

LETTER OF CHRISTIANE BRASSARD-HARVEY
TO FATHER LÉON BOILY

May 23, 2005

To whom it may concern,

I have just read Father Léon Boily's letter to the Sons of Mary, the Fathers' reply and that of Daniel Couture. Father Boily's letter really made me smile; he cuts to the quick, accuses, gives himself the right to judge without understanding, etc. I can clearly see in it his manner of acting. What unpleasant memories it brought back to me, memories I had voluntarily pushed from my mind!

When he quit the Quebec Center, a veritable tornado took place here in our region (Lac-St-Jean) where he was born. I was in the middle of the storm, accused, without rhyme or reason, by him and his family of having been prejudicial to him, of having been, in part, the cause of his departure. So many false accusations were made against me, so much so that the Mother of the Work, Mrs. Marthe Lambert, had to come to my defense several times. Ten years previously he had violently opposed my appointment as diocesan animator of the Work. What was the most painful in this is that he peddled accusations to a priest whom I highly esteemed. I could not conceive of a priest acting in that fashion, but, happily, Marie-Paule was of enormous help to me in passing, calmly and silently, those awful phases. Similarly, Father Jean-Claude Guillemette, who was visiting our Centers, was able to soften the successive shocks. At the time the Father quit the Work, it was already ten years that I had been putting up with that trial of unspeakable gossip. I have prayed for that priest. I am most grateful to Marie-Paule for all the help she has brought me. Without her, my courage would many times have failed me. Thank you for having supported and encouraged me.

I regret none of it, for it was necessary that I be purified, that my apostolate be fruitful, that I work at my reform, that I practice the evangelical virtues. Those great sufferings have been the source of great graces, and with all my heart I thank the Blessed Virgin for having formed me in that fashion. It was a first-class formation; I could not have had any better.

I hope that some day many of them will understand the beauty and the grandeur of the Work; our heart is open and ready to welcome them with so much love.

Christiane Brassard-Harvey