

# “It Is You Who Determine the Shape of the Future”

(Pope John Paul II, September 11, 1984)



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The year 2014 marks the 30th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's visit to Canada from September 9 to September 20, 1984. At that time, during a meeting with 60,000 young people at the Olympic Stadium in Montreal on September 11, 1984, they welcomed him with an exuberant enthusiasm. Many of these young people participated in a choreography or gestural ceremony representing a white dove in motion which would then be immediately transformed into the shape of a white flag, the symbol of peace, to finally change again and spell out the French word for “Welcome”.

Was not this white dove a touching symbol of the new Pentecost foretold by recent Popes as well as by the Lady of All Peoples at Amsterdam?

After this artistic performance, Pope John Paul II would even go so far as to say to the young people involved: “It is you who determine the shape of the future,” thus conferring upon them an intensely prophetic role. During this same

event, He would also tell them: “Stand erect and hold your heads high, for your deliverance is near at hand.” (Lk 21:28) As if to give more weight to his arguments, he would repeat several times during this same visit to Quebec: “For the place on which you stand is holy ground.” (Ex 3:5)

It is not necessary to recall that the dove is the symbol of the Holy Spirit, and that since the time of Noah's Ark, bearing an olive branch in its beak, it has become, universally, a symbol of peace.

## A PEACEFUL ARMY

For decades in Quebec, an Army of peace, displaying as its standard a white flag adorned with Mary's name, has been journeying in prayer and silence. It has set out the way to be receptive to the True Spirit announced by the Lady of All Peoples. Moreover, is not the white dove, prefiguring the new Pentecost, conspicuously placed at the top of the facade of the chapel Spiri-Maria, and also inside the chapel, above the Lady's statue?

On the other hand, it is quite significant that the Marian Work's *Blue Guide* or *Manual* should end with the hymn “Veni Creator Spiritus”, and that all the solemn ceremonies of the Family of the Sons and Daughters of Mary should begin with that



Pope John Paul II at the Olympic Stadium in Montreal on September 11, 1984.

hymn, imploring that we be enkindled by a new Pentecost. And, if we take a closer look at it, does not the architecture of Spiri-Maria have the aspect of a huge white bird with wings outstretched, as its white stones gleam brightly in the sunshine?



The young people from Quebec who acclaimed Pope John Paul II in a grand fashion in 1984, were no doubt acting prophetically in their zealous welcoming civilities by presenting the figure of a dove to him in their gestural ceremony, the symbol of the new Pentecost, as well as the white flag, prefiguring an era of peace to come.

During a visit to Quebec in the early 1970s, the French writer Gilbert Cesbron, a converted believer of the 20th century, was right in saying on television that we had to believe in the young people in spite of certain strayings inherent to their age at times because, he said, “the young people are prophetic”. An assertion which would be confirmed in different words by Pope John Paul II when he would visit us in 1984, and proclaim: “It is you who determine the shape of the future.”

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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