

Following Our Mother's Example



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If we consent to follow it, the formation we received leads us to let ourselves be shaped in the “mold” of this teaching, and then it will influence our way of thinking, of seeing things and of acting in life. As a consequence, we need much suppleness when events lead us to detach ourselves from this teaching, in whole or in part, in order to let ourselves be fashioned by new knowledge or other teachings.

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When the Community of the Daughters of Mary was founded in May 1981, its first nucleus was made up of Sisters coming from different religious Communities. At first, they would live at the Army of Mary Center in Quebec City under the same roof as Mother Paul-Marie, where they had the privilege of meeting her and the joy of being able to render service to the Work.

These Sisters demonstrated much faith, flexibility and humility because each one had to detach herself from all or part of the formation received in her former Community in order to adopt the divine thinking at the origin of a new Work. They gave up their habit to don another one, made up of such different “seams”. Thus, their souls were cut in the Marian fabric pressed under the hot iron of the Lady's love.

As a result of their spirit of openness, their faith in Marie-Paule and their holy desire to correspond well to God's plan of love, they were able, little by little, to give up the rules and customs of their old Community, in order to adopt the spirit and way of life of the Daughters of Mary. They were wonderful examples for the vocations that followed.

“Pray Intensely for Priests”

This progression is valid for all vocations, those of lay people and those of religious. That is the case in particular for the priests who studied in Rome. They were called upon to exercise an even greater vigilance in order to maintain a humble and open mind, in keeping with the Lady's thinking. That is also the reason why, as of 2005, Mother Paul-Marie, then the Superior General of the Daughters of Mary, asked her Daughters many times “to pray intensely for priests”. She knew the struggles they were facing and the ones they would have to face.

Detaching ourselves from a previous formation is not easy and it is in reference to this difficulty that a piece of advice from John Paul II the Great, repeated forcefully and with assurance, echoes in us: “Do not be afraid! Do not be afraid!” In fact, that is the attitude that needs to be adopted

to advance courageously at the Lady's pace.

God's Intervention Through Prophetic Words

Throughout history, human beings have often attempted to put a check on the divine Author's actions as a result of their fears, and by that very fact, they became the cause of multiple errors and blunders. This is still the case today, as it was in the past. History is continuously changing and we must let ourselves be borne unconditionally by faith, trust and self-abandonment in order to follow the Hand of God who writes pages for us that are filled with Mysteries of Light and Love.

In fact, our analyses of “yesterday's” history, its customs and traditions, can so easily distract us from the sublime plan God is revealing to us “today” with a view to the treasures of graces He will present to us “tomorrow”, in keeping with the pace of His divine project. Let us be careful because the fact of focussing too much on the past can lead us to forget to look in the direction the Author of History wishes to lead us.

In this same line of thought, let us keep in mind Cardinal Barbarin's words that were quoted in Zenit on June 10, 2009: “I fear that the legitimate defence of our institutions will eventually lead us to lose the sense of the prophetic word through which God intervenes in our history, for He always keeps the right to upset everything.”

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With regard to us, our Mother confirmed that God acts in the Work through the intermediacy of Marc Bosquart. In fact, she wrote: “So, ‘in this time which is our time’, who then can exercise a judicious discernment in regard to a Work of God? Only the one who, by a special grace of God, is a prophet.” (White Book I, p. 72)

Marie-Paule also specified: “Marc gives lights that show the sublimeness of the divine plan.... We must want to believe those who understood in order to be able to clearly see and believe.... Yes, this is grand, it is divine! And our Prophet has not yet said it all. There are still treasures that will surprise him.” (Marie-Paule, letter of February 8, 2008)

The Prophet humbly passes on the lights of God which the Church is called upon to receive in thanksgiving. “Thus, God intervenes for the renewal of the Church of Peter in the Church of John, which will return to the simplicity and the pure Offering of the First Times.” (Marie-Paule, letter of September 2008)

Following Our Mother's Example

In our faith journey, what must we do to cooperate well in and correspond to the Father's plan of love? The answer



is simple: we must follow the example of our Mother who always opened the door of her heart to receive the teaching from Heaven, which was often disconcerting. Thus, she accepted the lights Marc passed on to us without modifying them. To believe in Marie-Paule is to advance in that same spirit.

So, let us pray “very intensely” for each other, especially for the priests and for our prophet, so that all of us may always have the openness of mind, the simplicity and the faithfulness required to correspond to God’s will “in this time which is our time”.

May our faith be entire, so as not to blemish with errors

or blunders the story of love the Lady wants to make known to the world. A faith fortified by self-abandonment and humility will render us capable of surmounting our insecurities in order to go forward in the unknown in which the darkness will become light.

Let us remember what our Mother recommended: “*We must want to believe those who understood in order to be able to clearly see and believe!*” Let us keep in mind too that she also told us: “*Know that you have the freedom to continue or to leave, I will always love you.*” (Marie-Paule, letter of March 30, 2007)

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Even if the *Consecration to Marie-Paule in View of the Kingdom*, is given prominence more and more often in the Army of Mary, many of its members still recite their *Consecration to Mary* and repeat these words daily: “*O Mary, you who are as powerful as an army in battle array, I enlist with confidence as a Knight under your banner...*” Moreover, in the leaflet of consecration, it was written that persons interested in becoming a member of the Army of Mary could “enroll” as one enrolls in an army.

AN ARMY TO FIGHT

Heaven raised a Work and called it the “*Army of Mary*”. Now, if there is an army that is because, at the very least, there is also the possibility of there being a battle. For us who wish to advance along the path of holiness and even divinization, we clearly know what the most important battle is: not a battle against those who make us suffer or who restrain our ambitions, but rather a battle against the enemy of our souls, of all souls, that is, Satan.

For an army to be efficient, a well defined goal is required. It must also make sure all its members clearly understand what they are committing themselves to and what their respective roles and duties will be. Similarly, the soldiers must learn to work together and be prepared to mutually support one another because, if this army hopes to be victorious, all its forces must unite to compensate for each one’s weaknesses and make it possible

for the entire army to progress.

THE BENEFITS OF THE MYSTICAL BODY

Mary built up her army and her Knights received, as its main weapon, the Rosary that Raoul Auclair defined in these words: “*an ordinary prayer, without glory or prestige, the weapon [God] imposes on the soldiers for His cause, enlisted for the eschatological battle.*” (*Mystère de l’Histoire*, p. 252) And Raoul would add that this weapon of the Rosary is “*a prayer to God so that He may open the hearts of those whose minds were closed by Satan.*” (*Id.*)

What a power of unity and brotherliness is experienced by souls that give themselves for a cause and pray for each other! A supernatural bond unites them and God permits that there be a balance, with the sacrifices of the ones producing graces to support the others in times of distress or temptation. In fact, Marie-Paule wrote: “*I meditate on the marvelous benefits involved in the Mystical Body, on the application of merits and prayers to souls in distress... How good the Lord is to favor us in this fashion!*” (*Life of Love V*, p. 38)

“I ASK OF YOU THE WORLD”

On September 14, 1968, as the Lord indicated to Marie-Paule that this date marked “*the dawning of the Marian era*”, He went on to say to her: “*Ask me whatever you desire.*” She immediately replied: “*I ask of you THE WORLD, Lord. Yes, may Mother Mary be victorious through conversions and not over corpses, because I desire, for your glory, many, many souls in your wonderful heaven.*” (*Id.* III, p. 56)

“Like an Army in Battle Array”

With this single request addressed to the Father 55 years ago, Marie-Paule encourages us to broaden our prayer to the dimensions of the world and, after her example, to ask for the return of souls that have strayed from the life of grace, for “*just as long as souls go astray the Mystical Body suffers as a consequence, just as the body suffers or is diminished when a member is wounded or amputated.*” (*Id.* XI, p. 325)

To achieve that, we must accept to sacrifice ourselves and pray for each other. On the one hand, this cooperation makes us stronger to ensure our personal spiritual advancement and, on the other hand, it allows God to extend the scope of our efforts to all the souls in the world. Marie-Paule told us, in fact: “*If we are truly living in the Mystical Body, we suffer with those who are suffering, we love with them, we pray for them and for ourselves.*” (*Id.*, p. 200)

THE ASSURANCE OF VICTORY

The outcome of the battle is the victory promised by Mary. The souls that will people the Kingdom will live of divine Love in peace and charity. However, for the time being, we are still Knights of the Lady, committed in this great battle of the end and for which we must advance “*like an army in battle array*”, so as to win over the greatest possible number of souls to God’s love.

May Marie-Paule, who, in a way, is the actual personification of Our Lady of the Rosary, protect all of us and support us always. ■