

9 SEPTEMBER 1911

GENERAL HOLIDAY REUNION
AT VAL-DES-BOIS

83rd Year
of the Good Father Léon HARMEL

41st Anniversary
of Mrs Léon HARMEL

THIS EDITION

This is an English translation of the original French text, made for the website leonharmel.com in 2026. It follows the original sentence by sentence, without cuts or additions.

The text is given in full, translated from the 1911 edition. It has been typeset in the spirit of the original: title pages and headings follow the layout of the book; the illustrations have been cut out of the digitised document and restored.

The numbered notes are those of the original work; here they are numbered continuously from beginning to end.

Léon Harmel, le Bon Père du Val-des-Bois

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Original document: private collection.

Version of 6 October 2026.



Léon Harmel. Le Bon Père. 9 septembre 1911 — 83^e année.

GENERAL HOLIDAY REUNION

83rd year
of the Good Father Léon Harmel.
41st anniversary
of the death of Mrs Léon
(Gabrielle Harmel).

The letter of invitation was sent:

To my Children and Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren¹:

Mr and Mrs **Maurice Harmel**, at Val-des-Bois.

Mrs **Paul Saucourt**, née Anna Harmel, in summer at Val-des-Bois, in winter at 83, avenue de la Californie, 175, promenade des Anglais, Nice. Mr and Mrs Pierre Saucourt-Harmel (their children: *Paul, Marguerite-Marie, Fernande, Germaine, Robert-Léon*), at Val-des-Bois. Mr Jean Saucourt, at Sabadell (Spain). Mr André Saucourt, Verreries de Laignelet, via Fougères (Ille-et-Vilaine).

Mrs **Félix Harmel** (Félix-Gabriel, Marcelle, Martha, Léon-Félix), at Val-des-Bois. Mr and Mrs Paul Jauffret (*Félix, Robert, Maurice*), 24, quai Claude-le-Lorrain, Nancy (Meurthe-et-Moselle). Mr Jacques Harmel (his son *Alain*), at Val-des-Bois.

Mr **Julien Harmel**, at Val-des-Bois and at Cannes (Alpes-Maritimes). Mr and Mrs Charles Harmel (their son *Henri*), 4, avenue Maximin-Isnard, Grasse. Mr and Mrs Antoine Heurtard, Hôtel Beau Séjour, Cannes.

Mr and Mrs **Gabriel Ardant** (Henri, Pierre, Georges, Marcel, Madeleine, Anne-Marie, Gabriel, Jeanne-Marie), 158, boulevard Malesherbes, Paris.

1. The names of the great-grandchildren and of the great-grandnephews and great-grandnieces are in *italics*.

Mr and Mrs **Léon Harmel** (Marie, Thérèse, Jean, Agnès, Léon), at Val-des-Bois.

Mr and Mrs **Alphonse Harmel** (Madeleine, Pierre, Andrée, Maurice, Anne-Marie, Suzanne, Albert-Léon), La Capelle (Aisne), and at Reims, 33-35, boulevard Fléchambault.

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To my Nephews and Nieces:

Descendants of Mr and Mrs Guillot-Harmel.

Mr and Mrs Paul Guillot (André, Hélène, Pierre, Jehan, Simonne), 2, boulevard Thiers, Argenteuil (Seine-et-Oise).

Mr and Mrs Chardon (*Emile, Suzanne, François, Philippe*), at Epône (Seine-et-Oise).

Reverend Father Emile Jauffret, missionary in Canada.

Descendants of Mr and Mrs Jules Harmel-Petit.

Mr and Mrs Alexandre Harmel, 23, rue de la Sourdière, Paris, and Boulton-sur-Suippe (Marne). Mr Gustave Harmel, Brother Marie-Victor, Trappist, Port-du-Salut, via Entrammes (Mayenne). Mr Théodore Harmel, Salesian religious, la Chaumière, Catel, Guernsey (England). Mr and Mrs Jules Jenvrin (Claire, Louis, André, Marie-Louise, Jules), Flers-de-l'Orne.

Descendants of Mr and Mrs Collard-Harmel.

Mrs Ernest Collard, Villers-Cotterêts (Aisne). Mr and Mrs Viornerly-Collard, at Maclas (Loire). Mr and Mrs Pierre Viornerly (*Maurice, Odette*), at Maclas (Loire). Mr and Mrs Lépine (*Simonne, Léon, Paul, Charles*), Belleville (Rhône). Mr and Mrs Despeyroux (*Lucie, Madeleine*), 5, place Vendôme, Lyon. Mr and Mrs Jean Viornerly, at Maclas (Loire). Mr and Mrs Barral, at Montluel (Ain).

Dr Léon Collard, at Annonay. Mr and Mrs Firmin Jouve (*Eugénie*), at Yssingaux (Loire).

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My sister-in-law Mrs **Auguste Reimbeau**, née Laure Harmel, at Val-des-Bois. Mr and Mrs Armand Reimbeau (Antoinette, Madeleine), 30, rue des Templiers, Reims. Mr and Mrs René Demogne-Reimbeau (*Nicole, Jean*), 5, place du Temple, Lille (Nord). Mr and Mrs Auguste Reimbeau, Reims. Mr and Mrs Emile Reimbeau, 5, rue Saint-Pierre-les-Dames, Reims.

Descendants of Mr and Mrs Bureau-Harmel.

Rev. Fr Louis Bureau, rector of the College of Florennes (Belgium). Mr and Mrs Henri Bureau (André, Suzanne, Madeleine, Anne-Marie, Monique), at Soissons. Mr and Mrs Henri Watrigant (Jacques, Germaine, Marie-Antoinette, Robert), 48, façade de l'Esplanade, Lille.

Descendants of Mr and Mrs Albert Harmel-Saucourt.

Mr and Mrs Ernest Harmel (Hélène, Marie-Louise, Elisabeth, Antoinette, Geneviève), 12, rue du Levant, Reims. Mr and Mrs Joseph Harmel, 53, avenue de Courbevoie, Asnières (Seine). Mr Hubert Harmel, at Val-des-Bois. Miss Marie-Thérèse Harmel, at Val-des-Bois.

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To my First Cousins:

Descendants of Mr and Mrs Félix Harmel-Chalamel.

Mr Léopold Harmel, at Boulzicourt. Mr and Mrs Félix Harmel (Germaine and Jeanne), at Boulzicourt. Mr Charles Harmel, lieutenant in the 4th Spahis at Sfax (Tunisia). Mrs Landragin-Harmel, at Boulzicourt, and her children, among them Rev. Fr Landragin, Trappist, at Igny (Marne), and Sister Hélène de Saint-Berchmans, Little Sister of the Poor, at Nice (A.-M.). Mrs Maille-Harmel, rue Desteuque, Reims, and her children.

Descendants of Mr and Mrs Hulot-Harmel.

Mr and Mrs Emile Hulot, at Donchery (Ardennes), and their children.



LETTER OF INVITATION

My children, grandchildren, nephews, grandnephews, nieces and grandnieces.

MY DEARLY BELOVED,

The General Holiday Reunion, to recall the memory of our dear departed, will take place on:

Saturday 9 September 1911.

At 7.30 a.m. — Mass for our dead, with Communion.

At 8 a.m. — Gathering in the room of Mrs Léon, whose 41st anniversary we shall keep; reading of the account of her last moments.

At 10 a.m. — Visit to the cemetery.

At 11.30 a.m. — Family luncheon.

At dessert — The fable of “The Old Man and His Children”.

Each year the list grows longer of those who have left us to form the family anew in Eternity. This year, one after the other, Mrs Jacques Harmel, whose sudden death spread dismay everywhere, and Mrs Julien Harmel, whose feelings of Christian resignation remain an example to all.

You know that you will give us the greatest pleasure by attending this reunion, where we shall speak of our dear departed, while at the same time we greet the future in the new generation that is rising.

I urgently invite not only my children, my grandchildren and my great-grandchildren, but also my nephews, grandnephews, nieces and grandnieces.

It is a favourable occasion to gather together the family, scattered over every part of France and even abroad, and so to perpetuate the mutual affection of which our fathers gave us so fine an example.

Is it not the strength and the honour of our tribe to follow our Christian and social traditions in that active concord so commended by the Gospel? That is why those who are able to give us this day will cause us great joy, for which I thank them in advance.

I earnestly ask those who are not free to come to unite themselves with us by attending Holy Mass on 9 September and receiving Communion at it for our departed and for the sanctification of the family.

Awaiting your kind reply, receive, my dearly beloved, for yourselves and your children, my most tender embraces.

LÉON HARMEL.

OUR DEPARTED

We do not mention the children under 5 years of age, our little guardian angels, who had no need of prayers².

My forebears.

Jean Harmel-Martin, † 1775, aged 80.

Joseph Harmel, † 1799, aged 70. — Mrs Harmel, née Anne-Marie Sampaix, † 1765, aged 35.

My paternal and maternal grandparents.

Jacques Harmel, † 1850, aged 88. — Mrs Harmel, née Marie-Joseph Blondiau, † 1844, aged 72.

Jeanne-Marie Harmel, † 1826, aged 66.

Tranchart-Meugy, † 1833, aged 77. — Mrs Tranchart, née Gabrielle Meugy, † 1846, aged 74.

My parents and Gabrielle's.

Jacques Joseph Harmel-Tranchart, † 1884, aged 89. — Mrs Harmel, née Anne-Alexandrine Tranchart, † 1856, aged 53.

Hubert Harmel, † 1856, aged 58. — Mrs Hubert Harmel, née Laurence Tranchart, † 1874, aged 66.

My father's brothers and sisters.

Maquet-Harmel, † 1900, aged 86. — Mrs Maquet, née Anne-Marie Harmel, widow of Mr Landragin, † 1876, aged 74.

Alexandre Landragin, † 1891, aged 59.

Charles Maquet, † 1902, aged 63.

2. Three brothers and sisters, three children, three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren.

Félix Harmel-Chalamel, † 1877, aged 71. — Mrs Félix Harmel, née Angéline Chalamel, † 1901, aged 85.

Mrs Léopold Harmel, † 1879, aged 30.

Blanche Harmel, † 1905, aged 57.

Hulot-Harmel, † 1892, aged 93. — Mrs Hulot, née Marie-Justine Harmel, † 1892, aged 81.

My children.

Paul Saucourt, † 1880, aged 33. — Maria Harmel (Sister Claire of the Blessed Sacrament), Poor Clare, † at Nazareth in 1888, aged 26. — Mrs Gabriel Ardant, née Gabrielle Harmel, † 1888, aged 23. — Félix Harmel, † 1899, aged 42. — Mrs Julien Harmel, née Eugénie Carnot, † 1911, aged 49.

My grandchildren.

Robert Harmel (son of Félix), † 1899, aged 11. — Gabrielle Harmel (daughter of Alphonse), † 1910, aged 7. — Mrs Jacques Harmel, née Germaine Reimbeau, † 1911, aged 24.

My brothers and sisters.

Guillot-Harmel, † 1859, aged 42. — Mrs Guillot, née Maria Harmel, † 1889, aged 64, and their daughter Mrs Jauffret, née Berthe Guillot, † 1880, aged 29.

Jules Harmel, † 1894, aged 66. — Mrs Jules Harmel, née Euphémie Petit, † 1908, aged 76; and their children: Victor, Rev. Fr Marie Gonzalve, Franciscan religious, † in China, in 1890, aged 26; Juliette Harmel, Sister Marie-Claire, Poor Clare, † 1892, aged 33; Georges Harmel, Rev. Fr Placide Marie, Franciscan, † 1906, aged 44. François Harmel (son of Alexandre), † 1901, aged 19.

Ernest Harmel, † 1885, aged 55. — Mrs Ernest Harmel, née Louise Guillot, † 1893, aged 50; and their children: Marie, † 1881, aged 16; André, † 1886, aged 23.

Collard-Harmel, † 1866, aged 48. — Mrs Collard, née Virginie Harmel, † 1869, aged 39; and their children: Henri Collard, † 1902, aged 47. — Mrs Collard, née Eugénie Bard, † 1897, aged 34. — Ernest Collard, † 1908, aged 58. — Clément Viorner, son of Joanny Viorner, † 1893, aged 12 1/2.

Auguste Reimbeau-Harmel, † 1865, aged 39; his son Abbé Jules Reimbeau, Salesian, † at Turin, in 1884, aged 28.

Albert Harmel, † 1905, aged 62. — Mrs Albert Harmel, née Virginie Saucourt, † 1890, aged 38.

Georges Bureau, † 1904, aged 61. — Mrs Bureau, née Marie Harmel, † 1903, aged 57.



REUNION OF 9 SEPTEMBER 1911

Counsels of the Good Father Léon Harmel³.

MY DEARLY BELOVED,

Love one another always.

By sacrificing to the union of the family a part of what you consider to be *your right*, you will act in accordance with your higher interests on this earth, and you will lay up for yourselves great riches in eternity.

Remember the motto that I have made my own:

UNION, A WORK OF LIFE

DISUNION, A WORK OF DEATH

For each of you, as well as for your families, I give you today as a keepsake a little volume of great price. Make it your bedside book.

It is by thinking often of the eternal truths that one prepares one's happiness on this earth and, in the other life, a joy without end.

Pray for me. I shall pray much for you.

I embrace you tenderly.

LÉON HARMEL

3. Gospel of St John: "By this shall all know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (Chap. XIII, §. 34 and 35.) "This is my commandment: Love one another, as I have loved you." (Ch. XV, §. 12.) "What I command you is to love one another." (Ch. XV, §. 17.) "Holy Father, keep in your name those whom you have given me, that they may be one as we are." (Ch. XVII, §. 11.)





*O Marie conçue sans péché, soyez la Reine de nos foyers, de nos usines, de la France
notre bien-aimée patrie.*