



IJ SINGAPORE CELEBRATES

THE SPIRIT LIVES ON ...

IN ALL OF US

WHO HAVE ENCOUNTERED THE IJ FAMILY

THROUGH THE CALL OF OUR FOUNDER, BLESSED NICOLAS BARRE

Father Nicolas Barre continues to inspire us through his life and his vision. His closeness to God made him aware of the plight of the poor and he responded with generosity in living the mission he was called to.

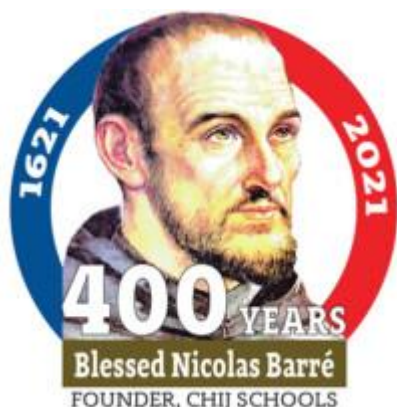
The IJ Sisters, together with their lay partners, ended the Jubilee year with a prayerful novena to Blessed Nicolas Barre. This was prayed daily by the IJ Sisters, lay partners and pupils in all the CHIJ schools through zoom when they had home-based learning or at the assembly when they were in school.

This year's annual [Novena](#) focuses on his letter to all people:

***Beloved Child of God, let your life be characterised by wonder, adoration, silence, trust in Divine Providence, obedience to God's will, humility and love.***

Each day during the novena, we reflected on one theme from his letter and his writings and then conclude with a prayer written by an IJ girl specially for the anniversary.

O God, like Blessed Nicolas Barre, may I also believe that you truly love me. Help me dwell in the sunshine of your great love, O Lord, so that whatever I may go through in my life, studies, work and relationships, at home, in school and in society, I may have complete trust in your love and providence. Help me to hold firm to your unconditional and excessive love for me and grant me your peace as I face the challenges on my journey as a citizen of the world. Teach me to be generous in using my gifts, talents, expertise and experience in serving others especially the disadvantaged, the last, the least and the lost, without counting the cost. Help me always to respect the dignity of each person I encounter and to work for the common good. Amen

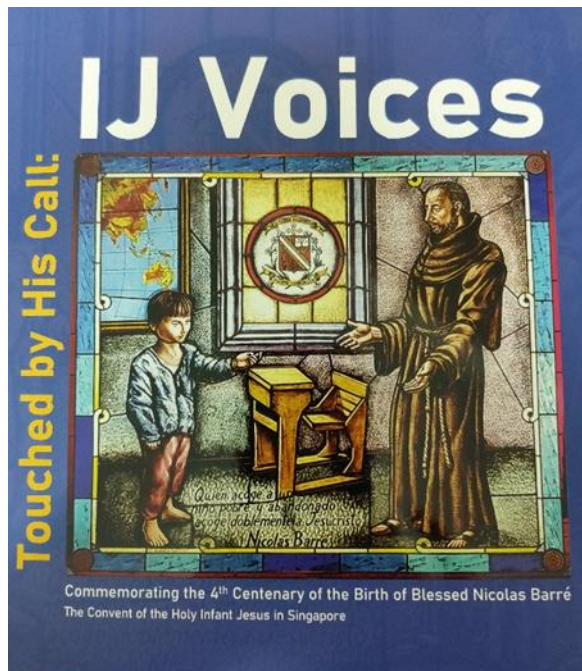


In the morning of the birthday of Father Nicolas Barre, we spent time in [prayer and reflection](#) on following Jesus in being called and sent, and in deepening our understanding of our Spirituality and Mission as envisioned by our founder.

A [Thanksgiving Mass](#) to close the Jubilee Year was celebrated at night by Friar Derrick Yap OFM and viewed by IJ girls all over the world.

This was followed by Testimonies (extracts below) from our five alumnae - Ms Pauline Chan, Dr Margaret Lee, Ms Magdalene Chin, Dr Claire Ang and Prof Lily Kong. our Associates, Collaborators and Alumnae. Each one shared on how the life and vision of Fr Barre touched their lives through the IJ Sisters whom they encountered. A deeper study and reflection on his life and maxims have inspired them to appreciate God's excessive love for them and to grow in their trust in God's Providence.

The Combined choirs from the 7 Primary Schools came together through Zoom to sing the [Hymn to Fr Barre](#) in both English and French at the end of the mass



An interactive IJ publication [Touched by His call: IJ Voices](#), a labour of love from all 11 CHIJ Schools and Infant Jesus Home and Centres (with 400 reflections by the IJ community) was launched. Watch the [Book Launch](#).

Representatives from the IJ Family read their creative pieces.

The IJ Song [Hold on to our dream](#) concluded the book launch...

#### **Drawing inspiration from Nicolas Barre (extracts from the 5 IJ Alumnae)**

**Pauline** is amazed by Fr Barre's propensity for love - his steadfast and immense love for God, and his love, care and concern for the disadvantaged. His maxims – God is the foundational stone, believe in God's love for us but love him in return, action should go hand in hand with prayer, contemplation and discernment. He has shown us that when we are at the lowest, God is always there.

**Margaret** says that she is blessed to be connected with the IJ Sisters all her life, first as a student, teacher, school leader and now an IJ associate. She is particularly inspired by Fr Barre's Spiritual Canticale 44: "Never forsake your centre within, but find your being always in God...Sensing God at work in your being, desist from taking control and leave all to Providence, acting no longer on the purely human plane..." to anchor her life on God and to be attentive to His Spirit.

**Magdalene** shared that for her, it is God who directs her life. Fr Barre's Prayer of Abandonment resonates with her as she fully acknowledges God's excessive love for her and that He takes care of everything in her life. She accepts God's invitation to follow in the footsteps of Fr Barre and to give her all.

**Claire** acknowledges that the deep values that she had imbibed in school really make a difference, speaking up for the downtrodden and voiceless, and standing up for justice. She quotes from Fr Barre that points us to who Christ really is: *"It is in the valley of greatest misfortune and tears that God is pleased to bring the soul to the heights, heights that reach even the infinity of God's greatness ... Experience shows that one can see the stars shine even brighter from the bottom of a well rather than in full daylight from the ground above."*

**Lily** admires the self-sacrificing love of the IJ sisters, going the extra mile in educating girls to be confident, caring and compassionate. She shared that religion travels through the dream of one person and that is the difference one can make.

NB: all the above links can be opened in the <https://www.chij-sisters.org> website under News.

Submitted by Sr Agnes Lee