

In the month of May 1892, I felt for the first time an attraction towards devotion to the Blessed Virgin, spontaneous devotion, gratuitous gift of grace, as nothing either in my readings, or in the other circumstances of my life, had led me to it, at least not at that time more than any other ; but from the day it took possession of me I made rapid strides towards conversion, I no longer guided myself, I simply followed the current that bore me on ; sickness put an end to my waverings and conducted me to Lourdes, where I was to find the double cure of soul and body.

In the month of July I became seriously ill, my fever was continuous and the old pain in my chest reasserted itself with double force. Rightly alarmed at my condition I asked for baptism. In my last interview with Father Matthew I listened without disputing or contradicting, my doubts and prejudices had all vanished and left me strangely tranquil and submissive.

I made my abjuration and was baptized on the 25th of July. 1892, in the church of the Passionist's in the chapel of Our Lady.

Shortly afterwards I left for Arachon ; my fever was still between 38 and 39 degrees. I remained there a month but did not improve much ; nevertheless baptism had changed me so completely that when I woke up during the night I consoled myself, saying : " I am a Catholic, and instantly everything grew bright !

Before renouncing Protestantism I had written to ask permission of my father and mother, the latter gave her consent, but my father took no notice of my letter though I learned afterwards that from the hour of its receipt he never again blasphemed the Catholic religion

I reached Lourdes about the end of August and on the first of September had the happiness of receiving my first Communion in the Church of the Rosary, from the hand of the R. F. Burosse and this is, briefly outlined, the " story of my conversion."

I accompanied this dear friend to the altar as his sponsor, and still vividly remember the emotion of that day, and the lively faith of the new convert that won my warmest admiration. The Holy Ghost whom he had faithfully invoked for three years previous seemed to enlighten him