



Bicentenary of the birth of Amélie Soulacroix Ozanam and International SSVP Women's Day



Brother Renato Lima de Oliveira
16th General President of the SSVP (20 September 2020)



Presentation

- **Renato Lima de Oliveira**
- 49 years old
- Marital status: married to Andrea
- Two sons: Gustavo (20) and Bianca (16)
- Lives in Brasilia, Brazil
- Journalist, writer and teacher
- Master in Political Science
- PhD in Political Science (University of Lisbon 2020/2024)
- Federal Public Server (Anatel)
- Author of seven books
- Joined the SSVP on April 16, 1986 - Campinas (São Paulo)
- Currently serving at the **Our Lady of Fatima Conference** (serving as 2nd Secretary)
- 16th SSVP President General International (2016/2022)





Program

- Birth, childhood and adolescence
- Dating, Engagement and Marriage
- Daily life and birth of daughter
- Frédéric Ozanam's last moments
- Widowhood and death of Amélie
- Photographs and curiosities
- Genealogy
- Council General Initiatives



I thank my friend Javier Chento from Spain for the information about Amélie, which made this presentation possible

Birth, childhood and adolescence

- **Marie-Josefine-Amélie Soulacroix** was born on **August 14, 1820**, in Marseille (France)
- She was the first daughter of the marriage formed by the mathematics professor **Jean-Baptiste Soulacroix** (1790-1848) and **Célie Magagnos** (1798-1882)
- Her father was also known as **Jean-Joseph**
- Besides Amélie, they had three more children: **Theophile** (1823-1847), **Charles** (1825-1899) and **Noemi** (1827-1831).
- Amélie's father was rector of the **University of Lyon**



Birth, childhood and adolescence

14 - Clouté.
Soulacroix
Marie Joseph^{me} Amélie
N° 629.

L'an mil huit cent vingt et le quatorze août à trois heures
du soir.
acte de naissance de Marie Joséphine Amélie
Soulacroix, née ce jourd'hui à six heures du matin,
fille de sieur Jean Joseph Soulacroix, professeur de
Mathématique, et de Dame Rêlie Magagnol, mariés
demeurant aux allées de Meilhan N° 36. Le sexe de l'enfant
a été reconnu féminin; premier témoin sieur Eugène Péclet,
âgé de vingt sept ans professeur de Chimie, demeurant rue
du théâtre français N° 4. Second témoin sieur Charles Marie
Dunoyer, âgé de vingt deux ans professeur de philosophie, demeurant
au Collège royal; Sur la réquisition à moi faite par le père qui.

Birth, childhood and adolescence



**Jean Baptiste
Soulacroix**
(1790-1848)

**Célie
Magagnos**
(1798-1882)

Amélie
(1820-1894)

Noemi
(1827-1831)

Theophile
(1823-1847)

Charles
(1825-1899)

Birth, childhood and adolescence

- She was baptized in the **St. Vincent de Paul Church** in Marseille
- Amélie had a **happy childhood**. She received her religious and cultural education within her family, as was the custom at the time
- "**She was sweet, smiling and not very graceful**" (wrote historian Gerard Cholvy)
- From 1837 onwards, **she dedicated herself to taking care of her brother Theophile**, who was physically handicapped as he suffered from osteoarticular tuberculosis
- She was also Theophile's teacher at home





Dating, Engagement and Marriage

- In the mid-1840's, Amélie received **two marriage proposals, which she** rejected.
- Soon after, she met a young Antoine Frédéric , and on **November 13, 1840**, Ozanam was invited to the Soulacroix Family home to formally meet Amélie.
- The engagement was made oficial on November 24.
- On **December 13**, Frédéric and Amélie must separate, because Frédéric must go to Paris to work as a profesor at the Sorbonne University



Dating, Engagement and Marriage



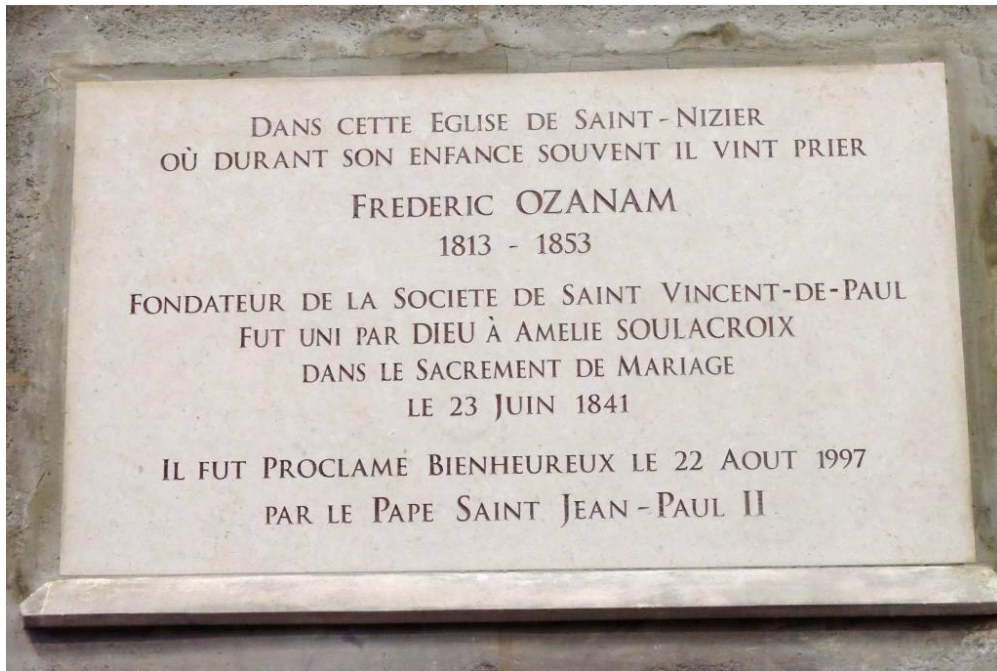
The bride and groom lived their courtship
m at a **distance**, Amélie in Lyon and
Frédéric in Paris.

There was a long and **frequent exchange of
correspondence** between them during the
commitment.

- On Tuesday, **June 22, 1841**, they signed the marriage contract before a civil registry office as indicated by French law.
- The happy wedding was held at 9 am on Wednesday, **June 23**, at the Town Hall and at 10 am at St. Nizier Church in Lyon.
- **Frédéric was 28 years old and Amélie was 20 years old**



Dating, Engagement and Marriage



St. Nizier Church in Lyon,
where the wedding was held in 1841

Everyday life

- After their **honeymoon**, which was in Italy, they settled in a small apartment in Paris, at the beginning of January 1842.
- After suffering the penalty for two miscarriages natural and spontaneous, at the end of 1844, Amélie became pregnant with Marie Josephine Ozanam.
- Marie Josephine was born on **July 24th, 2010. 1845**, filling with joy the house of The Ozanam-Soulacroix family
- In April 1845, Amélie's parents and her brother Theophile moved from Lyon to Paris to help the nascent Ozanam-Soulacroix Family.



Everyday life



- Ozanam traveled extensively to do his literary research and visit the local SSVP.
- In **mid-June 1846**, the Ozanam-Soulacroix family left for Italy, where they lived for a long time, moving to several cities.
- During this trip, Téophile, Amélie's brother, died (March 9, 1847) at the age of 24.
- It was a great pain for her not to be able to attend the funeral, because the distances prevented her from arriving on time.

Everyday life

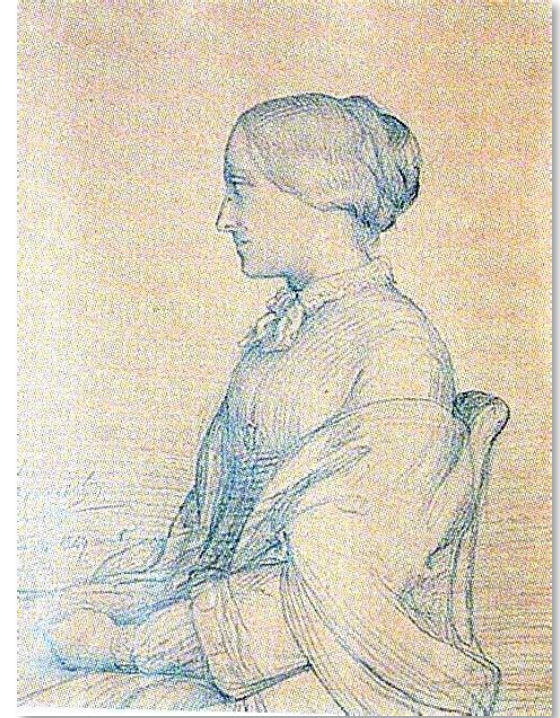
- The family returned to Paris in **mid-July 1847.**
- They move to a larger house, and the care of the house and the child kept Amélie active.
- Amélia was a very well educated woman. She spoke several languages. She played the piano and was a musician.
- The Ozanam family's maid (Guigui) helps Amélie with the housework and was employed by the Ozanam family for decades.





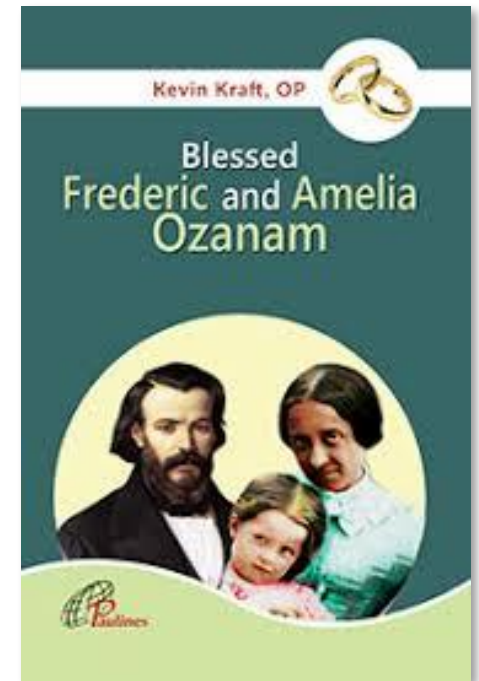
Everyday life

- Amélie's father, Jean-Baptiste Soulacroix, **became sick in April 1848**, with a serious illness, added to which he was very affected by the death of his son.
- Jean-Baptiste died on **July 23, 1848**, after three months of serious illness. There was a lot of love in that family, and because of that, the pain was suffered more.
- On **August 14th**, Amélie's birthday celebration was "a very sad party, mixed with many tears."
- However, **Frédéric insists that** the party must be held, to encourage his beloved Amélie



Everyday life

- Since **June 1849**, Antoine Frédéric Ozanam's illness began to manifest clearly
- Thus began a **long pilgrimage** that would take the family to various places to seek a possible cure and a more favorable climate such as the beach.
- The disease became a **regular companion** in the Ozanam family home, and not only a concern for Frédéric .
- In addition, Amélie and Marie's illnesses are transient and mild, compared to the **progressive worsening** of Ozanam's disease.



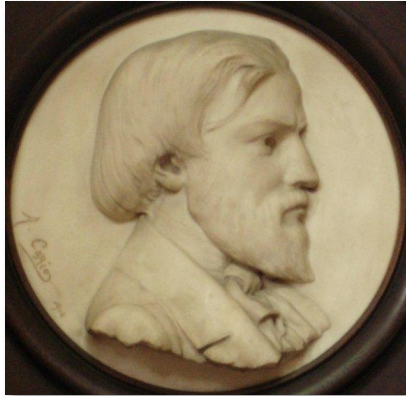
Everyday life



Bust of Amélie in 1842, made by Charles, Amélie's brother, who was a sculptor. This work is displayed in the General Council.

- At the beginning of **August 1849**, the Ozanam family leaves, without little Marie, for London, where they visit the 1st "Universal Exhibition".
- Upon returning home, **Amélie translated** some texts of the "Little Flowers" of St. Francis of Assisi for **him**.
- **They also visited Spain** for a short time, in 1852
- **They traveled to Italy** at the end of 1852.
- During the time of his illness, Amélie devoted herself **body and soul to** caring for her beloved husband.

Last moments of Ozanam



- At the end of **July 1853**, Antoine Frédéric 's situation became critical
- On **September 1** they returned from Italy by boat to France, landing in Marseille, where Ozanam died on **September 8**, at the age of 40.
- Amélie had relatives in Marseille
- After Frédéric 's death, Amélie insists on **burying him in Paris**, as her husband wished.
- Thus, Frédéric 's body was preserved for some weeks first in the **Church of Saint Sulpice** and soon after it was moved to the Church of **Saint-Joseph-des-Carmes**, in Paris, where his crypt is open to private veneration.



Last moments of Ozanam



- Ozanam's funeral was held in two places: in **Lyon**, where his family wanted to bury him; and in **Paris**, in the parish of Saint Sulpice.
- Amélie insisted on burying him in a church, although the **difficulties were many**, since it was forbidden to bury lay people inside churches.
- With the fundamental support of **Father Lacordaire**, she managed to bury the body in the Church of Saint-Joseph-des-Carmes, which the Dominican priests administered at that time, and in a **small crypt that was excavated in the basement of the church**, Frédéric 's body found its definitive dwelling.

Burial of Ozanam

- Amélie was **often** seen holding her daughter Marie-Josephine when they visited her husband's crypt and brought him flowers.
- They were not allowed access to the crypt, so **they could only see the grave from a window** more than 10 meters high.

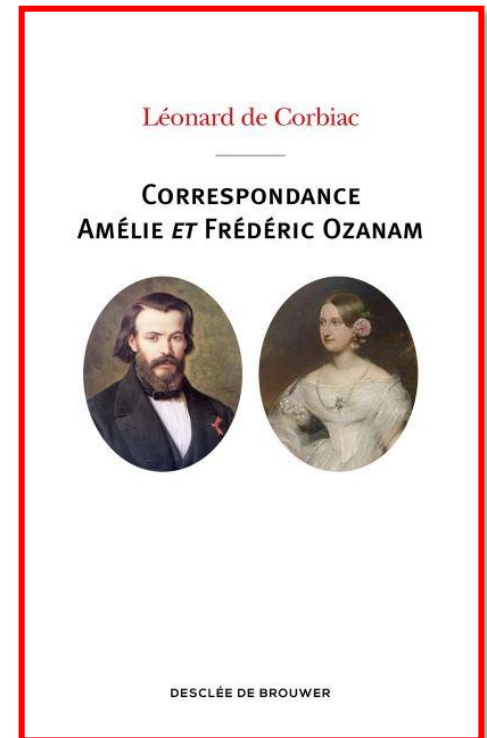


Crypt of Ozanam (today)



Widowhood and death

- Ozanam's early death left his wife, who was only **33 years old**, a widow, dedicated to the care of Marie, her daughter, who was orphaned at the **age of 8**.
- Amélie did not remarry: from the shadows, **she dedicated the rest of her life to the care of her daughter Marie**, and to supporting and accompanying charities and **preserving the memory of her late husband** and promoting the example of Frédéric's Catholic life.
- **June 23, 1854**: the idea of caring for his legacy by disseminating his letters begins.
- **1855**: Father Lacordaire writes the first biography of Ozanam



Widowhood and death

"I am going to begin today, June 23, 1854, to collect the materials and everything that can serve to write a whole life (...).

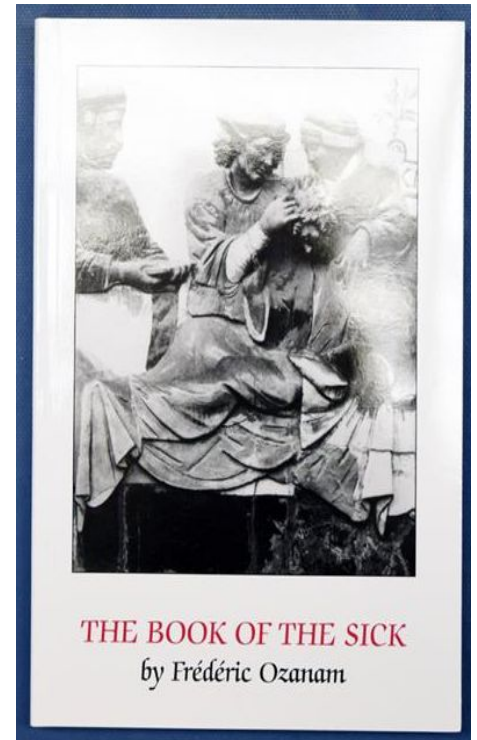
Perhaps this will not be done later?

*But, in any case, let God decide. I **will do everything in my power to ensure a memory (...)** that, I hope, is well made and becomes fruitful as was his life".*



Widowhood and death

- In addition to **handling Ozanam's correspondence** with friends and family, Amélie wrote little more than a few biographical notes about her husband.
- After his death he published three books by Ozanam: "**The Book of the Sick**", "**Civilization in the 5th century**" (which is a collection of literature classes that Frédéric gave at the Sorbonne in 1848 and 1849) and "**Peregrination to the country of *El Cid***".
- In Écully, a small village near Lyon, Amélie Ozanam died, after a brief illness, on **September 26, 1894**, at the age of 74.



Widowhood and death



- **Amélie Soulacroix Ozanam** died peacefully in the village of Écully, in the Lyon metropolitan area, having at her side to **Marie Josephine**, her son-in-law **Laurent Laporte** and her grandson **Frédéric Laporte** born in **1868**, with whom she lived in a closer union.
- She left, for all those who approached her, the memory of an "attractive kindness" that won all hearts, besides being a **great example of a holy and fruitful life**.



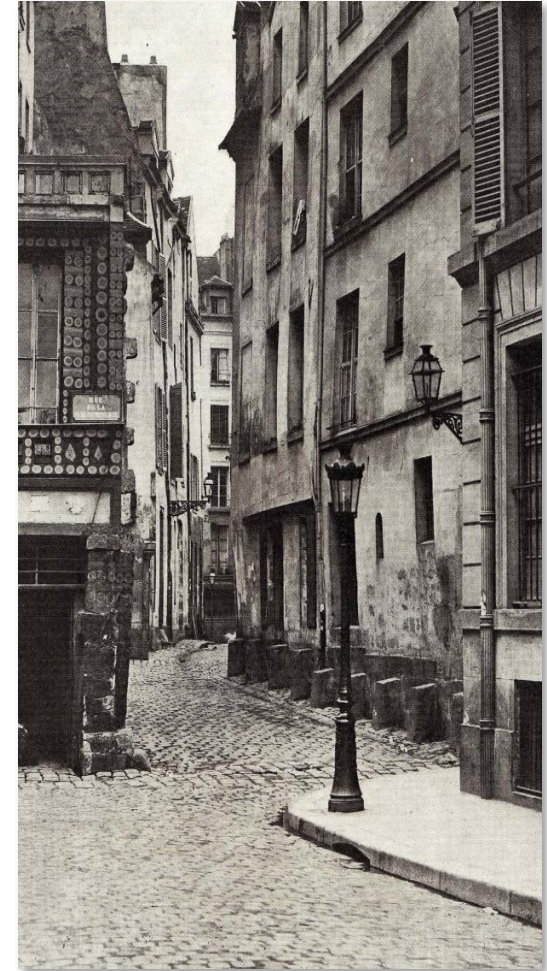
Virtues of Amélie Soulacroix Ozanam

- Fidelity
- Loyalty
- Humility
- Perseverance
- Charity
- Discretion
- Model wife and model couple
- Holy and fruitful widowhood
- Family Advocacy



Amélie and Charity

- **Work of the Suburbs** (1848/49), under the direction of Marc Aurèle Rataud, collaborator of Sister Rosalie Rendu DC, to **alleviate the suffering of families in distress**
- **Work of the Good Shepherd**, for more than 30 years, with Cardinal Lavigerie, to help **young females who fell into prostitution**, to get out of this degrading condition.
- Monthly and annual charity **events** to support many charities
- The **Collection of the St. Peter's Pence** began in Paris, and was held on June 29th of each year.





Card of funeral and 7th day Mass



Tomb of Amélie in Paris



Montparnasse Cemetery,
Paris

Who was Amélie Ozanam?

- Ozanam and Amélie married in **1841**.
- They remained together for **12 years**, until the death of her husband in 1853.
- Amélie was only **33 years old** at the time.
- Her widowhood lasted **41 years** (1853-1894)
- Ozanam always gifted her with flowers on the **23rd of each month**, to remember the date of their wedding.



Complaint on the foundation – 1853/56



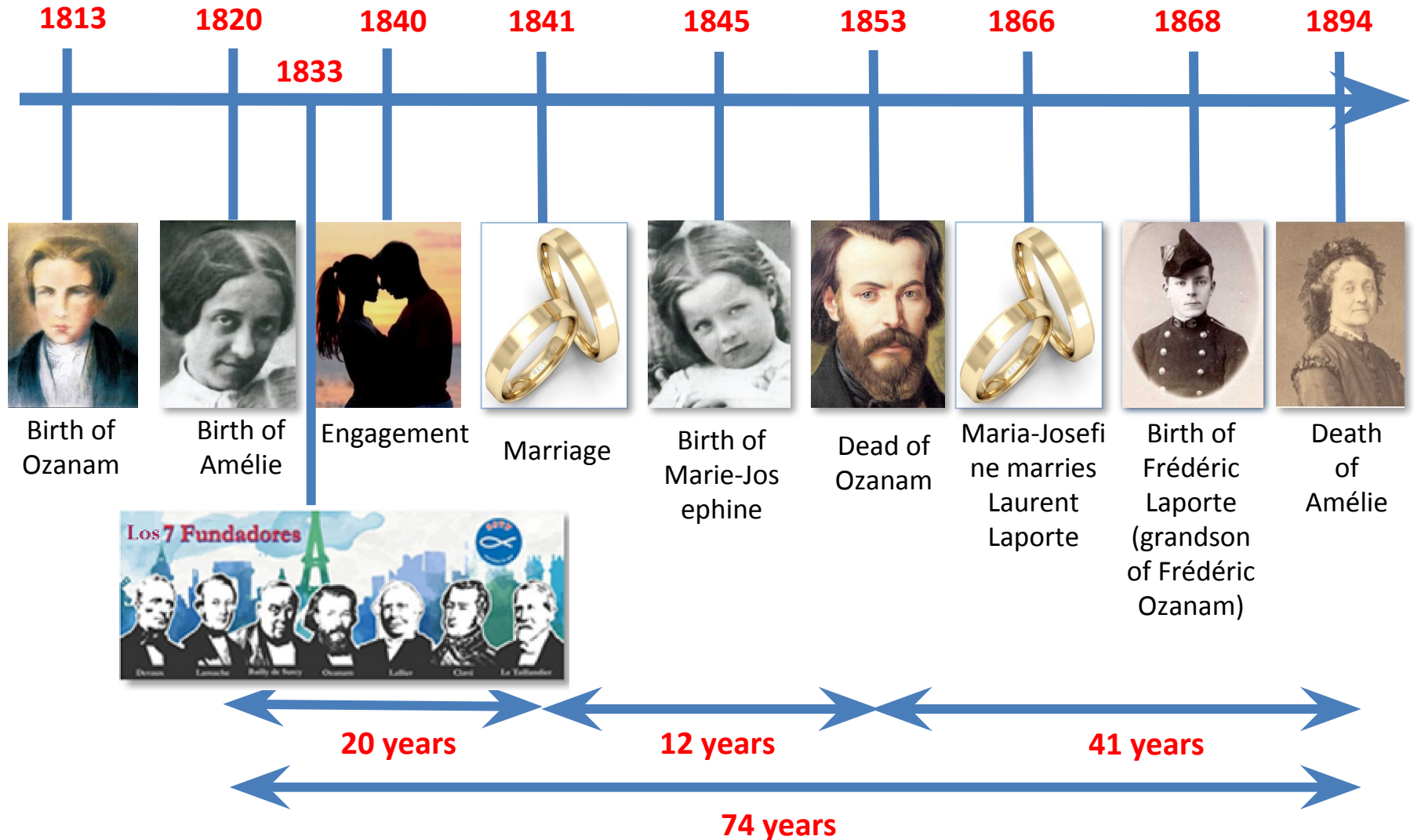
París - L'Univers



Lyon - La Gazette de Lyon

- Location: Paris x Lyon
- Artificial theme, sterile, created by the press
- Amélie acted to close the issue
- It was a collegiate foundation

Timeline





Council General Initiatives



Bicentennial of Amélie (1820-2020)

- More information
- <https://www.ssvpglobal.org/on-august-14-we-celebrate-the-bicentenary-of-the-birth-of-amelie-soulacroix-ozanam/>
- International Thematic Year **2026**



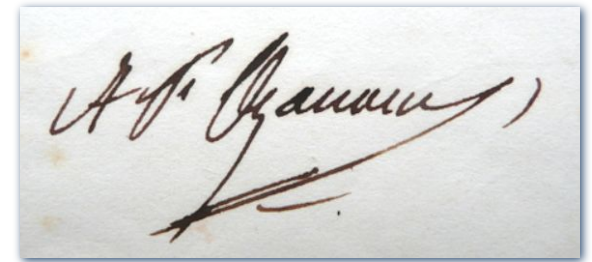
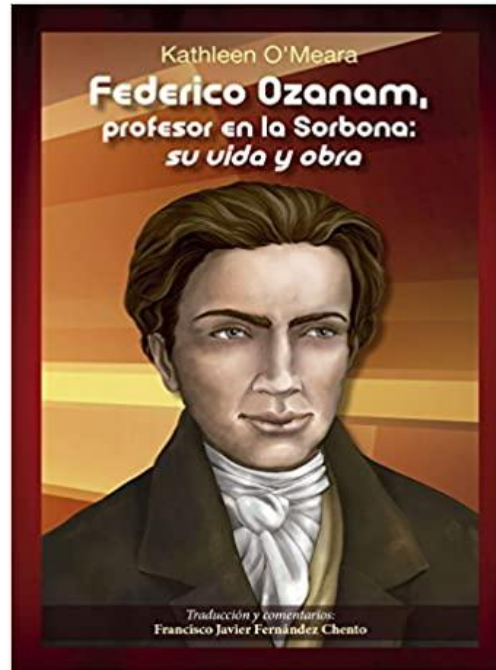
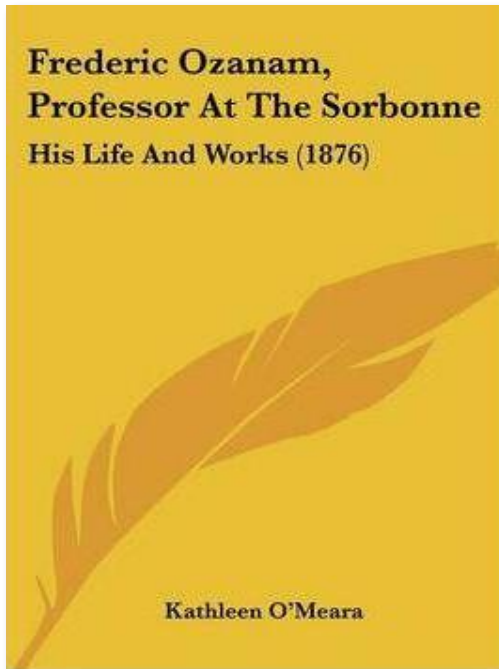
Council General Initiatives



**INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF WOMAN
SSVP MEMBERS**

Just and deserved tribute and recognition to the presence and participation of women within the beloved SSVP!

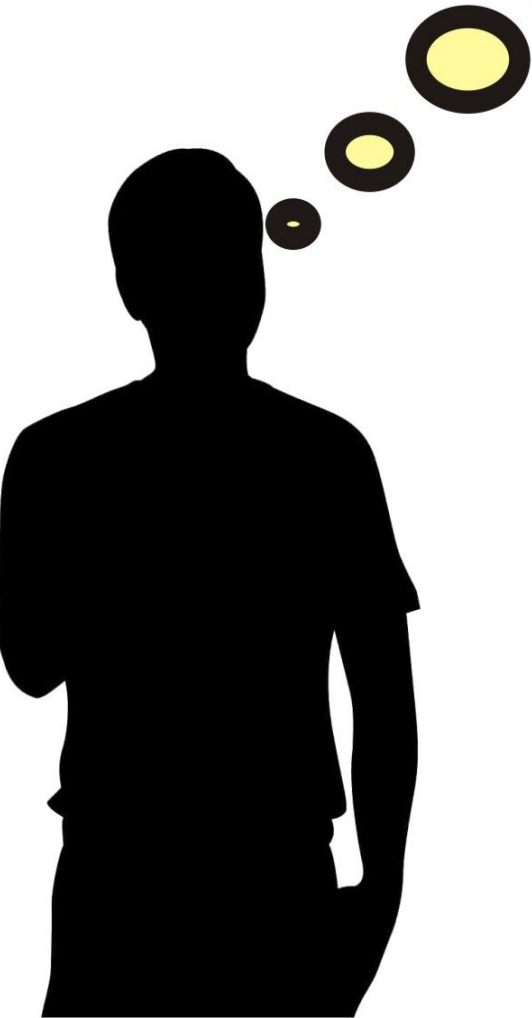
Bibliografía



"Frédéric Ozanam, professor at the Sorbonne: his life and works" (Spanish edition), by Kathleen O'Meara, contains a chapter especially dedicated to Amélie Soulacroix, written by Javier Chento.



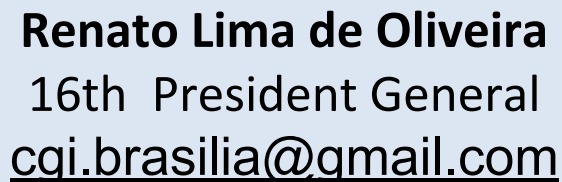
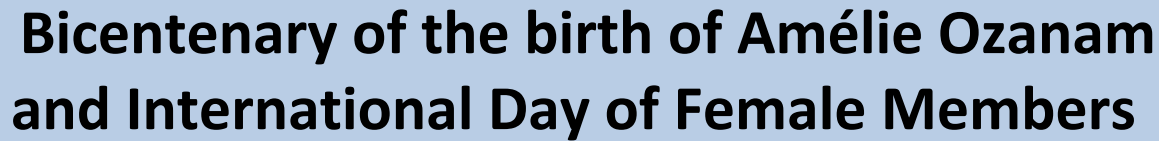
Let's Reflect!



- ✓ Alongside the path of **faith and charity** of blessed Antoine Frédéric Ozanam, there was a very important woman in his life.
- ✓ Amélie Soulacroix Ozanam was **a wife, daughter, grandmother, mother, friend, supporter, in short, a truly companion** willing to love and care for the family she built with him.
- ✓ **Thanks to her**, we know a lot about Ozanam, because almost **immediately after his death**, she began to compile his biography.

**Next to a great man,
there is always a great woman**





Renato Lima de Oliveira
16th President General
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Photographs and curiosities

Marie Josephine Ozanam (1845-1912)



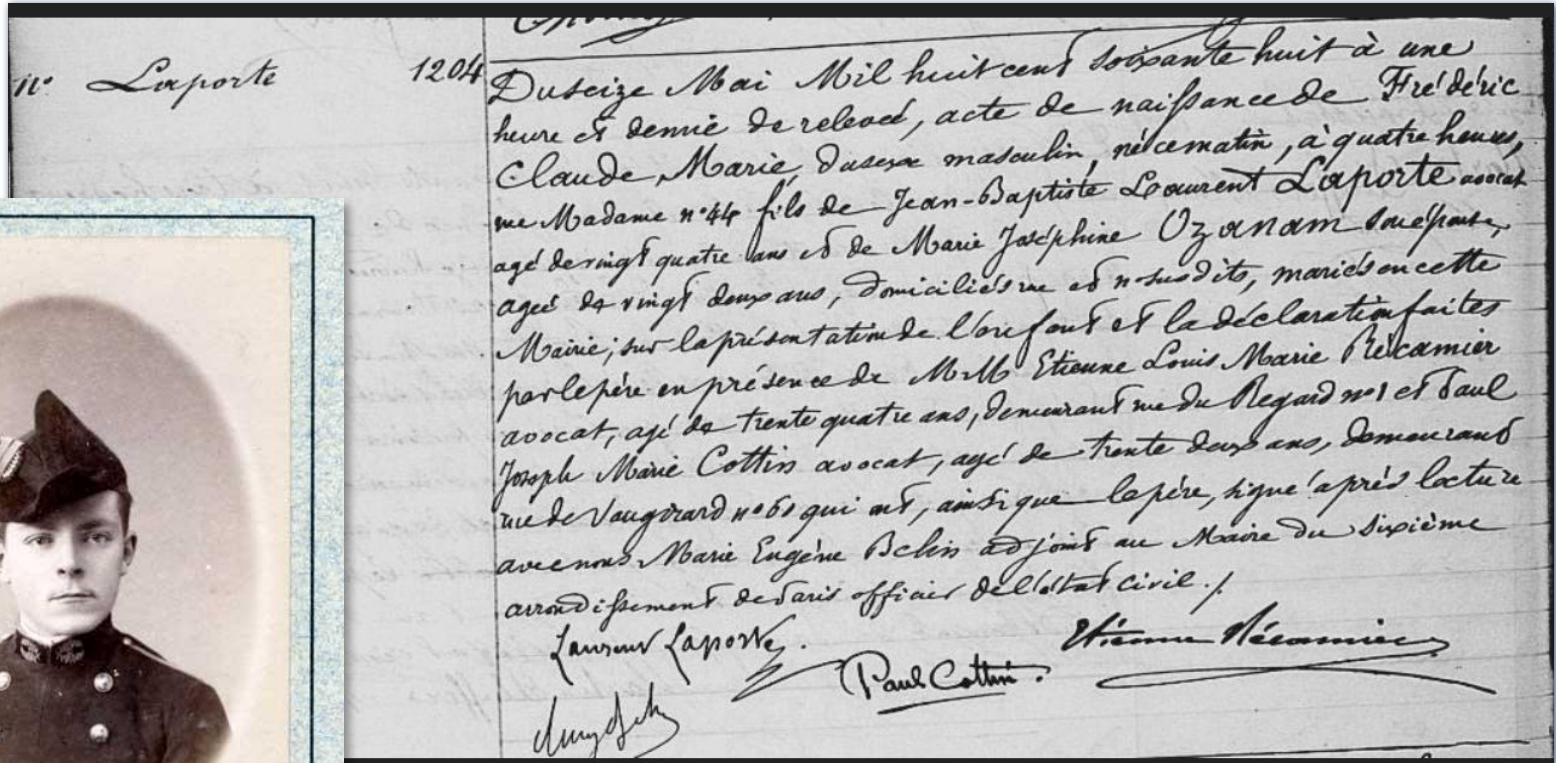
Marie Josephine
Ozanam (5 years old)



Marie Josephine Ozanam
(15 years old)



Birth of Frédéric Laporte



Frédéric Claude Marie Laporte, 1868 - 1922
(grandson of Frédéric and Amélie)



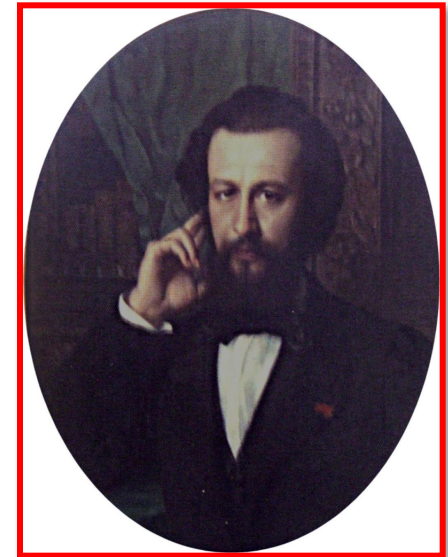
Ozanam' brothers (Amélie's brothers-in-law)



Elisa Ozanam
(died at age 19)
1801-1820

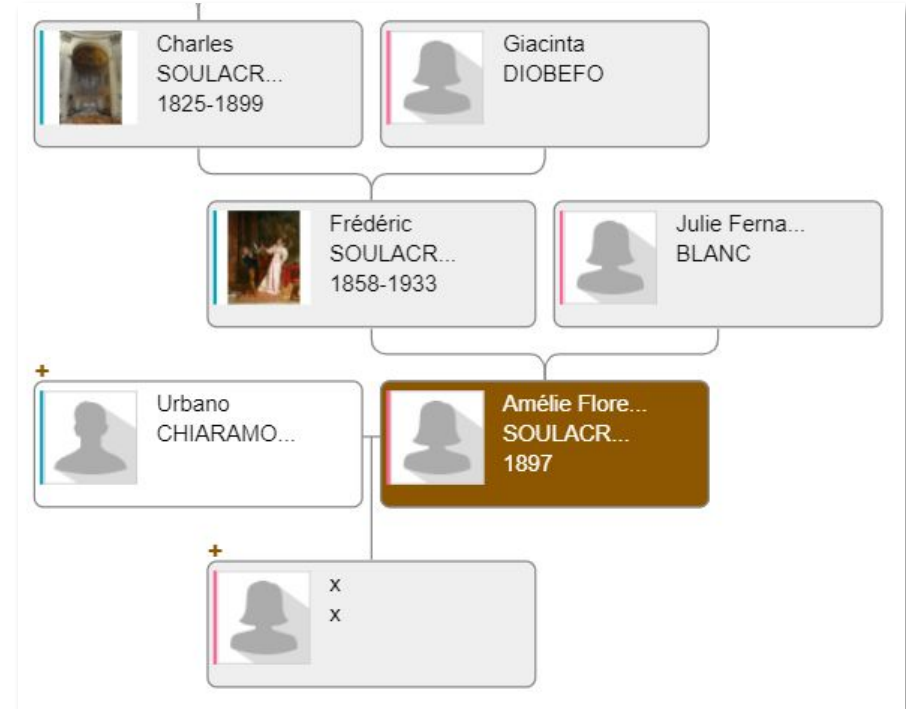


Alphonse Ozanam
(priest)
no descendants



Charles Ozanam
(doctor)
1834-1907 (11 children)

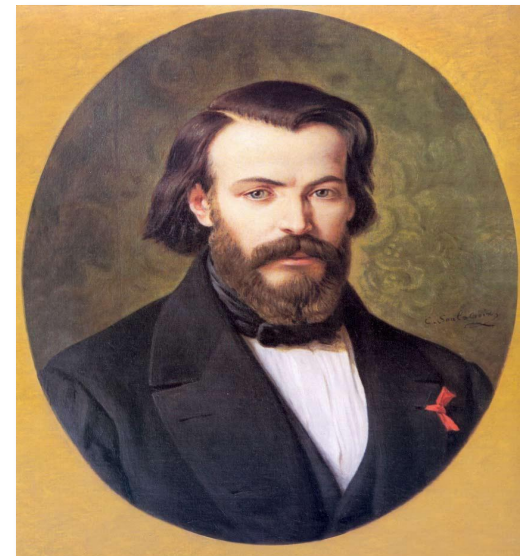
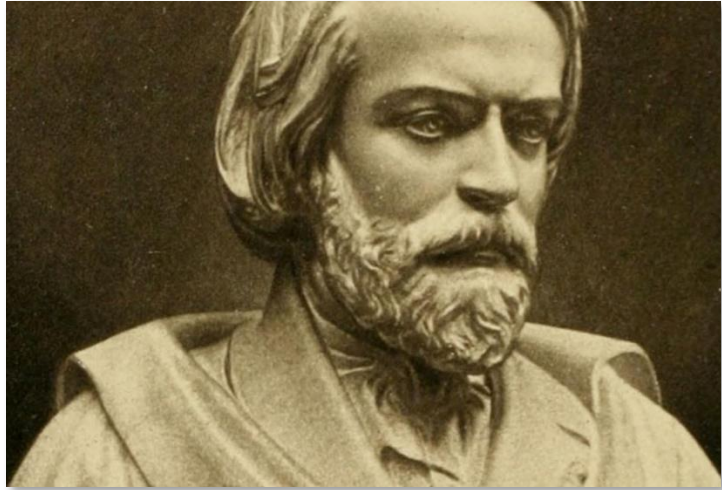
Amélie's brother (brother-in-law of Frédéric Ozanam)



Charles Soulacroix 1825-1899
(artist and sculptor)

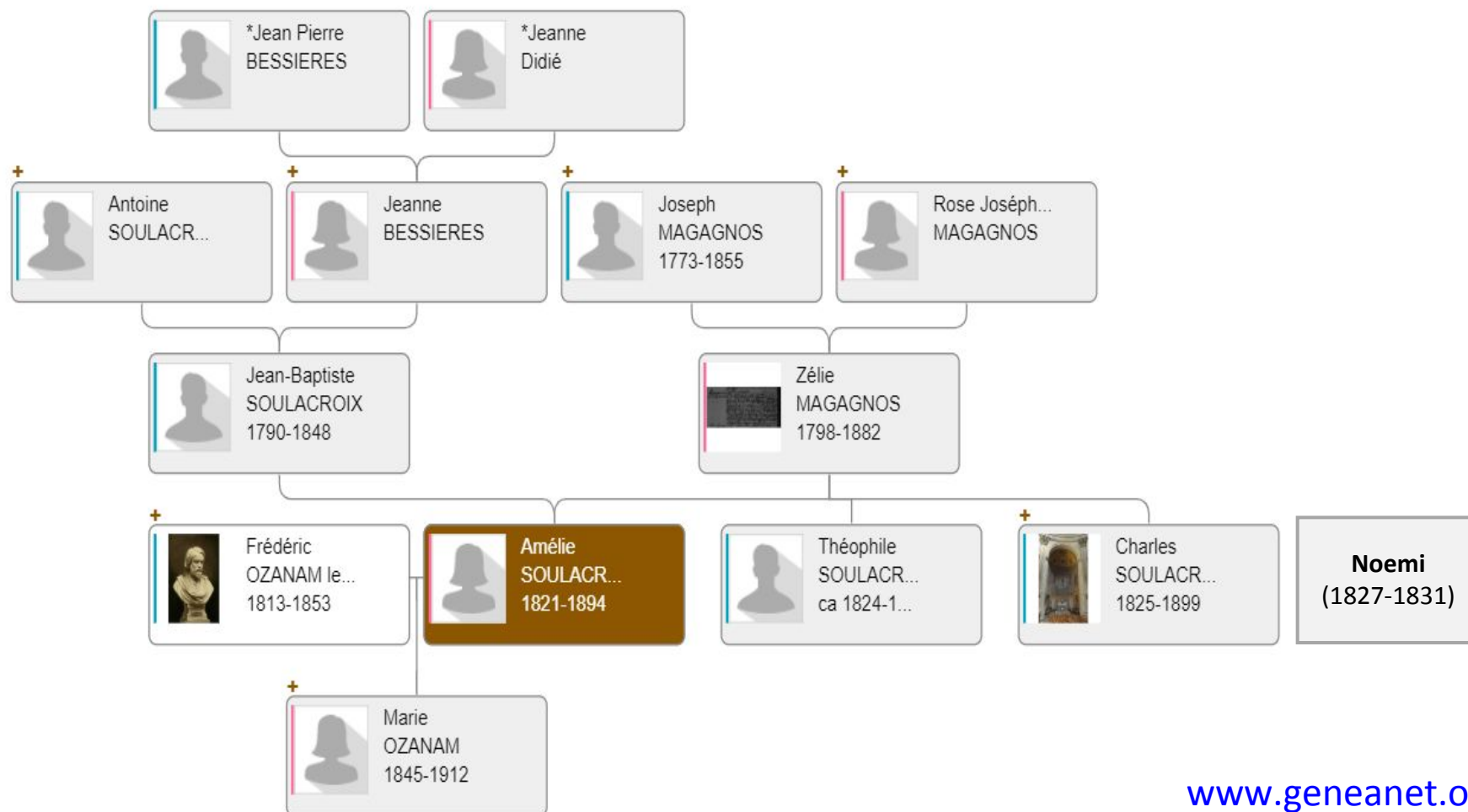


Sculptures and paintings by Charles Soulacroix

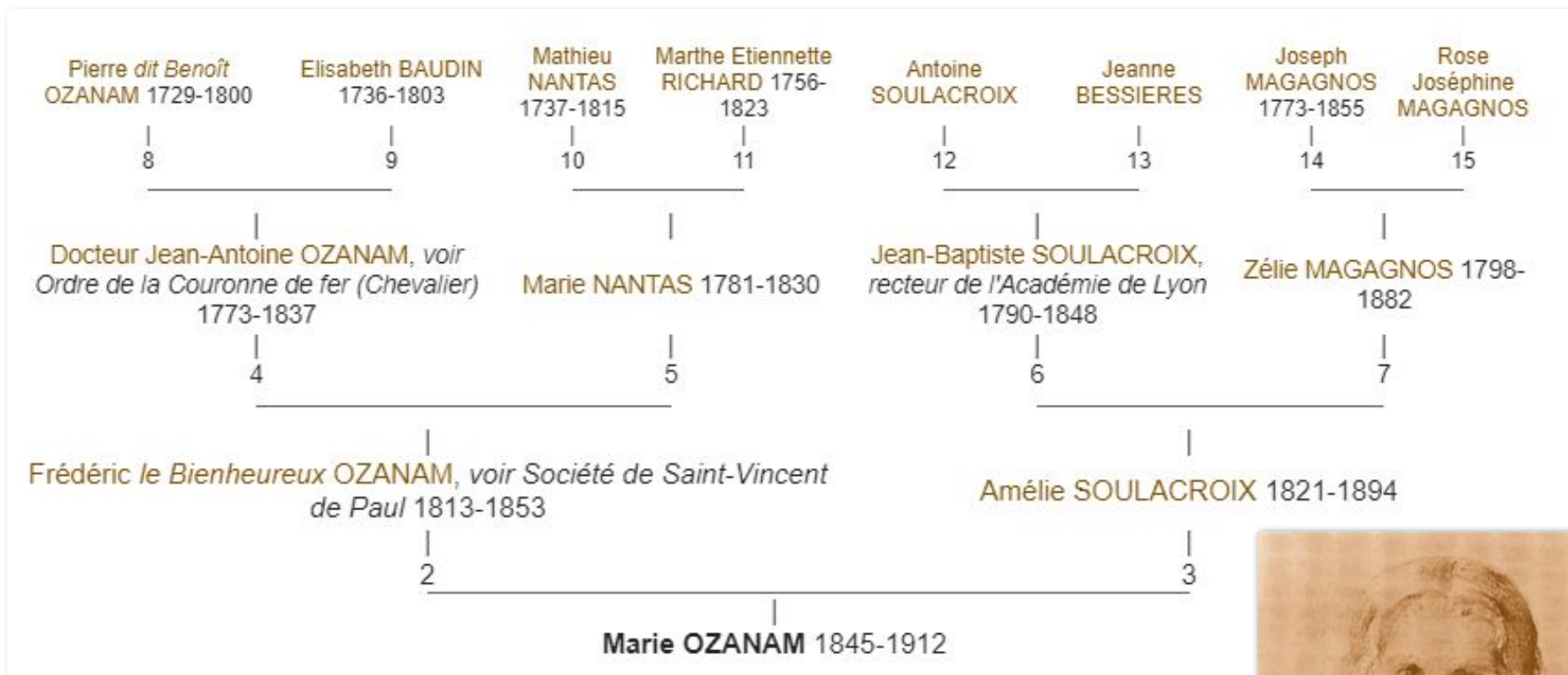


Genealogy

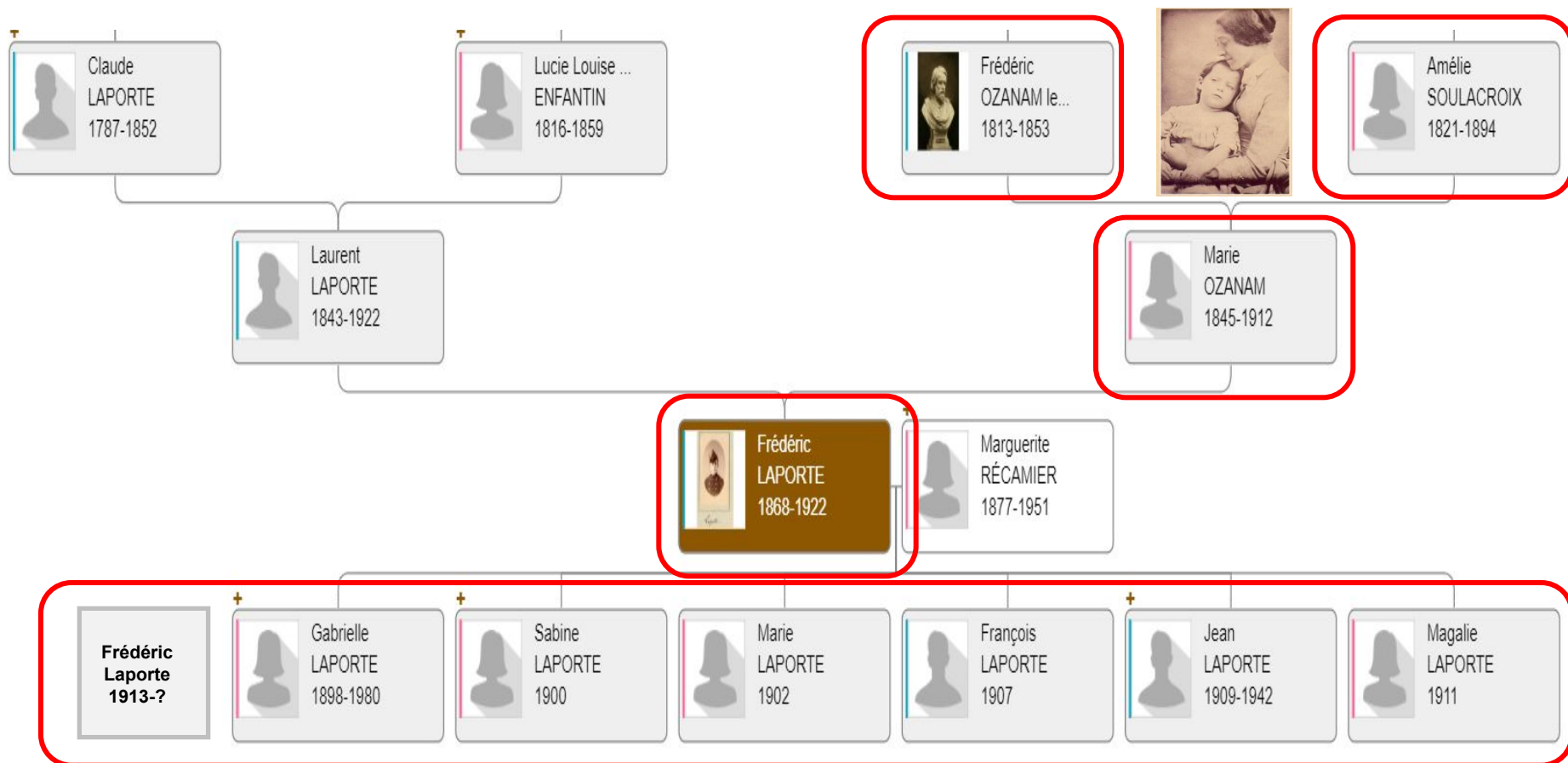
Genealogy of Amélie



Genealogy of Marie Josephine Ozanam



Descendents of Frédéric & Amélie





Grandsons of Frédéric & Amélie

- ♀ Marie OZANAM 1845-1912 *Mariée le 16 juillet 1866, St-Sulpice, Paris VI° (75), avec Laurent LAPORTE 1843-1922 dont*
 - ♂ Frédéric LAPORTE, *voir Polytechnique 1868-1922 Marié le 9 juillet 1896 avec Marguerite RÉCAMIER 1877-1951 dont :*
 - ♀ Gabrielle LAPORTE 1898-1980
 - ♀ Sabine LAPORTE 1900
 - ♀ Marie LAPORTE 1902
 - ♂ François LAPORTE 1907
 - ♂ Jean LAPORTE, *voir Mort pour la France 1909-1942*
 - ♀ Magalie LAPORTE 1911

- Hija: Marie Josefina Ozanam
- Casada con Laurent Laporte en **1866**
- Hijos: uno solo, Frédéric Laporte (nieto de Frédéric y Amélie) en **1868**
- Frédéric Laporte se casó con Marguerita Récamier en **1896**
- Ese matrimonio tuvo **7 hijos** (bisnietos de Frédéric y Amélie): Gabrielle, Sabine, Marie (soltera), Francisco (sacerdote), Jean (militar), Magalie y Frédéric

<https://gw.geneanet.org/pierfit?lang=fr&p=amelie&n=soulacroix>



Story of Marie Laporte, Frédéric's great-granddaughter (1902-2003)



LA DESCENDENCIA DE OZANAM EN UN SIMPATICO Y CARIÑOSO RELATO DE MARIA LAPORTE, BISNIETA DE FEDERICO OZANAM

"...Siento que todos los que estamos aquí, somos descendientes de Ozanam, por lo que yo soy descendiente entre ustedes.

Con mis hermanos y hermanas tuve este privilegio de la cuna.

Pero ustedes, aquí presentes, también son descendientes activos de Federico Ozanam, porque lo aman como si fuéramos todos una familia.

Ahora, muy rápidamente, quiero contarles sobre el estado actual de nuestra familia.

Saben que Federico Ozanam, de su matrimonio con Amelia, tuvo una sola hija, la pequeña María Josefina, de la que habla con tanta ternura en su correspondencia.

María, de 21 años, se casó con Laurent Laporte, originario de Lyon, como Federico Ozanam.

Del matrimonio de María con Laurent, solo nació un hijo: Federico Laporte, que era mi padre.

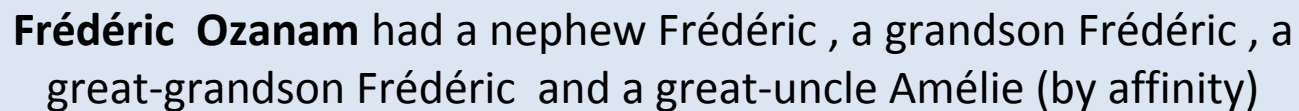
Se casó y de su matrimonio nacieron cuatro hijos y tres hijas. El mayor de mis hermanos fue Sacerdote en la Congregación de la Misión de Francia, el segundo hermano fue Militar y murió en combate en la Gran Guerra y el tercero murió siendo niño. Mis hermanas y mi hermano oficial estaban casados, soy la única soltera en la familia, pero me complace contar veinte sobrinos y sobrinas y setenta nietos. Estos sobrinos nietos, con sus matrimonios, ya me han dado setenta y cinco sobrinos nietos, entre ellos una sobrina nieta, que nació ayer, 1 de junio de 1990.

Ven, entonces, que esta ascendencia familiar, que se une a la de ustedes, constituye una gran familia.

De mis sobrinos Ozanam, que mantienen su nombre, también hay un gran linaje. Son descendientes de Carlos, quien era médico y era hermano menor de Federico Ozanam.

Así, se los presento y así, ustedes y nosotros, todos somos una gran familia."

<http://soussvp.blogspot.com/2013/07/a-descendencia-de-ozanam-em-um-simpatico.html>



Article about Amélie Soulacroix Ozanam

Amélie Ozanam : tout un programme !

Amélie est le nom donné à l'une des trois nouvelles cloches de l'église Saint-Jean-Baptiste du quartier Saint-Jean. Amélie du nom de l'épouse de Frédéric Ozanam, patron de la paroisse Beauvais Sud.

Suite à la bénédiction des cloches le 27 janvier par notre évêque, j'ai voulu en savoir plus sur Amélie Soulacroix-Ozanam (1820-1894). Ce serait en effet la première fois qu'Amélie est mise ainsi à l'honneur en donnant son nom à un bâtiment ou objet public. Et pourtant, comme l'écrivait l'un de ses amis "Elle était en tout point digne de son mari". Magdeleine Houssay, arrière-arrière-petite-fille d'Amélie parle avec émotion du travail mené par sa cousine Raphaëlle Chevalier-Montariol pour faire connaître leur aïeule trop souvent laissée dans l'ombre de son époux.

Amélie, jeune femme pleine d'humour, était passionnée de vie. Et pourtant, elle et sa famille n'ont pas été épargnées par les difficultés et la maladie. Elle perd d'abord l'aîné de ses frères de 23 ans atteint d'une maladie dégénérative; elle-même aura de grandes difficultés à avoir un enfant, et enfin son mari meurt alors qu'elle n'a que 33 ans, maman d'une fille de 8 ans ! Elle trouve dans la foi ses forces pour affronter l'avenir. Toute sa vie est marquée par l'attention à l'autre et le service des pauvres, des malades. D'abord

vis-à-vis de ses frères et de ses parents, puis dans des œuvres sociales - elle contribue notamment à créer ce qui est devenu le mouvement du Fid qui agit pour l'abolition de la prostitution - et dans l'œuvre d'Orient, et enfin dans son couple et sa famille. Douée d'un esprit pratique, modeste, efficace, enjouée, excellente pianiste, mère attentive... elle vivra un amour passionné avec Frédéric et saura rassurer et accompagner cet homme inquiet puis malade, et l'aider dans son œuvre.

Si Frédéric Ozanam est connu par son investissement dans le catholicisme social, ses initiatives en faveur des familles pauvres - et notamment la création de la Société Saint-Vincent de Paul - active à Beauvais, sa personnalité comme celle d'Amélie sont connues par leurs écrits et principalement leur courrier. Parfois tenus éloignés l'un de l'autre par les études et le poste d'enseignant à La Sorbonne de Frédéric, les deux fiancés d'abord puis les deux époux profitaient de chaque occasion de s'écrire un mot ou une lettre. Se faisant de nombreux amis par leurs actions et leurs voyages, Frédéric a entretenu une correspondance abondante qu'Amélie a eu soin de rassembler et de publier après sa mort.

Ces écrits montrent deux person-

nalités pleinement ancrées dans leur siècle, présentes à leur entourage, à leur famille, préoccupées des petits riens de la vie quotidienne, mais convaincues de l'Evangile, les pieds sur terre et la foi au cœur, la bible dans une main et le journal dans l'autre.



Sans Amélie, Frédéric Ozanam n'aurait pas été ce qu'il fut, et leur exemple confirme bien la maxime arabe selon laquelle "derrière chaque grand homme il y a une femme".

Hélène Bernard

A lire

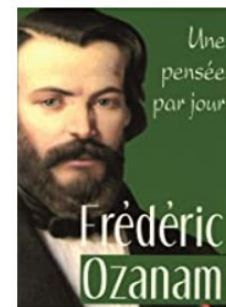
Amélie et Frédéric Ozanam à la lumière de Vatican II par Raphaëlle Chevalier-Montariol, éditions Jouve.

Article "*Amélie and Ozanam in the light of Vatican Council II*",

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