

Life of...
St Peter Chanel
 First Martyr of OCEANIA

BY TONY

LET US GO BACK IN TIME, IT IS THE EARLY YEARS OF THE 19TH CENTURY. OUR ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO THE COUNTRY SIDE OF FRANCE.

THERE WE FIND PETER CHANEL, A LAD OF 10 YEARS. HE IS HELPING ON HIS FATHER'S FARM AT THE VILLAGE OF LA POTIERE. IT IS TO THE NORTH OF THE CITY OF LYONS.

ONE EVENING ON THE VILLAGE SIDEWALK ... A CHANCE ENCOUNTER WITH THE PARISH PRIEST OF CRAS.



HELLO MY SON ARE YOU PETER CHANEL? I AM ON MY WAY TO SEE YOUR RELATIVES..

YES! I AM PETER. FR. I WILL COME WITH YOU.

THIS MEETING WITH FR. TROMPIER HAD MUCH TO DO WITH PETER'S DEVELOPMENT. IN LATER LIFE HE WAS TO SAY:- TO HIM AFTER GOD I OWE THE JOY OF BEING A PRIEST.

PETER FINDS STUDY HARD, BUT FR TROMPIER IS CONFIDENT.. HE SEES THE QUALITY FOR PRIESTHOOD IN PETER.

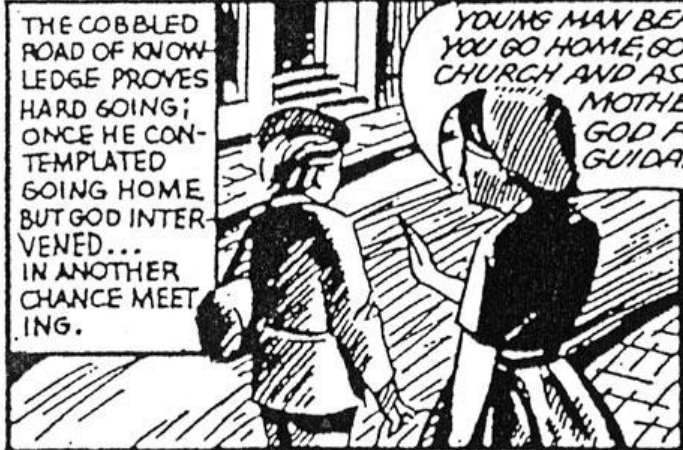


MOTHER FATHER WILL TEACH ME IN HIS PRESBYTERY. IT WILL BE NEAR GODS HOUSE. I FEEL DRAWN TO DO SOME THING SPECIAL FOR GOD

POSSIBLY MY SON! ONE THING IS SURE, IT IS CONVENIENT FOR US. SCHOOL IS AWKWARD TO GET TO FROM THIS VILLAGE



HE IS SO MODEST AND SINCERE, NOTICE HOW SERENE HE IS. NOTHING DISQUIETES HIM.



THE COBBLED ROAD OF KNOWLEDGE PROVES HARD GOING; ONCE HE CONTEMPLATED GOING HOME BUT GOD INTERVENED... IN ANOTHER CHANCE MEETING.

YOUNG MAN BEFORE YOU GO HOME, GO TO THE CHURCH AND ASK THE MOTHER OF GOD FOR GUIDANCE



SOME YEARS LATER, WE FIND PETER IN BROU SEMINARY, HE IS BEING ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD WITH 24 OTHER YOUNG MEN ON 15.7.1827