

EUCCHARISTIC AND MARIAN CENTER SPIRI-MARIA

SUNDAY DAYS OF PRAYER

DECEMBER 18, 2022

MARIAN HOUR

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

The Work on the March Towards the Kingdom

Almost everywhere the Lady's Work was established, we can see a slow decrease in the number of members. First of all, over the years, many fervent members who served the Work well and followed Marie-Paule for decades, left for the hereafter to join Her who loved them so much and whom they loved so much.

Besides that, there are persons who preferred to distance themselves from the Work's activities because they did not agree with the development of the new faith. Others, generally lost interest in spirituality, while still others withdrew because of family or social pressure. To this reality, we must add that, right now, the Work is attracting very few new members. All of this gives us an idea of the main reasons for the decrease in the troops.

We are still numerous, and that is not the question. However, to be consistent with the universal charism of the Work, with the promise of the Kingdom entrusted to it, and with its very special calling to reach the peoples of the entire world, we would have expected, humanly speaking, to see movement going in the opposite direction, that is, an exponential growth in the number of faithful.

One day, not so long ago, a young man, familiar with the Work without being a member of it, noticed the decrease in the membership and his kind observation could be summarized in these words:

"Understand me well, the promise of the Kingdom, of which you speak, is grand and inspiring, and the members of your work whom I know seem to be well-intentioned people, as such persons also exist elsewhere. However, I find it hard to conciliate the scope of the changes to which you allude with the concrete reality of the Army of Mary. In proportion to that project, the members are not very numerous, and in spite of their generosity, you no doubt lack all kinds of skills needed to "rebuild" the world. So, how does the Army of Mary concretely propose to change the entire world?"

The question makes us smile, for we really do not have all the necessary resources to change the world, and yet we believe that this is exactly what Marie-Paule's Work is called to do.

The difference between our position and that of the observer, is that our adherence to the Work is based on faith, whereas he was looking at things from a human standpoint. If we believe that the Work will change the world, this is because it is an initiative from God, and He will be able to arouse all the necessary forces for its expansion.

The Work is not a political or social association promoting interesting ideas in the hope of convincing other people to join it. We are not activists who want to influence the course of the world. We have no plan worked out along those lines and we have no deadline.

In the Work we are not following a set of ideas; we are following a human being who is alive, Marie-Paule, who is a full member of the Divinity.

She is the one who called us; she is the one who won us over and paid for us; she is the one who formed us and taught us – and she continues to do this –; she is the one who set us in the direction of the Kingdom and will enable its definite coming here on earth. Marie-Paule is the heart of the Work, and she will always remain such.

Thus, the members are aware that their numbers are decreasing, but this does not affect their faith. Why? First, because Marie-Paule foretold so many times that we would not be very numerous at the end. And secondly, because Marie-Paule is marching within the ranks of her soldiers. Her spirit is alive and she is always guiding her Army.

She inspires its directors with the necessary lights for the smooth functioning of her Work, and she supports each one of her children who turns to her. Every soul of good will, accustomed to living in a state of grace, faithful to the recitation of the rosary and regularly receiving the Eucharist, will never be wanting of her help. By reading *Life of Love* and being attentive to events, the path is set out for it, one day at a time.

In this light, how edifying it is to see the trust and perseverance of so many souls, convinced of Marie-Paule's mission, serenely continuing their progression; be they persons who have retired, young parents and even adolescents who are taking their first steps on their own initiative.

It is true that we are less numerous than in the past, but no one can deny that the Work is alive, something to which the book, *An Infinite Love*, bears witness, as well as the positive reactions it has aroused among the members.

This enthusiasm does not exclude the presence of certain doubts. Everyone can experience them at one point or another. And this is not futile. Doubts well lived allow the soul to stabilize itself in the truth. An involuntary doubt is a human questioning that requires a deepening of virtue, of knowledge, etc.

Noah and his family suffered when they worked on the Ark. Abraham suffered as he walked to the pyre with his son to immolate him. Moses suffered when he guided the Hebrew

people out of Egypt to then enter the desert. Mary suffered because she could not immediately explain to Joseph the great mystery of her pregnancy. And Joseph also suffered. Jesus too suffered so much from the incomprehension of His contemporaries; He who wanted to give all and give of himself to all. However, so many considered Him to be a blasphemer. "Crucify him!" they shouted, to thank Him. And now, let us think of our Mother... In what suffering and what incomprehension she had to live here on earth!

Therefore, should we be surprised if, at some point, we experience sufferings caused by the contrast between the reality proposed by our faith and the one lived in the world, of which many of our loved ones are the victims?

We are living at the most important turning point in all the history of humanity. This turning point will mark the before and the after for all the peoples on earth. It is a turning point that we are urged to live in all simplicity, one day at a time. However, we must not be surprised if the cross is heavier at times; and, above all, we must not be afraid because God is the Master of History.

In 2020, at the beginning of the pandemic, Charlotte Bélanger reminded the members of this sentence from Marie-Paule: *"Let us not be afraid, regardless of what happens. Have confidence! It is in the torments raised by hell that the mysterious Works of a God of Love and Mercy are written and lived."*

Father Leander Van Renterghem

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EUCCHARISTIC HOUR

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

Marie-Paule and the Mystery of Christmas

Every instant of Marie-Paule's life was intimately bound in with the feast of Christmas, the most excellent feast of Love, and she encouraged us to do the same. In her Christmas letter in 2007, she wrote in fact:

"Every life that opens to God's call begins to be born before the Manger. Touched by the mystery of the Child who 'became man so that man might become God', it experiences the triumph of the miracle of Love that makes of each day a continuous celebration of Christmas." (*Le Royaume*, no. 188, November-December 2007, p. 13)

What a message so incredibly rich in meaning is passed on to us in so few words. The first Christmas was the victory of Love that was beginning to be written in golden letters on the horizon of our fallen humanity. It was the beginning of the Total Redemption which, once completed, has as a purpose to raise our humanity all the way to God.

In fact, the beautiful feast of Christmas brings to mind again the most beautiful story of love between Heaven and Earth ever lived until then. As Marie-Paule said: *"The Child became man so that man might become God."*

This little Child, so tiny and so vulnerable, through the omnipotence of the divine Spirit buried in the Heart of His Heart, from the Son of God He was, He would become God the Son. Our Church King explained: *"Day after day, combining perfect Suffering with perfect Love, enriching one another, He let the Spirit shining within Him 'radiate' over Him and, in this way, completely transform His nature."* (*Comprendre le Plan de Dieu*, p. 79) *"Jesus would spend His life crossing the unfathomable abyss that exists between the state of Son of God and that of God as Son. At His birth, He is man; at His death, He is God."* (*The Immaculate, the Divine Spouse of God*, p. 100)

This miracle of Love would be sealed on the cross, and it is also on the cross, in a climax of suffering and love that He would open the gates of Heaven to us.

When we contemplate Him wrapped in swaddling clothes, we adore God's marvelous plan which confounds the wisdom of the wise by passing through littleness and extreme destitution in order to accomplish great things. And it was through the humble Mary that we were given the Savior.

Again today, in this other turning point of the times, God intervenes at the center of our history in order to carry on with His project of love. Yes, Christmas is being repeated; Christ

is being given to us once again *"but not in the same manner"*. (cf. St. Louis de Montfort.)

"Every life that opens to God's call begins to be born before the Manger," Marie-Paule wrote. That sentence summarizes well her life of love. Marie-Paule was totally open to God's call. Day after day, she was led to the manger of all the detachments so as to put on Christ, or rather, to become Christ.

In 1958, the Lord said to her: *"You know, my child, that my beloved Mother lived on earth and that she ascended into heaven without dying! I must tell you, today, that she has become incarnate, and her maternal regard has alighted upon you. It is you, my child, who suffer my Passion and who, in the name of my beloved Mother, will give Christ back to the world."* (*Life of Love I*, pp. 333-334) To which Marie-Paule replied: *"Let it be done unto me according to your Word, oh my Love, but for mercy's sake, have pity on my paltriness."* (*Id.*, p. 334)

And the mystery of Christmas was repeated, but this time, in the feminine. Yes, touched by the mystery of the Child *"who became man so that man might become God"*, Marie-Paule experienced this *"miracle of Love"* which made of every day of her life *"a continuous celebration of Christmas"*.

This great *"miracle of Love"*, we have been celebrating it in the Mass since May 31, 2015, with these words: *"Later, at a second turning point of the times, Marie-Paule was totally configured to Jesus Christ. Giving thanks to her divine Mother every day of her life on earth, she experienced, in the totality of her being, the same transformation as He did, a Woman, she joined the Man in the Eucharist."* And the priest, raising the chalice containing the Precious Blood and the consecrated Host, proclaims: *"Behold the Body and Blood of the Total Christ: Jesus Christ-Paul-Marie"*

Marie-Paule declared: *"Christmas is the feast of Love."* And from the Eucharist, the Sacrament of Love, she continued her ascent of the Worlds to the very Heart of the Divinity. In the wake of this incredible ascent, she brought to birth the Kingdom, and accomplished the second part of the Total Redemption that now makes the divinization of every human being possible.

During Christmas night, these sublime words from the French hymn, "Minuit Chrétien", move us to the innermost depths of our soul and prompt in us gratitude and hope: *"Peoples, stand up, sing your deliverance. Christmas! Behold the*

Redeemer.” Well then, now that the Total Redemption has been accomplished, our gratitude and our hope swell even more, and in our loving hearts, we cry out: *“Christmas! Behold the Redeemer; Christmas! behold the Redemptrix”.*

Still in her Christmas letter in 2007, Marie-Paule wrote: *“Since 1958, Heaven, looking down upon us, searched our earth for generous hearts, able to accept a divine plan for the renewal of the world, both laity and religious, which in an assault of faith and against all odds, would sacrifice all to follow the invitation made them by the Eternal Father.”* (*Le Royaume*, no. 188, p. 13) This paragraph concerns all of us, lay persons as much as religious.

To accept the divine plan and follow the Father’s invitation, He who wants all of us in His Heart, means, after the example of the Redeemer Couple, to accept all the detachments and be prepared to sacrifice all so as to open ourselves entirely to God’s call.

Therefore, we must stand upright and sing our deliverance by generously working at it. Marie-Paule encouraged us to do so more than ever when she wrote: *“This Marian ‘battalion’ went to battle against the presence of Evil at the very root of one’s being, advancing towards the victory of the renewal of man transformed by grace, regenerated by the Eucharist, a power of simplicity and love that gives him access to eternal horizons.”* (*Id.*)

So, it is day after day, through our renewed efforts to uproot Evil at the very root of our being, and supported by the infinite graces of Jesus Christ-Paul-Marie received and adored in the Eucharist, that we hope to climb the ladder of the Worlds and be able, some day, to merge into the infinite Love of the Heart of the Father’s Heart.

The *“Miracle of Love”* is now within our reach. It is up to us to make of each day of our lives a continuous celebration of Christmas.

Father Carl Beaupré