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**John of Fontfroide**

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John of Fontfroide (* 8 Jun 1815 – † 12 Nov 1895)

1. Name variants: Louis Léonard

2. Places: Nîmes, Sénanque, Fontfroide

3. Biography: As a priest of the diocese of Nîmes (ordination 21 Dec 1839), Louis Léonard served as a school teacher and later as a headmaster. At the age of 41, he joined the Bernardines of the Immaculate Conception at Sénanque, then in a period of rapid growth, taking the name of John. Three years later, he was sent with twelve others to refound the ancient abbey of Fontfroide; for the remainder of his life, he was the prior and then abbot of the community. His ministry as a spiritual director attracted such a remarkable variety of visitors to the abbey: some called him "the holy Curé of Ars of the Languedoc." A petition for his veneration has been filed in Rome.

4. Cultus:
   a. Relics: In a mausoleum adjoining the church of Fontfroide.
   b. Liturgical commemoration: –
   c. Patronage: –
   d. Attributes: Cistercian habit, pectoral cross

5. Fontes: Many letters are preserved by the Departmental Archives of Aude (Carcassonne).


7. Illustrations: Photos available online.

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