

The Blaze of Love Which Suffering Is

Submitting her will to that of the Father in all things, Marie-Paule lived the last five years of her life as a recluse, withdrawn from a public life bustling with activity and incredibly productive. Her daily offering led her along a long road of agony which lasted for the seemingly endless time of a painful passage to the celestial destination so longed-for.

We can ask ourselves: "What was going on in that room day after day?" As we walked in, a warmly welcoming hand was extended with an affable smile from which so much love emanated, thus inviting us to go up to her. Time seemed to stop. Then, there followed the routine proper to a sick person, offered up to God with an extraordinary potential of graces in favor of humanity.

With her characteristic humility, Marie-Paule did not want to receive anything exceptional in the way of care. Enduring the hands that increased the pain every time she was moved, eating and drinking out of duty and willpower, receiving treatments, whatever they were, that was the lot of our Mother. And it is also the lot of every person who accepts suffering as a visit from God. At her bedside, there were frequent invitations to pray and the *Ave Marias*, the *Pater Nosters*, the *Gloria Patris* followed one another. The praises to Heaven continued with her singing in which she put all her soul.

True to herself in her role of Mother, even in the most acute phase of her illness, Marie-Paule took advantage of the opportunities that came up to encourage, form and correct if necessary. All the teaching given in this last period was the same as the one given at the beginning, all of it being lived in the blaze of love which suffering is. A tremendous feeling of littleness could only sweep through us when faced with the "divine nature" present before our eyes.

From now on, where are we to find her loving and maternal presence? Well, before the Repository where she is waiting for all of us. When will we be able to hold her blessed and encouraging hand again? By taking up our rosary and reciting it every day with fervor and love, as she herself did so very often.

And now that there is no longer any light in her room at the Residence of the Lady, let us turn our gaze full of hope to the Dove of Spiri-Maria, the symbol of the Spirit of Mary which Marie-Paule has left us as a pledge, a treasure for the era of the Kingdom which has already begun.

Sister Julie Joubert, O.F.F.M.



Sister Julie Joubert

Thank You to All of You!

During her whole life, Mother Paul-Marie never missed thanking people for the slightest expression of gratitude shown her for the Work, always asking that the instrument she was be forgotten. Thus, beyond her death, we can be assured that she will fill with her graces all the men and women who, from near or far, supported her during the last five years of her long passion.

In particular, we would like to mention Dr. Aubin who became her family doctor in 1993, ably assisted by his wife Constance, a nurse. Both manifested a great availability at all times, driving seven hours almost every weekend over the last five years, winter and summer, going through storms and sacrificing their annual holidays. Mother Paul-Marie trusted Dr. Aubin and his wife, knowing that she could count on their professionalism, their respect, their benevolence and their discretion. Those qualities were also very reassuring for the team looking after her.

Likewise, we would like to say a special thank-you to Marie-Paule's children who accompanied her to the very end, surrounding her with their filial love, all of them being so deeply imbued with their mother's kindness, humility and simplicity. Our deepest gratitude goes out to them not only for the valuable assistance provided over the years, but also

for the tremendous sacrifice they consented to, accepting from a very early age and without understanding, to be deprived of their mother's presence as she was called to a universal mission. We cannot forget that "they were victims with their Mother" for the salvation of souls, enabling us to also become, in this way, Marie-Paule's spiritual children.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to all the Knights of Mary who supported Mother Paul-Marie through the many rosaries said, the sacrifices accepted and so many acts of generosity towards her Work. So many united with her, carrying their cross with courage so as to give her some relief, and accepted to participate in the "cause of souls": the apostolate of prayer, of suffering and of the duties of one's state to which was often added volunteer work accomplished with dedication or other forms of generosity in a spirit of sharing.

In this way, your contribution over the years formed a huge bouquet of love which beflowered Mother Paul-Marie's mother-of-pearl cross, spreading about the fragrance of hearts and souls of good will, open to the Mystery of the Co-Redemption.

May the Mother of all of us bless you and manifest her Love to you in a special way. That is our prayer and our wish for you!

Sister Chantal (text read by Sister France)