

## St. Léonie Aviat

Feast Day: January 10

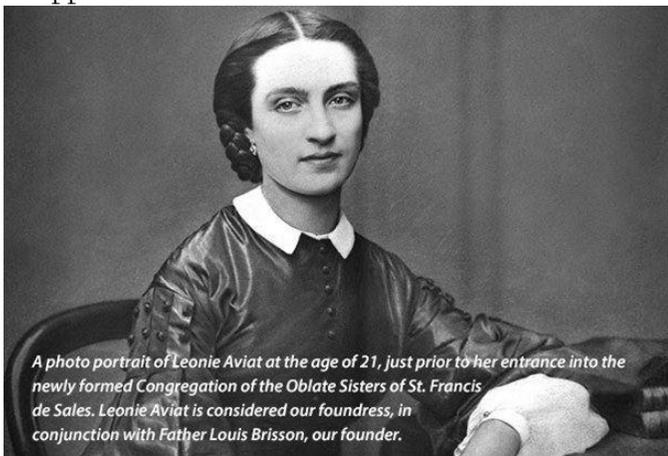
Patron Saint: Boarding Schools, Young Girls

Léonie Aviat was born on September 16, 1844, in Sezanne, France. Her parents were shopkeepers. She was baptized the day after her birth in a local church.

Léonie received her education at the convent school of the

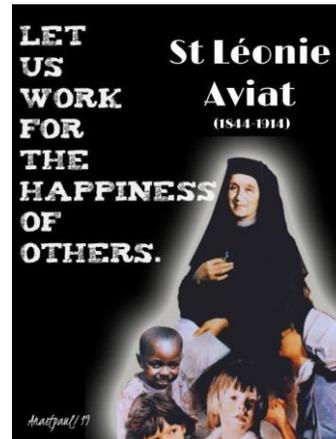
Visitation in Troyes. There she received religious education from Servant of God Marie de Sales Chappuis and her chaplain was Blessed Louis Brisson. It was there that she was being formed for her life's mission: the foundation of a congregation committed to Salesian spirituality and to the evangelization of young women.

When she returned home, Léonie's parents expected her to marry a rich man. She announced her intention to join a religious order, which did not please them. Léonie made a spiritual retreat to discern her future, but Brisson and Chappuis both advised her to wait.



After witnessing the poor living conditions of the men and women who worked in factories and textile mills, Brisson and Léonie established a new religious congregation dedicating to helping them. In April 1866, Aviat, Brisson, and a former boarding school companion Lucie Caneut, founded the Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales. Father Brisson found in Léonie Aviat an incomparable co-worker and an ardent apostle like himself and so entrusted both this work and the new community to her care and direction.

Léonie went on to establish parish schools, including a boarding school for girls in Paris. She also protected workers who had come from the rural areas to work in the cities, making sure they kept their jobs during the Franco-Prussian War.

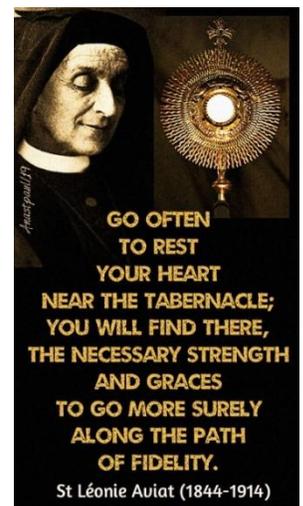


In 1871, Léonie professed her vows, becoming the first Superior General of the congregation. She served two separate terms in office, during which time she is credited with curing a postulant's abscessed heel bone with a relic of St. Francis de Sales. After her second term ended, she found herself at odds with the two subsequent Superior

Generals, a trial she bore silently and patiently.

When Léonie was in Paris for the order's General Chapter in 1893, she heard a voice telling her that she would be re-elected as Superior General. She was elected the next morning. After a period of difficulty through which so many foundresses must live in order to put down solid roots of holiness for their Congregations, Saint Léonie Aviat guided her Sisters through the religious persecution in her native France and developed the works of the Congregation in Europe, South America and Africa. When the anti-clerical French government dissolved the Congregation, Mother Aviat and the Sisters worked to maintain the establishments that could be continued in France and transferred the Motherhouse to Perugia, Italy, guaranteeing its future.

The day after Christmas in 1913, Léonie fell ill. She received last rites on January 9, and died on January 10, 1914. Léonie was named a Servant of God by Pope Pius XII in April 1957, and was made a Venerable in 1978. After a 14-year-old girl from Philadelphia was cured of a paralyzing spinal disease, Pope John Paul II canonized Aviat in 2001.



<https://angelusnews.com/faith/saint-of-the-day/saint-of-the-day-leonie-aviat/>

<https://www.oblates.org/st-leonie-aviat-osfs>

## Praying the Chaplet of St. Léonie Aviat

*A decade rosary*

**Opening Prayer on the Crucifix:** God of all goodness, you put into the heart of Saint Leonie Aviat an ardent desire to live humbly like Jesus, your Son. You taught her to surrender her will to yours and to have a constant charity toward all. Inspired by her example, may we too forget ourselves entirely so that we may serve you better and work for the happiness of others. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

1 Our Father  
10 Hail Mary's  
1 Glory Be



**Closing Prayer on the Medal:** O my God, alms are given to the poor; see my misery and have pity on me. I cannot be the most innocent, the most faithful, the most loving soul of Your divine Heart, O Jesus. Well, then, I will be the little beggar of Jesus' Heart. You will not refuse me alms. Communicate your strength and generosity to me; may I draw my life from you, for it is not from me. O risen love, animate me; sustain me; direct me. Amen *(written by St. Léonie Françoise de Sales Aviat)*

Through Your Son, Lord God, You shed Your eternal light on all mankind. You gave us our mission, You taught us our way. Grant us the grace to acknowledge the full splendor of our Redeemer, so that, in His steps, we may grow from strength to strength in evangelizing all. Fill us with Your Spirit to enlighten and guide us. May the intercession of St Léonie Françoise De Sales Aviat, who followed our Savior and imitated Him, help us in our mission. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, in union with the Holy Spirit, God forever, amen.

<https://visitationspirit.org/2013/12/st-leonie-avait-centenary-celebrations/>

<https://anastpaul.com/2019/01/10/>

### Wisdom of St. Léonie Aviat

- Retreat resolution: To forget myself entirely.
- May my love unceasingly offer something to my divine Jesus.

- Keep the Savior with you in your day-to-day challenges; he will be your strength.
- When a soul is meek and humble, she has peace and gives it to others.
- Great courage and great peace of heart near the Savior who loves you and will take care of you.
- May my offering be so complete, O my God, that my happiness will consist in sacrificing my will and desires to you.
- When we remain under God's glance, we are at peace in the midst of tribulations.
- **Do not be afraid! God will show you, to the hour and moment, what you should say and what you should do.**
- My God, make my heart attentive to your requests and generous to give them to you.
- My God, you give me only one impulse: that of going to you in all things, not to act alone, but always in union with your divine Heart.
- Our Savior, who has always taken you by the hand in order to show you the little path to follow, will be faithful to place you in good hands. Let us pray and hope, knowing how to await the hour of God.
- Continue to entrust everything to God, absolutely everything you have to do, so that he may teach you more and more the happiness of living in union with him.
- The good God loves you; rejoice in this and be more and more determined to do all he asks you to do.
- How good it is to follow step by step the way God shows us to go.
- **Let us become strong souls, brave in combat and brave in suffering.**
- Let us surrender our souls to our Lord so that he may accomplish his divine will in each of us.
- My God, I accept, I love, I desire the persons and things just as you arrange them for me
- God does not try us beyond our strength. When he sends difficulty, he adds the means of overcoming it.
- Lord, may I do nothing without being united to you.
- Let us establish a permanent Springtime in our hearts, saying 'yes' to all God's permissions and wills.
- When we work for God, nothing is small.

Find More: <https://www.oblates.org/st-leonie-aviat-osfs-wisdom>