

Open Letter to His Exc. Bishop Paul-André Durocher

“I HAVE CHOSEN THE BETTER PART...”

Rimouski, September 11, 2005

Good-day to you, Bishop Durocher,

Attentively and seriously I read your pastoral letter of May 25, 2005, concerning the Sons of Mary.

It is not my intention to debate with you here your thoughts and conclusions on the subject, for I am only a simple woman, more concerned with living each day her Christian faith in the middle of all her activities, than with arguing with the great ones of the Church over their decisions.

Unfortunately, Your Excellency, it was not always thus in my life.

It was through contemplating the life of an old woman of 92 years, a member of the Army of Mary, through listening to her explain to me our beautiful Catholic religion, and through going to Spiri-Maria that the grace of conversion entered my heart and put a full stop to a life of debauchery, of drugs and of alcohol, to say nothing of all the rest.

In your letter, Your Excellency, you urge the followers and friends of the Army of Mary to recognize the perilous course they have embarked upon.

You see, it's now four years that I've been walking this “perilous course”, and even longer that I've been watching that old lady who has been walking it with sure step for almost 30 years!

So I'm asking myself, Excellency: what are these perils?

Can you imagine the state of gratitude a soul is immersed in after having been plunged in mud up to its ears for more than 30 years?

I suppose that you, Excellency, are familiar with sanctifying grace. But as for me, a poor woman who has received the treasure of all treasures after so many years, has seen accomplished in her the promises of the Lord – *“You will be filled with joy.”* *“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask what you will and you will have it.”* – has had support in trials and profound peace, etc., am I now to renounce this beautiful Work that has led me to all of this? In any event, will branching off onto another road lead me to Rome? No, I simply can't do it.

Our Lord has been very clear on the subject: *“You can tell a tree by its fruit.”*

Praying together, reciting the rosary, Marian devotion, respect for the priesthood, interior reform, the practice of religion, respecting God's laws, the many conversions, love of the

Eucharist – are not all of these delicious, savory fruit? Do they not constitute the ultimate goal of your mission as pastor, Your Excellency: to lead the sheep back into the fold?

The fact that new conceptions of faith are revealed to Mother Paul-Marie hardly surprises me. I've read so many biographies and testimonials of such revelations in the history of the Church!

Who am I to contest these things, since I drink at the spring that is the very words of Our Lord on how to know a good tree, and since my personal conversion speaks for itself?

You are asking me to recognize nonexistent perils, Bishop Durocher, and, without any wish to offend you, I know that I have chosen the better part and that it will not be taken from me.

Thank you for your attention.

Diane Girard, Rimouski

*Member and friend of the Army of Mary
and grateful to be such.*