeal, and had implicit confidence that God would enable him to carry out for His greater honor and glory, the holy projects he had conceived at the foot of the altar. His life was one long act of self sacrifice and untiring devotion to the sacred ministry and works of charity; moreover he co-operated with Blessed Julie Billiart, whose Confessor he was, in the foundation of the Sisters of Notre-Dame; he took a prominent part in the establishment of