



## Why the Coesfeld Sisters of Notre Dame call Julie Billiart their Spiritual Mother



1. The pattern or form of religious life they have traces back to her through the Rule, which provided the framework within which the Coesfeld sisters could live out their original spirituality and mission in the context of religious consecration.

2. Certain “sound traditions” the Coesfeld sisters have as a religious congregation trace back to Julie. Some, such as devotion to the Sacred Heart, to Our Lady, to the Cross, deep centeredness and trust in God, simplicity of life, missionary spirit were already part of their spiritual inheritance from their home diocese of Münster, especially their Christian and professional formation in the spirit of Overberg. What came from Julie supported what was already there.

3. By the Rule, tradition, and formation received through Amersfoort the Coesfeld sisters participate in Julie’s charism, a deep experience of God’s goodness. This charism was joined to the founding charism of Sister Maria Aloysia, a deep experience of God’s provident care leading her to care for others.

4. The story of Julie’s life and her spiritual teaching enriched the sisters’ relationship with God after they learned about their connection to her (c1880) and especially once they could read about her in their own language, German (1908). Appreciation of Julie’s life and spirituality was further enhanced by the translation and publication of her letters after her 1969 canonization.

5. Their adoption during the twentieth century of God’s goodness as a central theme in their spirituality, joining it to the foundational Coesfeld emphasis on God’s providential care, is clear evidence of the Coesfeld sisters’ strong sense of identification with “Mother Julie.”



*How good God is.*

*God has always taken care.*

