

## MY WHOLE LIFE HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED FROM WITHIN

I was born into a family of non-practising Catholics.

My education in religion, perturbed by war and the death of my mother, was insufficient. Nevertheless, I made a fervent First Communion, but I did not persevere in the practice of religion.

I only began asking myself serious questions about the faith when I was nearing my thirties. At that time I was experiencing grave family problems, and I told myself that if God existed He would come to my aid.

But I had no one to speak to concerning this. I set about reading the Bible and the New Testament, all alone, with growing enthusiasm, but I did not understand everything.

I finally found a priest who authorized me to receive Communion, and, very gradually, I began the regular practice of religion.

But there were so many obscure points and questions in my head!

At that particular time, I was living in a suburb of the Paris region referred to as “red”. What I was hearing from the priests I was consulting troubled me, for it was contrary to what I felt within me. But I forced myself to put it into practice, thinking, “He’s the priest, not me. So he’s right.”

For years I didn’t know which way to turn. Finally, through a friend I came to know the Army of Mary. In it, I drank long drafts of the pure doctrine of the Catholic Church. I finally understood my own religion.

My whole life has been transformed from within through:

- the most beautiful religious ceremonies that elevated my soul to God, to the Immaculate, to Heaven;
- sincere, kind friends;
- priests and men and women religious who were well-informed, devoted, fully trustworthy (never have I received such a welcome anywhere else; the members of the Army of Mary are recognizable by their kindness);
- the reading of *Life of Love*.

Making all due allowances, I recognized myself in *Life of Love* which answered all my questions, with its simple style, easy to understand, of an obvious sincerity. A true Work, expressing a great concern to obey God’s laws with the help of Mary.

I am not saying that I understood everything or that I never had a doubt, but they vanished

after some attentive reflections, in accord with reason.

For me, these writings, this Work came from Heaven. I believed in them with a faith conformed to my intuition and my reason.

I read the books by Raoul Auclair and Marc Bosquart and they edified me. I was not shocked by the new ideas presented by Marc for our reflection.

In the past, I had never been deceived by the writings presented by the Army of Mary. Little by little they made clear notions that at first had been obscure. So I thought to myself that it would be the same this time.

Moreover, often in the course of my religious reading, I have gotten the impression of mysteries giving a glimpse of themselves through certain expressions. I took no special note of all of them, scattered throughout so many books. But I knew that everything had not been said, and that God would reveal His mysteries or secrets at the moment and in the manner of His choice.

I note only one passage, from Genesis, that seems to me to announce a great revelation:

*“God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...’  
... male and female he created them” (Gn 1:26-27).*

I found nothing shocking in all the so-called new concepts brought forward by the Army of Mary. I can only marvel at the tenderness and thoughtfulness of God and the Immaculate who come down to us with so much consideration.

The one truly sad note is that so many of us are missing the opportunity of benefiting from this happiness without realizing it.

For myself, if there was a choice to be made it has already been made. The Work and its foundress are my plank of salvation and I shall continue to cling to it.

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