

History of the Maison du Grand Roule, Sainte-Foy-lès-Lyon (1855-2024)

- 1856: purchase of the property
- 1860-1880: Novitiate, expulsion
- 1875-1877: Normal School for Marist Fathers for colleges
- 1880-1906: General Administration-Community
- 1894-1902: novitiate which moved to Santa Fede)
- 1903: Eviction and sale (1906)
- 1918-1919: Novitiate
- 1939-1976: Scholasticate Philosophy and Theology
- 1977-1996: Province of France residency
- 1996-2024: residence for elderly fathers, Friends of the Grand Roule.

1855: purchase

In 1854, Father Favre was elected as the new Superior General to succeed Father Colin. In 1855, he sold the property of the Favorite, moving the novitiate to Chaintré (Saône et Loire) and in November 1855 bought the estate of the "Croix du Pivoli" for 100,000 francs: 6 1/2 hectares of land, including a dwelling house, a farm building, vineyards, meadows, gardens and springs. The main house was demolished to build a dwelling for the fathers in its place. The fathers came into possession in March 1857: Father Humbert and some brothers lived there to work as carpenters.

1860-1880: Novitiate, retreats, formation of colleges, general chapters.

- But the main building was not adapted to what the SM wanted to do with it, so it was demolished in 1858. A young 40-year-old architect from Lyon was chosen and designed very large buildings for novices, but also for holding annual retreats. The construction, which began in the spring of 1858, was completed (except for the chapel and the library, which were added in 1866) in the autumn of 1860. The inner courtyard is bordered by a gallery of cloisters which was closed by glazing at the end of the 19th century.
- In September 1860, the novitiate returned from Chaintré with 12 to 15 novices. From 1860 to 1880, Sainte-Foy was **essentially a novitiate**, except for an interruption from March 1870 to September 29, 1871 during which the novices went to Belley to leave the house free for the chapter.
- The house also hosted **annual retreats** from 1861 onwards for the fathers of the Province of Lyon and college teachers.
- From 1862, in addition to the novitiate, the property housed a community of fathers including chaplains and young Fathers **who were trained in preaching**. In 1869, and for 3 years in 1875-1877, a real "**Normal School**" for young fathers was in operation: it was a question of training young fathers destined for colleges. In 1869, a **novitiate for coadjutor brothers was also set up**.
- The size of the house also meant that it would house **general chapters**: this was done with those of **1870-1873**, 1880, 1884, 1886, 1893 and 1900. The construction of the chapel and the library was completed in 1866.

1880-1906: expulsion, seat of the general administration

- On March 29, 1880, a decree obliged unauthorized congregations to ask within three months for legal authorization in order to "obtain the verification and approval of their statutes and regulations" on pain of expulsion. The SM did not comply with the decree. On November 3, a prefectural decree ordered the expulsion of the community of Sainte-Foy. 8 Fathers were then expelled, there were then 40 to 50 novices. Some time earlier, the 13 novices from Sainte-Foy had left for Dundalk (Ireland) and then Paington (United Kingdom). The novices from the Province of Paris went to Verdelaix. At the end of the law, Frs. Favre and Poupinel could stay in Sainte-Foy as owners, Fr. Grand as manager.
- In 1880, Sainte-Foy thus became the seat of **the general administration, which emigrated from Puylata** where it had just spent 41 years. **It remained so until 1906.** The generalate then dispersed to Fourvière, rue Cléberg and rue du Juge de Paix, before moving to Moncalieri (Italy) in 1922 and finally to Rome in 1925. **The novitiate**, temporarily expelled to Paington in 1880, returned to the house it shared with the general administration in 1894. It was split again with the one in Paris from 1897 to 1901. On two occasions, in 1893 and 1896-1898, **the Second Novitiate** opened its doors in Sainte-Foy.
- Submitting to the law of July 1, 1901, the SM saw its request for authorization rejected. On November 17 and 18, 1902, the Novitiate went into exile in Italy, in Santa Fede. The Fathers of the General Administration managed to stay in the house for another three years, **until November 1906, the date of the sale of the house**. On November 24, 1906, before the Civil Court of Lyon, the property was sold to Anne-Marie Perrachon, for the price of 93,600 francs. Mr.^{le} Perrachon was only a front man, but it remained the legal owner until 1922.

1906-1928: The Marists outside the walls

- On February 19, 1907, after repairs and improvements, **the Grand Séminaire de Lyon** rented the buildings of Sainte-Foy to resume its courses, in order to save the house from being plundered by the State. In 1914, the house became the property of two very Catholic people from Sainte-Foy. In December 1917, as the end of the war loomed, Fr. Raffin expressed to the Cardinal of Lyon the intention to occupy the building as soon as possible. In the summer of 1918, the Novitiate of Santa Fede was repatriated to Sainte-Foy, on the 3rd floor of the house then occupied by a military hospital. 6 or 7 novices finished their novitiate at La Neylière in September 1919, because the attempt at cohabitation was not conclusive. The Sulpicians having had them built, the Marists were able to make their return.
- On August 21, 1922, Mr.^{le} Perrachon brought the Sainte-Foy property into the assets of the **Société anonyme immobilière Henri IV**, in exchange for 200 shares in this company. From 1922 onwards, the SM was in constant talks with the diocese of Lyon to recover the property. It was not until the end of the construction work on a new diocesan seminary of philosophy (Maison Saint-Joseph, in Francheville) that the cardinal gave a glimpse of the liberation of the house in October 1927 or at Easter 1928.

1928- 1982: The Scholasticate

In September 1928, Sainte-Foy was evacuated by the Major Seminary and returned to the Marist Fathers, who set up a **scholasticate in the provinces of France: "the Seminary of the Missions of Oceania"**, for philosophy and the fundamental as long as Differt (Belgium) operated. On the 2nd floor housed the Second Novitiate until 1932. At that time, the 4-hectare estate with vineyards and a farm allowed the Novitiate (120 rooms) to live in quasi-autarky.

Despite various vicissitudes, including 4 military occupations in 75 years (the mobiles in 1870, a complementary hospital during the 1st World War, again a complementary hospital during the year 1939-1940 and an important Luftwaffe unit in 1943-1944), the Marists are still owners. They **rent part of the premises to various organizations**, in particular the "Grapillon", a therapeutic center for training at work. In 1983, a large part of the park was sold to a real estate developer to build several real estate complexes.

The management of the house, owned by the Henri IV association, was carried out by **Mrs. Viallon**, then by **Mrs. Hugonnet** and the association "**Amis du Grand Roule**", created in 1982. The purpose of the association "Les Amis du Grand Roule" was to welcome, train and spiritually, culturally and socially animated, giving priority to the most modest categories, and in particular young people and people disabled by age or illness.

In 1984, 9 rooms on the third floor were made available to the **Sisters of Saint Joseph of Lyon**.

Renovation and modernisation work was undertaken in 1996, 1998, 2000, 2004, etc.

In 2001, the community of Puylata merged with that of Sainte-Foy.

The Archives, then stored at the provincial house in Paris, moved in 2005 to the basement set up for this purpose in Sainte-Foy.

With the crisis of vocations, the average age of the boarders has been quadrupled: in 2017, 17 Fathers occupied the 2nd floor of the building.

In 2021, the property was sold to Rhône Saône Habitat to build 40 social housing units. The Fathers, who were only supposed to leave the premises for the duration of the work, will not return to this building in the end: there are not enough of them... The Fathers are attached to the community of La Neylière in 2024.

Superiors:

1959-1964 :	Joseph de Baciocchi
1964-1971 :	Hernin Pérennès
1971-1977 :	Jacques de Nantes
1977-1981 :	Claude Barbier
1981-1985 :	Bernard Pruès
1985-1990 :	Michel Guerre
1990-1996 :	Philippe Bouvard
1996-2003 :	Pierre Chabanet
2003-2009 :	Georges Richard
2009-2012 :	Maurice Valette
2012-2013 :	Olivier Laurent
2013-2016 :	Christian Andraud
2016-2020 :	Paul Loubaresse
2020-2024 :	Roger Lordong