

March 22, 2006

His. Exc. Bishop Jean-Paul James  
Bishop of Beauvais, Noyon and Senlis



**Marie-Thérèse  
Fromentin**

Your Excellency,

I am taking the liberty of writing to you because, having been away on Sunday, I have just learned of the announcement of the departure of the Sons of Mary from Grandfresnoy, for reasons of which you are well aware and about which I have read in part. I have met Marie-Paule and this humble and deeply religious woman does not resemble, in any way, the picture that is painted of her. Has there been a meeting with her in order to judge her?

However, that is not the reason for this message. Since their arrival, the Sons of Mary have filled a church that was previously empty, have revived the Christian life of our villages; children were being baptized. The church was living again, was wonderfully well maintained. Adults were being baptized as well. I was the organist and directed the choir. The loss of my daughter and my grief brought me to give up those activities.

What are you proposing to us in return? An eighty-year old priest, in poor health – as we have had in Normandy where we go on a regular basis –, who can hardly stand up and has difficulty saying his Mass in six parishes with eight faithful present, or a priest like Father Marc who was really against the Sons of Mary but who, we learned over time, had behavioural problems. In fact, what is the situation regarding the accusations of pedophilia, which have been stifled? Perhaps it would be a good thing to study a little bit the case of the accusers before creating an earthquake in our parish. Perhaps some are jealous of the irreproachable conduct of the Sons of Mary.

In any case, my daughter-in-law, who is not a Christian, and who will give birth soon to her second child, said to me: “If it is not Father Serge, I won’t have it baptized.” And there is no doubt she will not be the only one. Little by little, she was drawing closer to religion, but now that will be all over.

As for Peter’s pence, you can be assured that the parishioners of Grandfresnoy and Chevrières will thank you by no longer helping out in it.

In our world in turmoil, Christians are giving a very bad example by their infighting.

With my most respectful salutations,

Marie-Thérèse Fromentin  
GRANDFRESNOY

Open Letter