

# The Times We Are Living

(Letter to the Knights of Mary)

Dear Knights of Mary, Dear Friends,

The passage of one year to the next, between the feast days of Christmas and the Epiphany, is often a time to take stock of what was accomplished, first of all, and then of what still remains to be done. This is the case for most persons, families and organisms, on a small or broad scale. This is also true for the Lady's Work, this Work that means so much to us and which, for many of us, has become lodged in our souls to the point of being the center of our lives. Since we very strongly believe in the Lady, this gives us an excellent reason to resist the present world and hope in the coming of a better world.

In fact, in our societies today, all the points of reference are being demolished, whereas these latter are very useful for everyone and indispensable for the young people so that they can discover their true identity, their vocation in life, their ability to give themselves for others and the resulting happiness. So, it is necessary to pray much for the youth and give of ourselves unstintingly to form them, guide them and strengthen them and thus enable them to fight against all the perversions of a declining world that is even decaying. For the decline will not last forever, the fall will stop one day, even if this is on the very brink of the abyss. Then, it will be necessary to have young people who were able to stay honest and upright, who did not believe all the twaddle circulating about, which society claims to teach them.

Soon, it will be necessary in the Lady's Work to "organize the resistance". Thus, until now, each of its members has tried to stand firm, either alone or with his family or relatives. And that is good, praiseworthy and necessary. The fact remains though – and the world forces us to do this – that it is also necessary to make a whole lot of compromises, tolerate what, in the depths of our soul, we find intolerable and even accept, painfully, that the freedom to speak up is almost reduced to nothing and the freedom to think endangered. This is such a reversal of values that we would never have been able to imagine it ten or twenty years ago.

In today's world, it is easier and, collectively, it gives one more status to be a "transgender" or a "queer" (the Q in the acronym LGBTQ intended to camouflage the reality) than to be a simple Christian who just wants to believe and practise his religion in peace. In a school today, if you plaster posters everywhere inviting the young people to "discover" their "multi-form sexuality", you will be warmly received, but utter the name of Jesus in a classroom and you could be fired! In the same school, a student can violently strike a teacher who, however, cannot defend himself without being subjected to the wrath of the institution and then of the media whose judgments are of-

ten unforgiving. That is the latest reality.

Already fifty years ago, Marie-Paule exclaimed: "Dear God, what an age in which to bring up children!" (*Life of Love* III, p. 47) What would she say today in a world in which one perverse action has not yet imposed itself before another one is invented? There is a sort of race, a generalized emulation in the moral state of decay, in the ignorance and the lack of education, in the slackening of politeness and the loss of respect, to say nothing of decency or modesty...

Marie-Paule also described our time as "*the decline of a civilization*". (*The White Book* IV, p. 80) This time is not over as there are still things that can be destroyed but their number is diminishing, so that the beginning of the redressing can also be glimpsed. If resisting can be a solitary undertaking, even if it is not as hard when done collectively, setting things right or straight can

only be the work of an organized group, a work or a solid and strong association in which all the members are united for the same purpose. That is why, in the Lady's Work, it is necessary that "we be but one" in the faith, in prayer and in action. Each person must first see in the other person someone whom Heaven has favored with the same courageous faith – we must be courageous to believe all we believe in! –, someone who understands him, supports him and shares the same ideas as he does, the same hope and the same love of the Lady.

Nowhere is it written that evil must always triumph; good can also be victorious, especially if the "the Knights of good" are united, brothers and sisters in the same boat which the ocean is tossing about, and all of them are consecrated to the Lady who gave meaning to their lives. It is said that the blood of martyrs is the sowing of Christians. That is true, history has proven it. Martyrdom today is not yet the one of blood, but it is already the one of the protection of innocence and common sense, of clear-sightedness and an uprightness of conscience, of a solid faith and a hope which we so strongly hang on to that it becomes a force against which nothing resists.

Yes, we will be victorious! The Kingdom awaited for two thousand years will materialize, be established in the hearts of the peoples and the institutions of the world, and our children will be able to live in it happily with healthy bodies and souls. They will radiate with all the joy we will have merited for them.

From that perspective and with the certitude that, when the day comes, good will really win out over evil, the truth over the lie, and beauty over ugliness, may we all receive, in the innermost depths of our hearts, the divine blessing of the Lady who loves us and places her trust in each one of us!

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