

For the first anniversary of Marie-Paule's death, a few members of the Lady's Work sent us some very beautiful articles. We have selected two of them because, obviously, the same spirit prompts them all: "What Point Has Our Joy Reached?" by Marie-Colette, and "Rejoice!" by Sister France Bergeron. That is how Marie-Paule inspires the persons she has charged with making her better known to us.

– Editorial Staff

"What Point Has Our Joy Reached?"

by MARIE-COLETTE

The delicate flower of supernatural joy, a fruit of the Holy Spirit, often germinates in a special compost from which we would not expect to see it peep out and blossom. Thus, Saint Luke mentioned in his Gospel (24:52) that, after the Lord's Ascension, His disciples returned to Jerusalem *filled with joy*. In that context, does not such an expression astonish us to a certain extent? Having deeply experienced fear, doubt, disappointment and sadness during the tragic days of Jesus' Passion and strongly feeling their personal limitations, did not the disciples have the painful impression, at the time of His Ascension, of losing Him a second time? Did not the perceptible presence of the divine Master still seem very necessary to their formation, to the mission incumbent upon them and to the survival of His Church, despite His prophetic words: "*It is much better for you that I go*" (Jn 16:7)? How can we understand then that they were *filled with joy*?

Thus, it is obvious that Jesus' Resurrection, confirmed by His multiple apparitions, comforted the hearts of the disciples, enlightened their minds, strengthened their faith and purified their love. Faithful to the graces flowing from His painful Passion, nourished by His Eucharistic presence and sustained by the Virgin Mary's prayer, they made an important spiritual ascent which, having diverted them from themselves, enabled them to be in communion with the deep joy of Jesus who, once His mission was accomplished, was preparing to return to His divine Father. Their inner joy was also fed by His final promise: "*Know that I am with you always, until the end of the world*" (Mt 28:20), and a confident waiting for the Paraclete who, in a short time, would come upon them and render them capable of courageously bearing witness to the Messiah's redemptive mission and His glorious Resurrection, before Israel and all the peoples.

Those events marked the dawning of the new times. Now, what is our situation, we who have the grace of living "*in this time which is our time*," according to the expression of the Lady of All Peoples, and who believe in the co-redemptive mission of Mother Paul-Marie? Following her definite entry into the Heart of the Father's Heart in April 2015, we have largely shared in her happiness, so dearly acquired, but can we really assert that we are *filled with joy*, even if, through our faith, we find her with

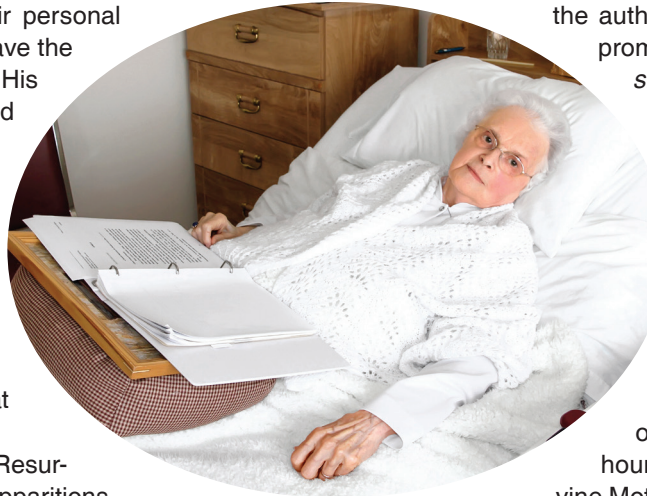
Jesus in the Eucharistic presence?

This first year, lived without the comfort of the perceptible presence of a beloved Mother, has seemed an eternity for many of us. And, do we need to mention it?.. We cannot nor do we want to refrain from nurturing an intense and filial desire, and better still, an innermost belief, that at the favorable time and in the most appropriate manner, Heaven will confirm before all peoples the inestimable value of her *Life of Love* and the authenticity of her mission, as the Lord promised her: "*One day, the truth will shine forth. I will give proof of your innocence.*" (*Life of Love*, vol. I, chap. 53)

As surprising as that may seem, we have the possibility of hastening *that day* which was foretold. Thanks to the writings of Maria Valtorta, it was revealed to us that Mary of Nazareth, through the keenness of her faith, the intensity of her desire and the ardour of her love, anticipated the time of the Messiah's coming as well as the hour of His glorification. Does not this divine Mother lead us to imitate her virtues and to walk, without pretension or pusillanimity, in her luminous wake? As it was at the time of Jesus' departure, we understand that now that Mother Paul-Marie has entered Life where her many joyful "*I love you!*" linger on, nothing will henceforth be the same here below... *and it is good that it be that way*.

The action of the True Spirit is neither retroactive nor stationary, but in constant progression towards the establishment of Christ's Terrestrial Kingdom. To achieve that and as He did for the Apostles, the disciples and the saints throughout the ages, He is incessantly calling souls to make new efforts to surpass themselves, and this has the unsought-after effect of increasing their capacity for supernatural joy.

For the members of the Lady's Work, the present time can be compared to the spiritual nights which every docile and courageous soul must go through in order to be purified of its dross and to attain a more spiritualized faith, hope and love. Throughout her entire life, Mother Paul-Marie constantly gave us heroic examples of those virtues and, in spite of the unfathomable abyss of sufferings that accompanied her pilgrimage on earth, she radiated a calm, profound and communicative joy, the fruit of the divine Spirit in the One who consented to the total obliteration of her being out of love.



In the same way that Saint Paul declared it with regard to Christ the Redeemer, it is a part of the divine plan that the members of the Work of the Co-Redemprix complete in themselves what is lacking in her passion so that the Kingdom of God may come on earth as it is in heaven. *The battle that took place in Mother Paul-Marie, first of all, she who was the stakes* (cf. *Life of Love*, vol. XII, chap. 56), is continuing unremittingly in her spiritual sons and daughters. Giving the True Spirit complete freedom to work in us the necessary changes, cooperating with love and courage in His sanctifying and divinizing action, living intensely

of the divine Eucharist and incessantly imploring the coming of a new Pentecost through the prayer requested by the Lady of All Peoples, is to experience the purest of joys because it means contributing, in our small measure, to the fulfillment of the divine plan of love for humanity.

“What point has our joy now reached?... Precisely the point our faith, our hope and our love have reached. May the Lady, on the anniversary of her entry into the joy of the Lord, communicate this joy abundantly to all peoples!

Marie-Colette

“Rejoice!”

by Sister France BERGERON

In her posthumous letter addressed to the Knights of Mary which Mother Paul-Marie wrote on October 13, 1996, and which was made public last May, our Mother wrote: *“Be happy over my departure for a better world. Rejoice!”*

As the decades accumulated for Mother Paul-Marie, leading her to an advanced age, it was with a certain sense of apprehension that the men and women religious, the priests and the laity in the Works making up the Community of the Lady of All Peoples would think that, some day, our Mother would no longer be with us. And yet, life went on and that day seemed far off, as though our Mother would never die.

Then came the five years of her slow agony when she lay bedridden on her bed of sufferings in a condition of complete helplessness. Those years gradually prepared us for her departure, knowing that death would bring her relief from so much suffering and be the day she had so longed for.

A year after her return to God, the words in her posthumous letter, *“Be happy over my departure for a better world. Rejoice!”*, encourage us to open our hearts even more widely so as to let ourselves be imbued with the peace and joy which are now hers as she finally *“savors the ineffable reward”* she merited for herself through an extraordinary life of love.

Of course, the reality of her absence still affects us painfully and can even cause us anguish at times, but we want to forget our sorrow, our regrets, our loneliness, our fears and even the requests we would be inclined to address to the Mother of our souls, in order, instead, to elevate our thoughts to her with deep sentiments of thanksgiving. Is not thanksgiving precisely the interior predisposition she would urge us to have in times of sorrow as in times of joy, going so far as to say, in one of her spiritual talks, that the Kingdom would be peopled with souls in adoration and thanksgiving?

In the long process of mystical transformation Mother Paul-Marie underwent over the years, her eyes were fixed on Heaven and earth had really become for her a land of exile. And yet, there was never a hint of melancholy in our Mother. On the contrary, in spite of the sufferings which were a part of her days, she never let them be a burden to anyone. Our Mother smiled a lot, was able to laugh, beauty touched her and she took an interest in what each person was experiencing. She also ac-

complished perfectly the duties of her state which were so exacting, and every morning was welcomed as a new day to love.

In her posthumous letter, she also confided to us: *“I am writing this letter to you and I suddenly realize that I have done it as though I was already gone. In fact, my spirit is much more On-High than it is here below.”* Consumed by the Fire of divine Love, Mother Paul-Marie lived in God and for God, so as to accomplish His will. Thus it was that she was raised up into the superior Worlds, opening the way and being drawn up all the way to the Heart of the Father’s Heart in a swirl of divine Love where she is now waiting for us with love.

Thus, as we recall *“this blessed day when the horizon finally cleared”* for her, what better way for us to share in her joy and be united with her than through a Mass of thanksgiving in order to proclaim her honor and her glory? Yes, it is truly by a Mass that she would have wanted us to celebrate this anniversary through which we become one in faith and love and the soul is nourished by the Food from Heaven that enables us to let ourselves be divinized.

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In December 2005, having called a Sister to her office in order to check through some work, Mother Paul-Marie said to her, as she was about to leave and even if there had not been any mention of her death in their conversation: *“When you will come up to my casket, you will be able to say: ‘She is saying to me, ‘I love you.’”* This spontaneous greeting, evocative of her departure, allows us to see her gift of love for souls and for God, and it does not surprise us when we think of the deep nostalgia for God our Mother felt in all her being.

Today, now that death has taken from us the sweet and gentle presence of the one we love so much, we know that we can find her in our hearts which are nourished of her and in which she sowed the seeds of a new life with a view to the Kingdom. And, having gathered together next to the altar-tomb at Spiri-Maria where the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated, we can all say to ourselves, with keen sentiments of gratitude and joy, and in a prayer of praise and thanksgiving: *“She says to me, ‘I love you.’”*

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

