

“Being Accountable for the Hope of the Kingdom in Us”



by Padre JEAN-PIERRE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The liturgy for the Chrism Mass we are celebrating on this Holy Thursday, a day dedicated in a very special way to the Eucharist and the Priesthood, reminds us of the need to pray for all the Mystical Body and in particular for all the ordained ministers who celebrate, in Christ's name, the great mystery of the faith as well as all the other sacraments.

In the day's gospel, Saint Luke took up again the passage from the book of the prophet Isaiah where it is written: *“The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me.”*

The first thing that comes to mind when we think of the oil of the holy chrism used at the time of the ordination of a priest is the greatness and the sanctity of the gratuitous gift God makes to the man who, through the grace of his priestly anointing, is not only called to participate in the prophetic, priestly and royal office of Christ conferred upon him on the day of his baptism through the

common priesthood of the faithful, but also and above all, to become an “alter Christus”, that is, another Christ, as the minister of the sacramental grace of Christ the sovereign Priest.

As a pastor charged with announcing the Good News of the Kingdom, the priest must live in faithfulness to the Total Christ, accepting to humbly walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd and of the Lady of All Peoples, by accepting to serve every day – in full communion with Them, in the obedience of faith, in a love that is incessantly renewed and that is also gratuitous, total and unconditional –, that part of the people of God entrusted to him.

On this day dedicated to the Eucharist and the Priesthood, we, priests, will renew together our priestly promises during this Mass, in communion of faith and love with the Lord and the Lady, in accordance with the Church's official formula.

For us, dear confrere priests, and also for you dear seminarians who aspire to the priesthood, and finally, for all of you, dear brothers and sisters who participate, each according to his or her own vocation, in the common priesthood of the faithful, these promises of fidelity must be much



Holy Thursday, April 2, 2015 - During the Chrism Mass at Spiri-Maria, Padre Jean-Pierre blesses the holy oils: the Holy Chrism, the oil for the sick and the oil for the catechumens.

more than a simple form of general intercessions, much more than a wonderful tradition to be preserved and renewed every year at the beginning of the Easter Triduum.

Over and above its content, this prayer encourages all of us to become increasingly aware of the spiritual needs of all peoples in a world in which “it will be necessary to re-think everything”. This renewal of the priestly promises is also an opportunity to strengthen and reaffirm our faith not only as baptized persons or even as priests, but also and above all, as Knights of Mary who, for all the Millennium of Love, are called upon to be accountable for the hope in us, in the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ, of course, but also and in a very special way, in the light of *Life of Love* which is the gospel of Mary for our time.

In that sense, on this day dedicated to the Eucharist and the Priesthood, it is good to recall this passage from *Life of Love* in which our foundress recounted the mystical experience she had on the Wednesday of Holy Week, April 7, 1971:

“Then, for about five minutes, I feel a dreadful suffering gripping me and I ‘know’ that I am experiencing the Savior’s agony when His Father’s will was made known to Him and He had to say to His Apostles, by an interior command: ‘HE WHO EATS MY FLESH AND DRINKS MY BLOOD WILL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.’

“Dreadful suffering for the Man-God torn between the will of the Father asking that He speak these words which He knows the Apostles will not understand, and the sense of unworthiness with which He was then taken. What the Savior must have suffered is beyond words! ‘Each step, each word of the Lord has been stamped with the seal of the cross.’ I did not think what I had said was so true, nor did I think I would ever experience it. From this time forward, these words from Heaven – ‘He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood will have eternal life’ – will echo painfully in my soul because of the experience through which I have passed....

“Suddenly, I ‘see’ my person gradually dwindling and shrinking until I become very tiny, so tiny that all there is to be seen is a grain of sand... At that same moment, the little grain of sand ascends very rapidly and lodges itself in the Consecration host just as the words, ‘This is my Body, this is my Blood’, are being pronounced. And I ‘learn’ that, from now on, these words, ‘This is my Body, this is my Blood’, will symbolize both the Work of the Redemption accomplished by the Redeemer and the Work of the Co-Redemption accomplished by the Co-Redemptrix. I am filled with an indescribable peace, lost in wonderment before all that I ‘see’. I am deeply moved and the tears flow.

“But suddenly human considerations take over. No, this is not possible; it is too much to accept....

“But to come back to this favor, the Lord grants a new confirmation of it, in that I receive, two weeks later, a letter from Sister Marie-Bernard of Chicoutimi who, though completely unaware of this favor, concludes her letter with these words: ‘When I contemplate the Host, during my long periods of prayer, I see you... as the Lady...’” (*Life of Love*, vol.

VII, chap. 73, pp. 384-386)

Ten years later, in a chapter taken from the *Appendices* to *Life of Love* entitled “Thorns and the Cross” our Mother wrote:

“Sometimes the occasion is presented to me to have a talk with the priests, secular and religious, attached to the Work – my close collaborators –, in order to pass on to them the orders ‘received’ for the realization of a divine plan....

“Sometimes I remark their amazement over what I announce to them, but they quickly concur once all the explanations are given them. They have to have courage, humility and understanding. They too have to learn to walk in pure faith.

“For my part, it is always painful for me to transmit to them the orders I ‘receive’ when I am ‘asked’ to do so.

“This morning, April 29, 1981, I complain to the Lord, saying to Him, ‘It is too bad I am a woman among all these priests with whom I have to work, and without a doctorate at that! It is not easy.’

“Right away, I ‘receive’ my answer from Mary:

“‘THROUGHOUT LONG YEARS, I HAVE FORMED YOU AMID THORNS AND BY THE CROSS. SUCH HAS BEEN YOUR FORMATION FOR THIS MISSION, AND THEY HAVE TO TAKE THIS INTO CONSIDERATION. TELL THEM THIS.’” (*Vie d’Amour, Appendice*, vol. I, *Ma Passion*, p. 41)

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These passages, drawn from our dear Mother’s autobiographical writings, are a source of great light for us, dear confreres priests. First of all, they enlighten our faith in the great mystery which is the unity of the Redemption and of the Co-Redemption, manifested through and in the New and Total Eucharist. Then they place before us, priests, our own responsibility which is both personal and collective, as the ordinary ministers of the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ. Furthermore, and as such, we are the first beneficiaries and marveling witnesses of the infinite greatness, richness and goodness of the divine Gift offered by the Redeemer and the Co-Redemptrix to all of humanity redeemed and regenerated, especially in this time of the End, with a view to the Kingdom of Love and Peace.

Will we, dear confreres, together and each one of us personally, have enough courage, enough humility and pure faith to understand and, above all, to correspond to the Lord and the Lady’s will in our regard, especially at the hour of temptation and dispersal?

During the continuation of this Mass, let us pray, dear brothers and sisters, for all the priests and also for all the men and women of good will, so that they may be, – so that all of us may be –, accountable for the hope of the Kingdom in us, in faith, faithfulness and love, in all simplicity, in a great openness of mind and heart, in an attentiveness to the grace of the moment and in the understanding of providential events. Amen.

Padre Jean-Pierre