

# Pope John Paul II and the Marian Work

On August 26, 1978, the successor to Pope Paul VI was elected and he took the name of John Paul I. Marie-Paule who, under the pontificate of Paul VI, "saw" a light shining at the top of the Church, only "sees" for this new Pope a light of dawn.

At the indication from Heaven, the Army of Mary began its fifth pilgrimage to Europe from September 15 to October 3, 1978. This was the first time that the itinerary set by Heaven did not include a stay in Italy and it was also the first (and only) time that Poland was part of the program. Before the departure, Marie-Paule "heard":

*"REMEMBER: THIS PILGRIMAGE WILL BE MADE IN HONOR OF THE IMMACULATE, AND IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS YOU WILL MAKE THE PILGRIMAGE FOR THE POPE."* (*Life of Love*, vol. XV, chap. 61, p. 440)

During the stay of the 352 pilgrims in Poland, Marie-Paule met again in Krakow, Father Michael Iagosz, Cardinal Karol Wojtyla's curate, whom she had met a few years earlier at the chapel of the Miraculous Medal in Paris and to whom she had announced that they would meet again in Poland during a large pilgrimage. It was at Lourdes, on September 29, that our pilgrims, dumbfounded, learned of Pope John Paul I's death. As for Marie-Paule she then understood why she only saw this pontificate as being a light of dawn.

## THE POPE AND THE SEERESS OF THE LADY OF ALL PEOPLES

The conclave for the election of a new Pope began on October 15, 1978. In Amsterdam, the seeress of the Lady of All Peoples, Ida Peerdeeman, was praying for the Cardinal electors when she "heard":

*"He who comes from afar, will be Peter's successor."* (*Eucharistic Experiences*, October 15, 1978, p. 75)

These words were repeated the next day. On the evening of that same day, she learned via the radio that *"the Polish Cardinal Wojtyla has been elected Pope with the name of Pope John Paul II."* (*Id.*, October 16, 1978, p. 76)

When he spoke for the first time to the faithful gathered in

Saint Peter's Square, the new Pope repeated the expression heard by Ida as he presented himself as coming "from afar", from a faraway country.

A dozen or so *Eucharistic Experiences* recounted by Ida mention Pope John Paul II. For example, on February 2, 1980, she saw him clearly and at the same time she "heard":

*"And you, My Supreme Pastor, ... you will be the Master-builder of the present time and the coming generation."* (*Id.*, p. 91)

On May 25, 1980, the feast of Pentecost, Ida "saw" like drops of fire falling over Saint Peter's Basilica and then forming the following letters in the sky: *"Vaticanum II"*. Pope John Paul II was standing on the steps of the Basilica. It was at the end of this vision that Ida "saw" *"the Holy Father, head bowed, going back to the Vatican"*. (Cf. pp. 93-94.)

Ida's Eucharistic experiences announced this pontificate, its strong points and the illness of the last years. [The French text of the passage quoted above reads: *"the Holy Father, very bent over, ..."*]

## THE POPE AND THE ARMY OF MARY

In 1979, the Army of Mary made its pilgrimage in honor of the Pope which led it to Spain (particularly Garabandal) and Italy where the Pope, seeing our pilgrims in white near the obelisk in Saint Peter's Square had them sought, just as Heaven had "shown" Marie-Paule and which she had not dared believe (cf. *Life of Love*, vol. XV, chap. 73, pp. 516-517).

In the fall of 1984, a first group of fifteen Sons of Mary began studying at the Angelicum University with a view to the priesthood. They lodged with the Passionist Fathers as the Blessed Virgin had indicated to Marie-Paule, and everything worked out providentially.

In the fall of 1985, Cardinal Vachon wanted to prevent the Sons of Mary from studying at the Angelicum. They were about thirty that year and in order to disorganize the group, he asked that Father Denis Laprise, who was responsible for the group, be prohibited from accompany-

ing them to Italy. "Everything must be destroyed and these future priests made to disappear," he had declared to Father Denis' Superior.

But Heaven had prepared everything and, soon, a higher authority intervened to order that Father Denis come to Rome; that authority was Pope John Paul II who transmitted his will through his secretary, Bishop Kabongo.

During the years 1984 to 1997, the Pope often saw the Sons of Mary attending ceremonies in Saint Peter's Square; he called them "i piccoli blu" (the little blue ones) because of the color of their scapular.

On Sunday, May 25, 1986, Pope John Paul II ordained 74 priests, among whom was the first Son of Mary to reach the priesthood: Father Lionel Bélanger.

On May 4, 1987, Cardinal Vachon revoked the decree whereby his predecessor, Cardinal Maurice Roy, had granted the Army of Mary a canonical status and Cardinal Vachon imposed various sanctions upon the Work including the prohibition of holding ceremonies in the churches of his diocese. The Knights continued their annual crusades of prayer to the center of Christianity, without, however, wearing their Marian attire at ceremonies organized by the Vatican.

That is how it happened that over a thousand pilgrims of the Army of Mary were in Saint Peter's Square on May 27, 1992, and they had the joy of hearing a word of encouragement from Pope John Paul II at the end of the General Audience. Here is a translation of the Pope's words, spoken in Italian to the Knights of Mary out of deference to our two Italian Bishops protector: *"I now address a word of welcome to the large international group of the 'Army of Mary', which in this month of May, is following an intense itinerary in visiting a number of Italian Marian shrines. Let yourselves always be formed by the Mother of the Lord, the pilgrim of faith and hope. Take back to your countries the spiritual treasure you have acquired during these days."*

The Army of Mary would

return to Rome only one more time, in 1994, for a pilgrimage in honor of Pope John Paul II.

Until 1984, on the occasion of its pilgrimages to Rome, the Army of Mary gave over a half a million dollars to the Holy Father. Afterwards, the donations received from the Knights of Mary were used for the formation of the Sons of Mary who wished to become priests. Over forty of them would study at the Angelicum.

## THE POPE OF THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

In his last will and testament, Pope John Paul II quoted the words which the Primate of Poland, Cardinal Wyszynski, had addressed to him after his accession to the throne of Peter:

*"The task of the new Pope will be to lead the Church into the Third Millennium."*

This third millennium is the millennium of the Kingdom, of which we are already living the beginnings. It is this millennium of which Pope John Paul II is the "Master-builder" according to the words "heard" by the seeress of the Lady of All Peoples.

We are familiar with the prophecy of the Popes attributed to Malachi. Now, according to Raoul Auclair, the motto *"Pastor et nauta"* (pastor and helmsman) attributed to Pope John XXIII could also be applied to the two Popes that followed: Paul VI and John Paul II. That would not be surprising, for we can see the link uniting these three great Popes about the Second Vatican Council: John XXIII initiated it; Paul VI led it to its end and John Paul II actively participated in it and put it into practice. Moreover, Pope John Paul II took the combined names of his predecessors ("John" and "Paul"), and his body rests in the Vatican crypt where John XXIII's body lay until his beatification, in the ground as that of Paul VI.

## THE SPIRIT OF JOHN

From the very beginning of his pontificate, Pope John Paul II manifested a great spiritual closeness to the Apostle John, urging us all to take Mary "into our care", and his coat of arms reminded us of the redemptive Cross at



the foot of which stood Mary (symbolized by the "M" under the arm of the cross) and the beloved apostle. Furthermore, after his obsequies, his body was placed in the Saint Longinus Oratory in the Vatican crypt, named after the Roman soldier who, on Calvary, pierced Christ's Heart on the cross.

In *Le Royaume*, issue no. 138 of January-February 2000, Mother Paul-Marie wrote in regard to Pope John Paul II:

*"This Pope has the spirit of John whom Jesus loved and whom Mary loves, since she shaped his soul for the Time that was reserved for him from all eternity.... This mystical Pope – a Pope of light whose spirit is enkindled – shines at the summit of the Church, attacked because of his age and wounded in his soul pierced by celestial lights which, alone, are enlightening the world because God speaks today through the one who has the spirit of John."* (p. 22- English ed.)

During Pope John Paul II's funeral Mass, the Gospel book, open and placed on his coffin, was a very strong symbol when the wind turned the pages to the very last one before finally closing the book. It was the symbol of a life that was closing to the world in order to open itself to Light. It was also the symbol of the Book of Revelation, the "sealed book" written by John the Apostle and which concerns the difficult times we are traversing, times dominated by the presence

of the Immaculate and the action of the Dragon.

#### THE POPE AND THE LADY

The members of the Army of Mary had hoped that Pope John Paul II would promulgate the dogma insistently asked for by the Lady of All Peoples and by tens of thousands of faithful throughout the world.

On March 25, 1980, Ida Peerdeman had "seen" Pope John Paul II crown a painting of the Lady:

*"In the centre of the Square [Saint Peter's] I saw a golden stem with a bud on it, sprouting from the soil. While I watched, the golden bud unfolded itself. Petal after petal opened and the bud grew gradually into a big, beautiful golden rose. Then I saw our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, with a few Cardinals and some other Ecclesiastics coming down the stairs of St. Peter's.*

*"The Holy Father was carrying something in his hands. They all stopped in front of the golden rose.... Now I could see that the Holy Father was holding a Crown in his hands. Suddenly, the golden rose turned into the image of the Lady of All Peoples. The Holy Father stepped towards the image and placed the Crown on the top of it."* (*Eucharistic Experiences*, pp. 91-92)

In this vision given to Ida, we see that it was towards the "golden rose" (the Immaculate) that the Pope went with a crown and that as he was about to crown it, the

rose turned into the image of the Lady... who is the Immaculate Conception, as she herself specified in Amsterdam:

*"The Lady of All Peoples has been constrained to come now, in this time. For she is the Immaculate Conception, and, as a consequence of this, Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate."* (49th apparition, April 4, 1954)

The promulgation of the dogma and the crowning of the Lady seem to be veiled realities of the mystery, in the same way as the victory of Mary announced at Fatima in 1917 and which agrees with the words of Card. Wyszynski which Pope John Paul II quoted in his testament: "Victory, when it occurs, will be a victory through Mary."

It is by means of the Cross that Christ was victorious and it is by the means of the Cross that Mary will be victorious. The crucifixion is like the first stage in the promised renewal, but it must first take place, and the Lord had announced it to Marie-Paule in 1958:

*"SO THE HOUR OF THE CRUCIFIXION HAS ARRIVED. AND IT WILL BE THOSE OF MY PRIESTHOOD WHO WILL CRUCIFY YOU."* (*Life of Love*, vol. I, chap. 53, p. 329)

That hour has arrived and the Handmaid gives thanks to the Lord for the fulfillment of the words He has said to her throughout her life.

#### THE POPE OF THE ROSARY AND THE EUCHARIST

Pope John Paul II is also

the Pope of the rosary and the Eucharist.

In 2003, he decreed a Year of the Rosary, and completed this prayer with the addition of the mysteries of light. In October 2004, he opened the Year of the Eucharist and asked the entire Church to deepen its Eucharistic devotion.

Taking up again an expression of the Council, the Pope declared in his encyclical letter, *The Eucharist and the Church*: "The Eucharistic sacrifice is 'the source and summit of the Christian life'." (no. 1)

The Eucharist is inseparable from the Cross, the summit of Christ's life as He offered Himself to the Father as a Victim immolated for us.

It was in the Year of the Eucharist that the Holy Father lived his way of the cross which configured him more and more to his Lord and to whom he commended his life.

And it was in the Year of the Eucharist that the Handmaid received the final blow tied in with her crucifixion, in the likeness of her Lord. For the Eucharist is also a mystery linked to Mary, as is witnessed by the last apparition of the Lady of All Peoples which is symbolically represented above the main altar at Spiri-Maria.

Let us give thanks to God and to the Immaculate who are guiding the history of the Church.

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