



Spiritual Letter Box



THE PROGRESS OF EVIL

Marie-Paule having expressed the desire, a few years ago, that a spiritual letter box column appear regularly in the paper "Le Royaume", we thought we could draw from the invaluable treasury of letters to which she herself replied, letters that were published over the years. Those writings, still very topical, have lost nothing of their pertinence and continue to be an important spiritual correspondence which ought to be exploited for the good of all.

LETTER TO MARIE-PAULE

What a century we are living in! How sad it is to see today's young people sinking into evil: drugs, sex and all that comes with it.

As a mother and grandmother, I cannot remain silent about my sorrow any longer. I had eight children, all of them married. Some of them had an irreproachable conduct, but the others... caused us to shed so many tears. Now that they have become estranged from us, most of them have given up the practice of religion. What is worse is that their children are no better. One of them came here recently with his girlfriend. He was surprised at first and then quite annoyed that my husband and I did not accept that they sleep in the same bedroom. "That's what everybody does," he said, "and a trial marriage is recommended before getting married." My husband tried to reason with them, make them understand that God's laws exist and that it is by following them that one prepares one's happiness. Not only do they not practise their religion, but they no longer believe in God or the devil. Poor young people!

We are not perfect; we have our imperfections and our faults. However, our life as a couple, well prepared, was happy in spite of the tribulations we had to face. As we look back on the past, we are certain we did our best to raise our children in a Christian manner. What decadence today! All we have left is prayer and the hope they will understand some day that true happiness is not found where they are seeking it. Our pain and suffering is that of many parents who, like us, are worried over the fate of their children. We can even say that the same is true everywhere; we only have to look around us.

This is the first time I lay bare my sorrow in this way. When I saw what was announced in the last issue of "L'Étoile", this prompted me to write to the Spiritual Letter Box, so as to share my sorrow and help others who are facing the same problems because I suppose that your answer will be encouraging and beneficial.

Grandmother J. C.

MARIE-PAULE'S REPLY

Faced with the progress of evil spreading before their eyes, parents are alarmed. For those who are older, who have gone through difficult years but calmer ones with regard to religion, it is hard for them today to see the world heading for catastrophe because it refuses God and His laws. One does not scoff at God with impunity.

God made His laws for man's happiness and they are immutable. Over the centuries, prideful men often rebelled against God. In their pride, they sank into all kinds of passions,

and every time, they were brought back to reason through the scourges they prepared for themselves. Evil breeds discord, fights, wars, whereas good promotes peace and joy even amid the trials that befall us at times.

At this time, you are more afflicted because the evil has afflicted your family which you tried to raise in a Christian manner. God is not unmindful of the good intentions, the efforts and the courage shown during those long years of formation. If evil has affected your family, it is also affecting the Church. As Pope Paul VI said: "The smoke of Satan has entered the Temple of God. Fearsome storms, pitfalls, and opposition have been raised against our serene and sure navigation. We feel the gusts of contrary, violent and invasive winds hissing in our ears...." Those contrary winds affect all of us, carrying off or dispersing what is most dear to us. But God is watching.

While awaiting better days to come, offer up all the sufferings, the deep disappointments, caused by your children and grandchildren. Your prayers for them and your accumulated merits will become the potential upon which they will be able to draw some day, once they have had their fill of their life of pleasures. Those tribulations are also useful for your sanctification. Regardless of the cost, what is important is the return of souls to God.

As you know, true happiness is built on the purity of heart. Some have been spared in this storm and they advance towards marriage fully aware of the moral value to be safeguarded, knowing that physical union is lasting only when it is based on sound principles and the fusion of souls filled with the same ideal, before as well as after marriage. However, these young people also need to be protected by a Marian devotion which they have acquired and will keep up, and be fortunate enough to live in a milieu which forewarns them of all these errors and protects them.

Remain confident, there will be a return to better days like the sunshine after the storm. While awaiting that joy, be loving and gracious with your family, without giving in, however, to demands which go against your principles. There is no need to add to your sorrow the responsibility of not having helped these young people, trying to dissuade them from allowing all kinds of factitious pleasures to enter their lives. Even if they do not accept your words right away, they will remember them and, when they are faced with troubles and disillusionment, they will not be able to accuse you of not having forewarned them of what was lying in wait for them. Continue to keep up your joy of living and be confident in a merciful God who will grant them forgiveness, thanks to your supplications and your prayers.

Marie-Paule (*Le Royaume*, no. 2, June 1982, p. 4)