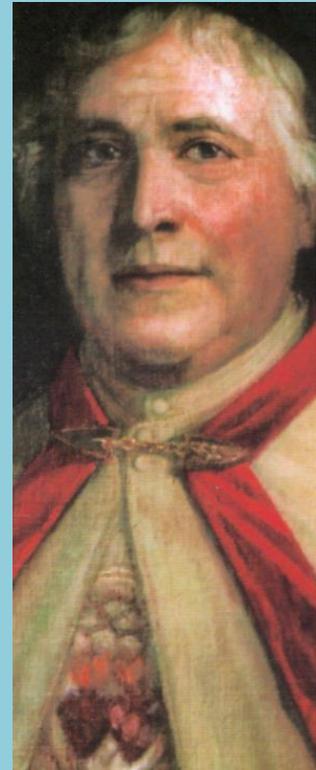


1 March

## Birth & Baptism of the GOOD FATHER

Towards the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the Coudrin family settled down in Coussay – les Bois, a small village north of Vienne about twenty kilometres from Chatellerault; the first mention of it was found in the parish registries of 1659 for the marriage of Mathurin Coudrin. Ireland was stated as the country of origin.

A century later, the Coudrin family already held an honourable position there. In the vast territory of the forest where the hamlets were scattered, they have acquired “*buildings, close to the vineyards and tall trees.*” In the village, which at the time had 1400 inhabitants, the family home was located on one of the two main streets, the Touraine Road, 50 meters from one of the two churches in the village dedicated to Saint Martin.



Abraham Coudrin, however, was not just a simple farmer. He knew how to read and write and had the sensitivity of “*diezmero*” that consisted of selling all kind of gifts for the parish and turned them into cash.

Peter was born on March 1st, 1768, and was baptised on the same day in the Church of Saint Martin by the vicar Menard. As indicated in the registry of baptism, the godfather was his maternal uncle, the future priest Francisco Rion. This pathway of the Church in the first hours of his life, would be taken many times by Peter, guided by his mother. Kneeling before the Tabernacle, both mother and son prayed:

*“My God, I love you, penetrated your sovereign majesty I am your son whom you have rescued with your precious blood; shivering in my misery; you are the creator of heaven and earth; you are my purpose. I adore you with the angels and saints and offer my life to praise you.”<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Taken from the book by Bernard Couronne “A Man with a Heart Aflame.”