

## "At the Last Minute, He Changed His Mind..."

For our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary in 1991, my husband had offered me the possibility of going on pilgrimage to Europe with the Army of Mary. I had talked so much of a pilgrimage I had made with a lady friend that he wanted to please me by accompanying me this time because of this special occasion.

The pilgrimage with the members of the Army of Mary was going along well. Then came the day of the ordination of three Sons of Mary by His Exc. Most Reverend Mario Peressin, Archbishop of L'Aquila in Italy. My husband, tired of having to get up so early every morning to follow the day's program, did not want to come and I wept over this, but I accepted to not follow the group on this very special day. At the last minute, he changed his mind and we joined the group. What a beautiful day that day of September 12, 1991, was, when

five deacons (three Sons of Mary and two deacons from the Archdiocese of L'Aquila) were ordained to the priesthood, so merited and long awaited.

The next day, each of the new priests was to celebrate his first Mass in a particular church. My husband and I were to participate in Father Benoît Picard's Mass. At our arrival at the church in Montereale in the Archdiocese of L'Aquila, I went to find a place to sit in one of the pews while waiting for my husband to join me after his visit to a small adjacent chapel. Seeing the statue of Our Lady of Sorrows wounded by the sword piercing her heart, my husband who had not practised any religion for over twenty years was suddenly overwhelmed, feeling himself completely transformed from within. He came to sit beside me without telling me what he



Our Lady of Sorrows in the church at Montereale

had just experienced and he devotedly participated in Mass. What piety emanated from this new priest! I remember that, after Mass, Father Benoît had shown us a memento of his Baptism, for on that day his mother had consecrated him to Mary.

Having returned to the bus that was our means of transportation, my husband asked me what were the prayers we

would recite as we went from one place to the next: the consecration to Mary, the prayer of the Lady of All Peoples, and the prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel. Furthermore, he asked me if I had a rosary for him, something he had not held in his hands for a very long time. Already in his first Mass, Father Benoît Picard, because of his great interiority, was stabilizing the graces of conversion in my husband's soul. God's graces are sublime. Confession, devotion to the Triple White, that is to say, the Eucharistic Jesus, Mary and the Pope, and gratitude have continued since that blessed day. A short time after the pilgrimage, my husband was accepted in the Family of the Sons and Daughters of Mary. Father Benoît, you are in our prayers with all the Sons of Mary, your confreres, all of you being nailed to the cross of the Co-Redemption. With all our gratitude, we ask for your blessing.

Jan. 12, 2005 Lise Boisvert

## Thanks For Five Years of Graces

The Scholasticate of the Sons of Mary opened in January 2000. Last December, I finished my courses after a five-year program of formation.

Our professors invested much time and effort in order to set up all the structures that such a venture required. Moreover, they had to prepare their courses so as to impart a solid formation that was in conformity with what the Holy See suggests for the preparation of priests. I witnessed the great ideal of love that burned in their hearts which were entirely given over to their Mother in Heaven. A sincere thanks to you, dear professors!

During those years, we have also had some echoes of the sacrifices that many members of the Work of the Lady of All Peoples imposed upon themselves for the future priests, Sons of Mary, over and above the many prayers that were said for our intentions. I understand that priestly vocations are important to them because they love God and wish to see His Kingdom established in them first of all and then over the entire world. I consider myself quite unworthy of all these graces but I sincerely thank all these people, whether

they are people we know or strangers, who pray for vocations. Among these people there are, particularly, our Foundress, Mother Paul-Marie, my confrere Sons of Mary, my spiritual advisor and my good parents who have always supported me with their encouragement.

I must also thank all the other members of the Church who have been praying for vocations to the priesthood, and I myself pray so that all may open themselves to the light, making themselves humble, receptive and grateful to God who can grant their prayers through unexpected means.

And I especially wish to thank God and the Immaculate who desire only the good of all humanity. I cannot forget, either, all our friends in heaven who are so active, even if their presence is quite discreet.

After having received so much, we would like to be able to share this treasure with everyone, for when we thirst to know God, it is a great joy, in fact, to be immersed over five years in the wisdom acquired by humanity for thousands of years. And we must admit that the formation received over those years was not limited only to the intellectual aspect. The

seminarians form a little group with their professors who offer them an opportunity to benefit from their priestly experience. And there are also all the events of life which teach us such good lessons. Through the qualities and limitations of each one, we learn to discover Love a little more each day, which is like a hidden treasure among us. This experience of life gives life to the wonderful knowledge that is taught us and allows us to deepen it more and more. It is easy to recognize that we have a Mother in heaven who is watching over our formation.

My personal desire, after have just completed this program of studies, is to put it all into the hands of the Lady of All Peoples, for it is really thanks to her, in reality, that all of us have acquired so much in this beautiful Work which has been raised especially for this particular time in the history of humanity. Thus, may the beautiful reign of God and the Immaculate spread over all the earth so that peace may finally be granted to all peoples!

Brother Stéphane Boisvert, O.F.F.M.



Bro. Stéphane Boisvert

### Liturgical and Pastoral Activities at the Eucharistic and Marian Center Spiri-Maria, Lac-Étchemin

(March, April, May and June 2005)

1. Saturday and Sunday, March 19 and 20  
*Solemn ceremony in honor of Saint Joseph*
2. Saturday and Sunday, April 2 and 3  
*Solemn ceremony in honor of the feast of Divine Mercy*
3. Saturday and Sunday, April 16 and 17  
*Solemn ceremony in honor of Jesus, the Good Shepherd*
4. Saturday and Sunday, May 14 and 15  
*Solemn ceremony in honor of the Lady of All Peoples and the True Spirit*
5. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 27, 28 and 29 (more

details later)

*Triduum of prayer in honor of the Lady of All Peoples (Presence of pilgrims from France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria and Chile)*

6. Saturday and Sunday, June 11 and 12  
*Solemn ceremony in honor of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque and the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus*
7. Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26  
*Solemn ceremony in honor of Saint John the Baptist, the Precursor of the Messiah*

The program for the two days of prayer begins at 9:30 a.m. on both days, and includes a Marian Hour, Mass, a Eucharistic Hour and time for personal adoration.

Everyone is cordially welcome!