



SPIRITUAL TESTAMENT

This day,
the 23rd of April, 1853,
on completing my 40th year,
in great physical sickness but
sound in mind,
I express here in a few words
my last wishes,
intending to set them forth
more fully when I shall have
more strength.





I commit my soul to
Jesus Christ,
my Saviour,
frightened at my
sins,
but trusting in His
infinite mercy.





I die in the Holy, Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman Church. I have known the difficulties of belief of the present age, but my whole life has convinced me that there is neither rest for the mind nor peace for the heart save in the Church and in obedience to her authority. If I set any value on my research, it is that it gives me the right to entreat all whom I love, to remain faithful to the religion in which I found light and peace



My supreme prayer for my family, my wife, my child, and grandchildren, is that they will persevere in the Faith, despite any humiliation, scandals or desertions which may come to their knowledge.



I bid farewell to my dear Amelie, who has been the joy and the charm of my life, and whose tender care has softened all my pain for more than a year. I thank her, I bless her, I await her in heaven. There, and only there, can I give her such love as she deserves.

I give my daughter the
blessing of the Patriarchs,
in the name of the Father and
of the Son and of the Holy
Spirit.

I am sad that I cannot labour
longer at the wonderful task
of her education, but I entrust
this work to her good and
beloved mother.





I give thanks for all those persons who in any way have served me and I ask forgiveness for my bad example and my impulsiveness.



I ask you to pray for the
members of the Saint
Vincent de Paul Society in
Lyon.

Do not allow yourselves to be stopped by those who will say to you, “He is in heaven.” Pray always for him who loves you dearly, for him who has greatly sinned. If I am assured of those prayers, I quit this earth with less fear.





I hope firmly that we
are not being separated
and that I may remain
with you until you come
to me.

May the blessing of the
Father and the Son and
the Holy Spirit descend
upon you. Amen

