

MARIAN HOUR

1. Rosary – 2. Consecration to Marie-Paule – 3. Conference

## The Marian Autobiographies in *Life of Love*: A Source of Inspiration

The Importance of the autobiographies in volume IV of *Life of Love* was emphasized by Marie-Paule in the introduction.

*“These autobiographies, written in 1969 and 1970, are today presented to our members in the logical sequence of events. The time has come to make them known. They will be a source of inspiration and encouragement to all those who will meditate on them and draw profit from them.” (Vie d’Amour et ses âmes affiliées: âmes mariales, p. 9)*

In the preface, she mentioned: *“These souls, encountered through the chance disposition of providential events, in the simplicity of their faith, humility and purity, instantly believed in this Work of love, consenting to journey along in obscurity and silence, while savoring the joy of allowing themselves to be picked by the divine Artist.” (Id., p. 14)*

And she added: *“These souls have lived their lives in the greyness of daily life, yet they were turned towards that steep peak which is holiness and to which we are all called, whatever form God’s call may take, whatever may be the vocation.” (Id., p. 15)*

Those same souls would be present, along with the others making up the Marian Group, at the time of the providential founding of the Army of Mary at Lac-Etchemin on August 28, 1971. And it would not be long before the members of the Marian Group would found different local or regional Centers of the Army of Mary.

All the persons in the biographies of volume IV of *Life of Love* were marked from childhood by values and a deep spirituality passed on to them by their parents. The surpassing of self, generosity, the forgetting of self are among those values. Already a Marian devotion inhabited them, leading them to faithfully pray the fifteen-decade rosary, to a great love of the Eucharist, to the practice of the virtues of humility, purity, self-abandonment in a great love of God and souls. They desired only one thing: consecrate themselves to Mary so that the triumph of her Immaculate Heart could come.

What we ought to note, especially, in these biographies is the providential manner in which they met Marie-Paule and how this changed their lives, especially after having read *Life of Love*.

In this regard, Fernande would write: *“How privileged I am, I am so impoverished, a nothing, to be so overwhelmingly favored! I am living in the joy of a peace once again found; I am living in great hope. More and more I marvel at ‘Life of Love’; it is transforming me.” (Id., p. 54)*

Sister Jeanne d’Arc wrote: *“[Marie-Paule’s] volumes are*

*overflowing with evangelical teaching and examples. They contain an inexhaustible ‘mine’ of mystical doctrine in which a multitude of souls will find peace, light and consolation. This soul, so close to ours and yet so elevated, maintains an astonishing balance amid the unfolding of the most staggering events.” (Id., p. 137)*

For his part, Maurice D’Amours expressed his joy and his unworthiness. *“When Marie-Paule informs me that I may read the first volume, I am so amazed that I cannot refrain from saying to her, ‘How good the Lord is; and yet He knows my unworthiness. But since He is permitting this all the same, I submit and I thank Him for so much goodness. ‘I love you; may you be eternally blessed, O Lord my God.’” (Id., pp. 173-174)*

Sister Saint-Jacqueline’s appreciation of *Life of Love* shows us the benefits of such a Work. *“I would like to proffer my humble appreciation of this wonderful volume of ‘Life of Love’! But I would have to have the pen of a writer to do so worthily. Reading it has been a ‘revelation’ to me and a real spiritual feast which has plunged me into a ‘bath of love’. In reading those pages, I feel what is like a soothing balm which flows over my soul inundating it with peace.” (Id., p. 275)*

Daniel White clearly expressed in a few words the upsurge of love that comes with the reading of *Life of Love*. *“‘Life of Love’, what a marvelous title for a biography, and what an extraordinary life! These pages are perfumed with the Love of a God who is so good and so grand. The reading of it furnishes the soul, docile to grace, with the fervor and generosity necessary to accomplish wonderful and great things for the divine Master.*

*“How comforting it is to see God availing Himself of the little ones of this world in order to realize His plan of love conceived from all eternity. To Him be honor and glory for ever and ever.” (Id., p. 304)*

Marie-Jeanne Arsenault’s letter to Marie-Paule after having read *Life of Love* presents the divine fruits found in it. *“Such reading bears its fruit: can one desire anything else but the will of God, after so many favors?... One would want so much to love the Lord!... What a favor to belong to the Group! I understand it more each day. You who understand more than we do the grandeur of God’s goodness, sing to Him, for the Group, our acknowledgment and our gratitude which will fly to heaven along with yours.” (Id., p. 334)*

With regard to this Work of the Lady of All Peoples, Sister Marie-Stella, a profoundly mystical soul, said to us: *“And what about ‘Life of Love’? It is edifying, bracing reading, which re-*

veals the Marian Work in all its beauty. How good God is and what little instruments we are! Glory to Him, glory to Mary, for ever and ever.” (Id., p. 423)

A simple soul, Mrs. Armande Pilon, whom Marie-Paule indicated always believed in *Life of Love*, detailed in a few words the lights contained in these books for the progress of a soul.

“Also, after reading ‘*Life of Love*’, how many thoughts come flooding into my mind. I could not tell all that I feel, but in short, I am sure that I have a much greater love for Our Lord and His Holy Mother Mary. Paths are open and aid us in going forward more confidently towards perfection. My periods of dryness or aridity frighten me less when I think that my Love is there all the same, and that probably this is His divine way of purifying us. At such moments, we must redouble our efforts and our confidence in Him, beseeching our dear Mother to aid us.” (Id., p. 447)

These Marian souls show us the importance of the family to pass on the faith and spiritual values, for they are the basis upon which the divine Artist can then complete His Work through the events in a life. Even if these souls were privileged to have met Marie-Paule who helped them in their ascensions to God, the benefits they gained from their reading of *Life of Love* indicate that everyone can have access to the teachings, the encouragements and the exhortations our Mother wishes to communicate to us, to the faith in the Work and the openness to God’s plan of love which result from this. If Marie-Paule tells us that the reading of the biographies of these Marian souls will be a source of inspiration for us, then it is up to us to take up again volume IV of *Life of Love* and take advantage of the graces these souls wish to pass on to us, these flowers in the big garden of *Life of Love*.

**Father Serge Lépine**

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## EUCCHARISTIC HOUR

1. Rosary – 2. Vespers – 3. Conference – 4. Invocations – 5. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

# Marian Souls to Renew the World

In this ending of the times, it is good to look to the Immaculate, the star given us in this dark period of history. Mary was not a mother only on this earth or at the foot of the cross at the time of salvation; she is always a Mother, even as she reigns in Heaven. She is not insensitive to our lot. Moreover, has she not appeared dozens of times throughout the world since 1830? She wanted to warn us of the bad times threatening Christianity.

The One who described herself as the Handmaid of the Lord, teaches us to believe, to love and to serve. She is our model in all things. In this time which belongs to her, it is good to attend her school. She who received as a mission to educate the Son of God, is in a very good position to form us in the way God wants. Thus, Marian souls desire to let themselves be formed by the Immaculate. The most wonderful example of this is our foundress.

Mary believed in the fulfillment of what had been said to her on behalf of the Lord (cf. Lk 1:45), so she can form us in the faith. Furthermore, she reminds this godless world that the Divinity exists. She who loved to the point of sharing in all the sufferings of her Son at the time of His Passion, was devoured by the same thirst for souls as Jesus was; thus, she is quite capable of forming us to love. Every Marian soul wishes to imitate Mary who perfectly loved her God and her neighbor.

However, love is not simply a sentiment, a feeling. It is always materialized through actions. God so loved the world that He sent His only Son to die on the cross to save us. Mary too loved in a concrete manner, being rightly called the Queen of martyrs. She served all her life so, as a consequence, she can teach us how to serve the Lord.

The Marian souls, that is, the souls that wish to serve the Immaculate, strive to hasten her triumph. That is their only concern, and these souls quickly realize that everything else is given to them in addition. Such souls place Mary above all their affections, all their desires. At all times, Marian souls refer to Mary: “What would Mary do in my place?” or “What would Mary say in my place?”

Marian souls want to be flexible in the Blessed Virgin’s hands. In fact, it was foretold in *Life of Love* that Mary would be able to use “*little cells of authentically Marian souls [and*

*this] will be sufficient to put everything back in order and to clean up everything, when the hour for this arrives.*” (*Life of Love* II, p. 21)

Marian souls want to be faithful instruments of the Immaculate. How? Mainly through their consecration. And that is how Marian souls cause the world to advance along God’s plan, not through some political scheming, or the gaining of power, or by revolting or through the strength of an army but through the devotion to Mary’s Immaculate Heart. If God entrusted the treasury of His graces to the Immaculate, then she does not lose sight of any of our humblest needs.

Let us remember that the Virgin Mary was always doing her duty, whether this was at Nazareth or before the cross. She did not utter many words, but her presence was always effective.

The world can be changed through prayer, devotion to Mary, the offering up of all we experience or suffer, by accomplishing well the duties of our state as we put as much love as possible in doing them. In this program of life, there is nothing extraordinary, no brilliant action. It is not by denouncing something in the media or participating in demonstrations that Marian souls are effective, but by accomplishing their duty as a Knight of Mary first of all.

Everything has to be renewed. Unfortunately though, at this time, God and His plan of love, His Kingdom and His glory, no longer have any place in the lives of people or in society. As a consequence, it is easy to see the disorder, the chaos at all levels.

For the time being, money is master in the world, whereas Marian souls let Jesus and the Immaculate reign over their hearts. Humanity is striving to win the universe whereas Marian souls strive to exercise self-control in all areas. To go out, to have fun, or else to become someone important, there you have what many aspire to. Being spiritual souls, cherishing silence in the company of God, there you have what Marian souls desire.

The triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary will come about in a manner that is as certain as it will be unexpected and it will bring to the world, according to the promise of Our Lady of Fatima, a time of peace, a peace which will foster uni-

versal order and harmony in man and among men.

Marian souls seek to live in accordance with the divine plan on a daily basis in their own families and this becomes the leaven for a renewed world. The Immaculate does not want to do everything all by herself. She wants to use us who are devoted to her. In this time when we are bombarded by all kinds of information, creating an atmosphere of panic and uncertainty, Marian souls know that the real solutions to all the problems can only be found in the divine plan.

Eve said no to God. Mary repaired it by saying yes, as did our foundress. The Marian souls want to say their "fiat" every day, and this "yes" includes an openness of soul. This explains the enmity that exists between a Marian soul and one of Sa-

tan's fiends. That is why Marian souls ought not be surprised to be the devil's target, to be tormented, calumniated, trampled on, cast aside, often by the very persons who should normally be supporting them. And the happiness of these Marian souls will be to know that they are consecrated to the Immaculate.

Let us end this conference with a prediction made in *Life of Love*: "*Marian souls will be blessed in a very special manner; they will be witnesses of torrents of grace that will one day become cataracts of beauty. Mary will project from her heart of a mother, an uninterrupted series of Marian victories over the work of Satan. Marian souls will assemble together in a renewal of fervor and authentic love.*" (*Life of Love III*, p. 337)

**Father Denis Thivierge**