

At Mother Paul-Marie's School

by Sister France Bergeron

Eyes Full of Love!

Dear Marianna,

In our last letter, we spoke to you of Mother Paul-Marie's smile, a smile that soothed hearts with the feeling each one had of being loved, accepted and welcomed. But there is one thing which cannot be separated from her smile and which expressed the Love dwelling in her just as much, and that is her eyes.

In fact, her eyes were charged with such maternal love that, one of us, upon meeting her for the first time, was captivated by the light radiating from them, so that upon leaving her office, she confided: *"To look at Mother Paul-Marie is Heaven; it is living of Heaven! I could spend my heaven looking at her and I would be fulfilled; that would be my everlasting joy!"* What power there was in fact in those eyes which could arouse such a deep impression in someone who was illuminated by them.

Recently, a bright young woman who, in her adolescence, had come to know several members of the Community of the Sons and Daughters of Mary, wrote to one of our Sisters. In the joy of renewing acquaintances, an exchange of letters followed. This young woman, always faithfully practising her religion, quickly became interested in the evolution of the Work, seeking to discover the truth because she learned of some of the problems the Community had with the Church of Peter, including the excommunication of the members of the Army of Mary in 2007. Questions followed one another in order to better understand the history of the Work. And she confided that what was impelling her to seek the truth in this way was that, even after several years, she could not forget the look of love Mother Paul-Marie had laid upon her when our Mother quickly greeted the group she was with. One brief meeting... and she is still deeply touched by those eyes even after more than fifteen years!

It is said that *"the eyes are the mirror of the soul"*. In Mother Paul-Marie's case, they reflected Heaven and an infinite love. What about us? So many things can be discovered in our eyes. Thus, we understand how important it is to cultivate a spiritual or interior life and all the wonderful Marian virtues, to want to live of the spirit Mother Paul-Marie left us and to accept in love and self-abandonment the purification hidden in painful events. In this way, we let ourselves be filled with God more and more; then, it is His love which is reflected in our eyes so as to surround each one with a kindness and charity that does good to others and makes them grow.



Mother Paul-Marie possessed an exceptional charism allowing her to perceive a person's soul at a glance and in particular by looking at his or her picture. One day she happened to have a series of pictures of the same person on her desk, and she took advantage of that opportunity to give a "course" to the Sisters present by telling them what this person's eyes expressed and the disposition of soul that stood out in each picture proof. She indicated that, with this exercise, she wanted to accustom us to detect the state of someone's soul through the eyes.

Other times, she could ask us – perhaps to probe the potential in some of us – which picture, in a series of proofs, was the best. To one of the photographers of the Community and the Work, she would often indicate the trait that stood out from the pictures submitted to her: "he is perplexed", "a contemplative idealist", "he is questioning himself", "a teaser", "he is reflecting or thinking", "attentive", "uprightness of soul". To encourage this photographer whom she would also submit to such an exercise, she said: "One day, you too will see." But, in all honesty, we did not have her divine charism and, generally speaking, the pictures revealed very little to us about the person.

It should be noted that the gift Mother Paul-Marie had of probing souls was not used to severely judge a person but to love each person in front of her with an infinite love, despite the unpleasant character or personality traits that person could have or even when sin was shown her. Thus, the radiant and smiling gaze with which she looked at someone was so full of love that we could have thought she was looking at something very beautiful. But it was the waves of charity and pure love overflowing from her heart through her own eyes and touching souls to encourage them to become beautiful for God. How good it is to think of this unique look of maternal love which she must still be letting alight upon us from On-High when we turn to her with a filial confidence and trust.

By remaining interiorly in contact with Heaven, in a contemplative attitude, by getting used to frequently looking at the Immaculate and by asking her to irradiate us with her love, then, progressively, unbeknown to us, our gaze will be transformed. And the Lady's Love will flow like a flood of Light upon the world won over to her Heart!

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