

# Summer Youth Camp - Boys

From July 24 to 31, 2022, the 25th annual edition of the summer camp for boys was held at Lac-Etchemin on the grounds at Marienthal (taking into account the fact that, because of Covid, it was necessary to have recourse to a reduced format for the camps during the last two summers).

This year's theme was "In the night of the Seventh Day", in reference to the explanations Raoul Auclair gave concerning the "End of the Times". Three explanatory conferences were presented during the week to the 43 young people between the ages of 11 and 17. Their purpose was to enable them to have good information, so as to be better able to face the social, moral and religious crisis with which they are confronted on a daily basis, especially in their school and recreational milieus.

Every day began with Mass and ended with the rosary, a conference (on three evenings of the week) and a camp fire. The activities for each day were divided into two important segments. For the first half of the day and depending on their age, the boys participated in learning workshops (biological farming, the making of plaster castles, electronics, the repairing of bicycles, auto mechanics, photography or the discovery of nature). The other half of the day was spent doing volunteer work for the Sons of Mary and for the Work (the upkeep of the grounds, gathering up and cording wood).

During the week, a thirteen-kilometer excursion was organized on Sugar Loaf Mountain at Sainte-Lucie-de-Beauregard. This was a strenuous hike during which "ordeals" had been planned to put the three bodies (physical, psychic and spiritual) to the test. The high point was the Mass celebrated at the top of the mountain.

As this has been the tradition for many years, it was under the sign of a "Knighthood consecrated to the Lady", that the week unfolded. Its crowning was on Saturday morning with a ceremony during which young boys 12 years old or older could become "Young Knights of the Lady", while those who were between 15 and 17 and wanted to go one step further, could become "Royal Servants" of the Lady, which committed them, in particular, to fifteen minutes of reading in *Life of Love* every day. This year was a very good year, in fact, for 18 boys were knighted as Young Knights of the Lady while 8 adolescents were raised to the rank of Royal Servants in the service of the Lady.

Without the very appreciated cooperation of a team of volunteers working in the kitchen (who prepared excellent meals for over 70 persons!) as well as the participation of nine volunteers responsible for the supervision of the camp activities, this intense and beneficial week of camp could not have taken place.

Finally, it is important to thank the Community of the Sons of Mary which places at the disposal of these young campers not only their premises so that these activities can take place but, especially, many of its members, priests and Brothers, who so generously gave of themselves. Thank you to all!

**Father Yvan Laprise**



# Summer Youth Camp - Girls

It was under the theme of “Marie-Paule and nature” that the girls’ summer camp unfolded this year, taking the form of a long weekend on August 5, 6, 7. Organized by Danielle and Lucie Beauchemin, in collaboration with a wonderful team of volunteers, the camp brought together, at Lac-Etchemin, thirty young girls between the ages of 12 and 17 from Quebec and Ontario who were able to fraternize through the different activities offering them a humane and spiritual formation.

Among those activities, the adolescents had the visit of Sister Marie-Suzanne Palud who spoke to them of the “fragrance of the soul”, drawing her inspiration from this sentence from Mother Paul-Marie: “*God presents such beautiful sweet-smelling flowers to us, as the souls in a state of grace are for Him.*” By explaining how each soul is “a unique flower” with its “unique mission”, Sister Marie-Suzanne encouraged the young girls to “blossom” well and thus spread the Lady’s fragrance of love, she who is the Flower of flowers.

Then, with the aim of making the Lady known a little more, Charlotte Bélanger, who lived and worked with Marie-Paule for many years, also met with the young campers. Her joyful presentation, full of anecdotes and memories, brought out the great simplicity of our Mother in her everyday life in the Work, in spite of her exacting mission of Co-Redemptrix.

During their stay, the girls were able to participate in several workshops, all linked to nature. Thus, every young girl was able to put together a wooden box (activity prepared by Anne-Marie Brisette and supervised by Sr. Claudia Joubert) in order to grow microgreens (and enjoy eating them later). For her part, Guylaine Gill, of Innu origin and Executive Director of the Band Council Pekuakamiulnuatsh Takuhikan – Mashteuiatsh gave a presentation on the First Nations of Quebec, making them better known. Finally, Father Eric Roy led a workshop focussing on the discovery of the forest on the land of the future Basilica Mary Queen.

Group games, camp fires and singing gave the girls an opportunity to fraternize among themselves. On Sunday, a rally was organized by Julie Pesant, during which the participants had to demonstrate ability, perspicacity and complicity while applying the knowledge acquired during this very busy weekend.

The outdoor chapel fostered unique moments when nature combined with the spiritual in an unexpected manner. Thus, during the Masses, there was the visit of a respectful fox, a heron elegantly landing on the pond, a curious hummingbird, while the singing of the birds accompanied the period of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

During these very short but intense days, everything was organized so that the young girls would become alive to the importance of nature in keeping with Marie-Paule’s thinking. She liked to contemplate the beauty of nature, for she found in it peace, hope and quietude. She wrote: “*Everything in nature recalls Him who is Love.*” (*Life of Love II*, p. 99) Since all the beauty created by the Creator arouses sentiments of thanksgiving which rise up in a prayer to Him, it is with deep gratitude that we thank the many volunteers for the preparation of the location, the organization of the activities and workshops, the camp counsellors and those in the kitchen who contributed to the success of this very enriching weekend.

**Sister Claudia Joubert, O.F.F.M.**



# The Activities of Our Youth!

Besides the youth camps in the summer and the catechism courses, other activities for the young people are organized by the Sons and Daughters of Mary and by some lay people.

Thus, under the responsibility of Father Stéphane Boisvert, in cooperation with a few confreres, the Sons of Mary welcome at Marienthal young men who wish to ex-

perience Community life.

These stays vary from three to seven days, depending on the time of year. Then, these young men follow the daily life of the Brothers and Fathers, in keeping with their usual schedule, including time for mental prayer, Mass, offices of the breviary, rosary and daily tasks such as working in the kitchen, transporting and chopping wood,

workshops (making bread, etc.).

Moreover, twice a year, in June and October, the Sons of Mary organize an excursion or hike in nature combining spiritual meditation with physical exercise. These athletic days enable the young adults (both men and women) to be together and fraternize in a calm and serene atmosphere.



From July 31 to August 7, 2022, a part of the young boys who shared the everyday life of the Sons of Mary at Marienthal.



The excursion in October 2021 took place at Mount Saint Joseph in the Lac Megantic region. Here a part of the group takes a break, enjoying the wonderful fall scenery.



St-Eustache - In 2021, the health restrictions limited the monthly activities to a soccer game.

In June 2022, the day's hike led them to Mont Chauve in the Orford region. The priests accompanying the group celebrate Mass in the great outdoors.



The Sons of Mary also participate in the activities organized by those in charge of the groups of Thirsting Harts in different regions, especially at Saint-Eustache. Once a month, various activities are proposed: sports, cooking, electronics, metal work, theater, etc.

On the part of the Daughters of Mary, Sister Claudia Joubert, with the help of other Sisters, is involved with young girls from the Lady's Work. On a regular basis during the year, she invites them for days of volunteer work where they help out and learn

to cook and do housecleaning at Spiri-Maria. Besides, she also organizes days when they meet for activities of a more fraternal and athletic nature such as hikes in the forest or canoe rides on La Roche Lake.



When Spiri-Maria opened again for retreats, many young girls wanted to participate in all the necessary preparations, such as washing the dishes used for retreats, spring cleaning of the premises in the basement, ironing the napkins and some cooking. Over the summer, there were also two days of relaxation on the water...

## At the Army of Mary Center in Quebec City

During the summer, under the initiative of Beatrice Girard, 18 years old, some adolescent girls spent a few afternoons doing volunteer work at the Army of Mary Center in Quebec City. What a joy it was to welcome those girls for activities of a housekeeping nature in this big house where Marie-Paule lived for more than thirty years!

Good humor and laughter were present everywhere, for this volunteer work also meant the young girls had an opportunity to be together, as well as have contact with the Sisters. In this atmosphere of camaraderie and work, they spoke to us with confidence and great simplicity about their studies, their various activities and their respective jobs. In this respect, it should be noted, besides, that all these girls had a summer job and the time they gave to the Army of Mary Center was above their weekly hours of work. Full of enthusiasm, hard working and joyful, they offered us some very valuable help.

Being of the third and even the fourth generation from the Army of Mary's wonderful families, these generous and bright young ladies allowed us to look to the future of the Work with confidence. We sincerely thank them for the work done and congratulate them for their wonderful generosity of heart and soul, without forgetting the good parents who made a love of the Work flourish in their own hearts and who, in turn, are passing it on.

That is how, from generation to generation, the Kingdom always seems a little closer!

**Sr. F. B.**



## Gratitude to Our Young People!

How refreshing it is to read the testimonial of our young people in the most recent issues of the review! It is a real breath of hope! Thank you to Justine Boudreault and Mariam Tremblay for their encouraging testimonial, as well as to all the other young people who are courageously walking along the same path or are coming back after having taken a detour. Their efforts touch us and we envelop them in our prayer, assuring them of spiritual support.

Our young people are exposed to so many evils in this world in which, for such a long time now, true values have no longer been presented to them. Everything is upside down; everything is permitted. More and more, school and society draw them to dangerous ideologies, indoctrinating them against the family and against God's plan. They must incessantly resist the seduction of drugs, legalized or not, of immodest and undignified fashions, of supersexualization, of publicity and propaganda messages bombarding them everywhere in everyday life.

However, the renewed world of tomorrow – calmer, purer, more wholesome, more beautiful – needs these young people today who are just blossoming out and uplift our hopes. This renewed world needs you, dear young people, in order to emerge, to build itself and develop more and more. Advance towards it while keeping your hearts open to the Lady who, in her messages, asked that the Christian – and now Paulian – doctrine be taught to the youth.

Like a treasure you have just inherited, always remember our Mother's love for you, the wonderful and important truths being passed on to you, the marvelous concepts of the three Bodies and the three Worlds which sustain us in our march and guide us along in a direction full of light. We meet you along those paths with love and gratitude, united by a spirit of mutual spiritual aid.

May the True Spirit always raise up more persons in the world and among our youth with a strong, courageous and faithful spirit, with a view to the long hoped-for renewal.

**Sister France Bergeron, O.F.F.M.**

### ONE OF THE LADY'S FAITHFUL WRITES TO US FROM CHILE



I wish to express my gratitude to everyone for all the attention and care shown me during my stay in the little paradise of Spiri-Maria for the Days of the Lady last May.

The little booklets [with each day's program and texts] translated into Spanish... you have no idea just how useful they were for me during the times of prayer! For me, they were a real teaching about the Work, especially through the contents of the texts on "Life of Love and the Sacraments" and "The Lady and the True Holy Spirit".

One of the paragraphs in those texts helped me understand, in part, the meaning of a conversation I had had with Mother Paul-Marie in her office many years ago, and for me, this is very precious.

I thank you again for all the work of coordination by all those who contribute to attaining the objectives of the Lady's Work, the more important ones being, the knowledge of *Vida de Amor* (for now only four volumes have been translated into Spanish), the history of the Work, the spirituality passed on by its teachings, all of which is presented in a solemn and magnificent context which exists only at Spiri-Maria. All of that is of an inestimable value for me.

I must add to this, all the kindness, the affection and the thoughtfulness of all the collaborators who made it possible for these conferences to reach the depths of our hearts, so hungry for love, in such need of spirituality, in need of unity, and which must lead us to the inner reflection required for our interior reform.

I remain united with you in prayer and in the Quinternity of Love!

**Mariano Izquierdo, Viña del Mar, Chile**

(French text translated from Spanish)