

Mother House is at the Puy. Mon-sieur Guillois, Bishop of the Puy, is their actual Superior-General or Director.

Here is an account of their origin : "It was in 1667, Rev. Mr. Tronson, pastor or curé of St. George, an important parish in the city of 'The Puy,' very much afflicted at the ignorance in religious matters of a number of females living in a neighboring hospital, had the happy thought of asking one of his penitents, who was eager for good works, to go and visit those poor women, and teach them their prayers and catechism. The person chosen for that eminently pious work was Anne Marie Martel, daughter of a lawyer in the city of The Puy.

"The young lady succeeded wonderfully in her undertaking, and then Mr. Tronson desired her to go and work in the same manner among the groups of women who would assemble then, as they do even now, in the streets of the Faubourg St. Laurent, for the manufacture of lace. The good work had such results that the parish was soon remodeled. Mr. Tronson designated some other persons to assist Miss Martel in that undertaking, and sent her to exercise the same apostolate in the Parish of St. John, where, under Miss Martel's action, the young ladies became and remained models of Christian virtues. Mr. Tronson, who is considered as the founder of the congregation, was ably seconded by his vicar, Mr. Gros-son.

"Soon the new company of Apostles extended their action over the parishes outside the city. On Sundays the Reverend Sulpicians would welcome the crowds of pious persons brought in to their churches by those zealous ladies, and instruct them in special conferences or Sunday schools, just as is practiced even now at St. Sulpice in Paris.

"Miss Martel's apostolate lasted only six years. As she had been the first to start the glorious work, she was naturally the president of all their meetings. She died at the age of 28, in odour of sanctity. Without the least suspicion of herself or of her director, a new religious body had taken origin in the church. From that mustard seed was to spring out the congregation which is now called 'The Instruction of the Infant Jesus.' Before the French Revolution of 1793, the young ladies of the Instruction, mostly issued from noble families, would associate in the number of nine only at a time ; their primary obligation, as well as the primary object of their institution was the teaching of the Catechism, the presiding and direction of the numerous and sanctifying retreats of those times, and the training of persons for the teaching of the Catechism throughout the villages.

"But after the Revolution, the sisters of the Instruction, no more limited to the number of nine, established throughout the diocese of The Puy, and beyond its limits as well, convents where they devote themselves to all kinds of works connected