

FIGHTING THE RIGHT BATTLE



by *MARC-ANDRÉ I*

When Marie-Paule lived in our midst, her first mission was to live intensely all that she had to live and to love to the maximum of her enormous capacity to do so. So it was that, through her life of love, she ended up by enriching the Divinity with her new presence and that she merited to be able to transform Man and the Earth with a view to the coming of the Kingdom.

Such a definition of the Co-Redemption is the consensus today in the Lady's Work, and even if there are still concepts or aspects which are sometimes less well understood, we are all united in the same faith which leads to the same hope, so grandiose: *"One single Love, one single Mystery, one single Kingdom to lead all His Creation to God"*.

But behold! The Adversary or the Evil One absolutely does not want this Kingdom in any way. Quite simply: he will lose everything he has put so much effort and energy into building up, that is, his own kingdom, he who dominates and "possesses" all the kingdoms on Earth since he said to Jesus that he would give them to Him in return for a single act of submission. (Cf. Mt 4:8-9 and Lk 5:5-7.) And nothing has really changed since that time, in spite of Christianity and its spreading.

There, then, is the very essence of what we have been living from all time and in a very special way in our era: a titanic battle having as its objective to save and elevate the humanity of this earth or witness its irreparable loss. Thus, we have, on the one hand, the Prince of this world at the height of his power which he imposes upon billions of men, and, on the other, in front of him, the Sovereign of the Earth with a handful of faithful to carry on her Work, faithful who are isolated, powerless, but the bearers, nonetheless, of all the Lady's promises.

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The Evil One's weapons are numerous and, among the ones he prefers, there is one which often preludes the use of the others – because it disconcerts, weakens, "disarms" in a way – and that is confusion. To no longer know where the truth lies, to no longer know how to behave, to no longer know who to believe and who to obey. In short: to have lost one's points of reference, to be disturbed, neutralized, to be put out of action at the very time of the greatest of all confrontations in the history of humanity!

That is what is happening in the world today but this is nothing new; it is simply more universal and more obvious. That is also what is happening, on a lesser scale, thank goodness!, there where one would have perhaps never thought it could happen, that is, among us, the members of the Lady's Work. Yes, certain elements of confusion have edged their way within our ranks, introduced themselves into our thoughts, our perceptions, our convictions. Of course, here they are only the first signs, the first symptoms of an illness which we must not allow to get any worse, but they are nonetheless just as real.

If, on the level of their faith, the members of the Lady's Work are isolated from the world, as Marie-Paule had fore-

told (do we not believe in truths which, over the years, have become increasingly harder to pass on?), with regard to everyday life and work, on the other hand, most of the members continuously have to deal with the world. And the confusion reigning in the world is such that, in certain circumstances, it sometimes succeeds in outsmarting one's defences and threatening the clear-sightedness of some of our relatives and friends.

In what other way can we explain certain frictions or conflicts? In what other way can we explain that some of us, sometimes, seem to be making a mistake concerning the cause and the battle? The situation in the world today is particularly favorable to this kind of "mix-up" which is the result of anxiety and even anguish or distress. We must admit that, for the most part, the media is very good at keeping such feelings alive (that is why, if we perceive that the "news reports" are troubling the soul, then we have to abstain from reading or listening to them for a certain period of time, except when this is strictly necessary).

Thus, just like in the outside world, there are persons among us who simply believe what the medical institutions tell us concerning the virus which is wreaking havoc, and others who ask themselves hundreds of questions; persons who trust the civil and health authorities without any problem, and others who question the reasonableness of their decisions; people who view the recourse to a face mask as an indispensable protection, and others who contest its pertinence and its usefulness; persons who are impatiently waiting for a vaccine to be developed which would free them from their fears and their anxiety, while others, for various reasons, reject the very idea of vaccination.

One of the sources of such division is the doubt cast on the comments coming from the competent authorities. Of course, it is easy to see that their statements have not always been consistent, not always logical and convincing, that they have often confused the global situation with a whole series of specific and sometimes anecdotal situations, and maybe they are solicited by powers or institutions trying to manipulate them to their own benefit. This is true; however, let us not be too quick to judge. It would be illusory and pretentious to think that we would have done so much better had we been in their place.

On the other hand, we must realize too that the persons who show a certain mistrust of the health authorities and the governing bodies, are at the same time often fully trusting different "non-official spokespersons". Among these latter, many are quite respectable and competent in their field of activity, but there are also some who are simply smooth talkers who have no other authority than the one they have attributed to themselves. Internet and social media foster the appearance of such "thought leaders" who display a remarkable talent in their attempt to convert us to their ideas which are often

very enticing but sometimes, however, entirely light-headed ravings. Then we must be very vigilant because their ability to persuade is surprising and could turn out to be dangerous.

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Concerning the famous virus which has been poisoning our existence for months, its origin and its consequences in all areas; concerning the management of the pandemic by the civil authorities of our countries; whether or not the compulsory recourse to a face mask is pertinent; whether or not a vaccine still being developed is effective and harmless, etc., every person has the right, of course, to think whatever he or she wants, even if at times one can be completely mistaken.

However, the truth of the matter is that all of this is not the battle we ought to be waging! The charism proper to the Lady's Work does not include any specific revelation about viruses, masks or vaccines. That is why I say: let us not make a mistake concerning the battle we must fight! Let us not allow ourselves to be overtaken and even contaminated by secondary concerns, and clearly strike a proper balance!

Thus, we, the members of the Lady's Work, are charged with a mission which is absolutely essential and consists in maintaining well lit the torch of the Mystery of our time, if not to even have it spread in the world. Yes, thanks to the Lady and as a result of a tremendous privilege, we are the possessors of a "message" of an incomparable importance which is destined for all of humanity: Marie-Paule is the Co-Redemptrix; she came to complete the work of Jesus Christ the Redeemer; she lived an extraordinary life of love which led her, first of all, in the Eucharist and then finally all the way to the Heart of God himself; she experienced all the stages of the divinization to the point of becoming God herself; she merited the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth and made possible the resurrection of the dead awaited for millennia; she changed the destiny of Man and of Humanity, completed the constitution of the Divinity itself; and she is at the origin of incredible revelations concerning God's plan of love for all the creations of the universe!

And we who partake of this new, magnificent faith, we would give it secondary importance while we spend our time arguing about a virus and a vaccine! But would that not risk fuelling the prevailing confusion? At the very time when we should be more united than ever, are we going to let ourselves be distracted from what is essential by a pandemic which has occurred in the wake of so many others in the history of humanity? Admittedly, we must fight against it, obviously, but we must also remain level-headed and not get involved in considerations we have no idea where they might lead us. All this time wasted which could have been spent uniting instead of dividing!

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So, as I said earlier, let us not make a mistake concerning the battle to be fought. And as I also wrote not so long ago: *"For the time being, however, we must all submit to the recommendations of the health and civil authorities, act as responsible persons, show that we are able to accept the renunciations asked of us, think of others before thinking of ourselves and demonstrate devotedness."* I repeat it now: even if we do not approve of them, even if we do not see their

usefulness, we must follow the directives of the competent authorities for as long as these directives do not go against our spiritual integrity or our moral convictions.

And likewise within the Work, we must follow the persons to whom Heaven, through Marie-Paule, has entrusted the responsibility of administering it. Did she not always teach us that, except in very special cases, divine grace passes through the authority? As a consequence, let us not contest, without a very important reason, the persons who are responsible for guiding us, but let us help them through our prayers, knowing full well that being in a position of authority is not always a very enviable situation.

And for the rest, let us keep in reserve for other threats and other dangers our ability to resist or to be indignant. What the world is presently living is perhaps simply a sort of conditioning. The future could well give us many other opportunities to commit ourselves all together and, if possible, to be heard, on subjects which are much more serious and determining!

As the saying goes: *"We must keep a sense of proportion"*; that is, show common sense as much as humility; not think we are the only ones who have understood everything and that all the others are naive or ignorant because they do not think as we do in this or that area. And, above all, we must turn to the Lady! She is the one who holds the keys of the future of the world and she is counting on us. For goodness sake, let us not curtail her power by our going astray in all kinds of ways and let us not diminish our strength even before the real battle has begun!

Marc-André I, July 27, 2020

The Positive Effects of Conf

It seems to me that I ought to bear witness to what I and my family experienced within the context of the pandemic and the confinement caused by the coronavirus.

Last March 16, the entire family was suddenly confined at home. Since I am a nurse working full time in a school in Paris and the schools were closed, I found myself, from one day to the next, having to stay at home and teach my two boys for an indeterminate period of time. For his part, my husband, a policeman, would benefit from a lighter schedule. Even if I had to do some teleworking, the confinement was, for the entire family, a wonderful opportunity for a calmer lifestyle and a time to return to the source or to one's roots.

Just before confinement began, I had in fact said to my husband that I hoped to optimize this situation as much as possible; there was no question of our having to suffer or undergo confinement but of capitalizing on it for our benefit!

So, we established a routine with the children and we maintained it until the end. The "program" included school work, English courses, typing courses, sports, household tasks, gardening, etc. with, at the center of all of this, the spiritual life.

- Mass and Communion every day
- spiritual reading and the rosary every day
- catechism one night a week
- maintaining the meetings of the Army of Mary, the Family of

Going Forward in Calmness and Serenity



On July 26, 2020, Father Serge Lépine, Superior General of the Community of the Sons of Mary, addressed a letter to his confreres entitled: *“Letter addressed to the Sons of Mary in the present context of Covid-19”*.

In it, he mentioned the current situation in the world and its consequences within the Community. On his part, this was a sort of official warning, indicating the path to be followed and the pitfalls to avoid.

Here are some passages from this letter.

- *It would perhaps be a good idea, in order to regain our serenity and understand what our real battle is, to recall and meditate upon what Marie-Paule wrote in her letter of February 11, 2008, addressed to all the Sons and Daughters of Mary, a letter which is still timely: “According to the Lord’s indication, we have entered the Year of the Light. For a month now, God the Father has been STANDING and it is the Hour of the Offensive. Our offensive consists in DOING GOOD in order to DESTROY EVIL and NOT in striking others, NOT in criticizing them.” (The White Book III, p. 157)*
- Father Serge would go on to write:
- *Our real battle is the everyday one, that of changing oneself before wanting to reform society. The more we will be holy, the more we will have an impact on the changes*

which will lead us to the Kingdom.

After having quoted a passage from another letter by Marie-Paule dealing with the events which will occur because of *“our lack of generosity”*, but also because the hour of Mary’s victory is coming soon, Father Serge concluded:

- *Therefore, we have nothing to fear. Even if we are conscious of what is coming, of the difficult times we will have to go through – and which will perhaps be quite different from what we might think –, we must remain at peace. Our Mother had forewarned us. So, let us go forward in calmness and serenity under the guidance of the authorities in the Work. The more we will live in accordance with our Mother’s spirit, the more we will be sowers of peace and love among ourselves...*

To achieve this, we must intensify our heart-to-heart talk with our Mother during our daily Eucharistic adoration and in our reading of “Life of Love”. So, let us not waste so much time criticizing, denouncing, calling into question, but already build up the Kingdom instead by obeying, by doing good around us, by loving in the way our Mother did, she who was but Love.

Father Serge Lépine, Superior General of the Community of the Sons of Mary

Confinement on My Family

the Sons and Daughters of Mary, the Oblate-Patriots, etc. within the family.

I am aware that, in some cases, the situation generated tensions and violence at times, but, in our family, the confinement permitted a genuine return to what is essential: life as a family.

Not only in our house, but in many other families too, life changed: no more outings and dinners with friends until the wee hours of the morning which end in misunderstandings; no more useless expenses and purchases; no more courses in sexuality given in schools by teachers who do not have a good mastery of the subject matter or whose purpose is not to show how to build a wonderful family; no more finding oneself in the bad company of certain male or female associates; no more occasions of infidelity, no more pay cheques spent entirely in pubs or bars to the detriment of the rest of the family, and so forth.

Having grown up in the Work since birth, I was strongly imbued with family values or focussed on the family. We talked about this frequently and I often heard sentences such as: *“the family is the cell of society, so it isn’t surprising that the devil is relentlessly trying to destroy it.”* At the same time, we were warned of the dangers of too numerous or not properly oriented social gatherings.



Marie-Paule and François-Gilles Foligné with their two children: Guillaume (6 years old) and Gilles (10 years old).

So, I saw in confinement a real opportunity to place the family once again at the center of my preoccupations, to reinforce the spiritual and family values in my children’s souls.

In recent months, the coronavirus has been at the center of discussions and even at the origin of arguments because of the different opinions it has aroused. However, for my part, I do not want to look for the cause of Covid-19 or why it has entered into my life. Instead, I try to see in this a means of sanctification and an opportunity to turn even more to the Lady. After all, why would she have given us a prayer against calamities, disasters and war, if these latter were not to affect our lives some day?

Marie-Paule Foligné