

Triduum of Prayer in Honor of the Eucharist and the Lady of All Peoples

Father Maurice PÉLOQUIN, o.f.f.m.

Spiri-Maria, May 27-29, 2005



Fr. Victor Rizzi



Fr. Pierre Mastropietro



Fr. Yvon Tremblay



Jocelyne Lavoie



Sr. Suzanne Palud

"Praise o Zion, praise your Master, Praise your Saviour, praise your Pastor, In a joyous melody."

This verse from the well-known "Lauda Sion", the sequence of the Mass of the Blessed Sacrament, is like a summary of the three days of prayer in honor of the Eucharist and the Lady of All Peoples.

Following the wish of Pope Benedict XVI, we have proudly renewed our joy at celebrating the Eucharist, the sacrament of the new world. (Cf. *Zenit*, May 29, 2005)

In spite of all the disastrous meteorological forecasts, the weather was fairly clement and good enough to give the members who had come from all corners of America and Europe an opportunity to relax outside, after having participated in the various ceremonies, and to fraternalize in joy and serenity.

Nevertheless, if the weather was only slightly cloudy and if there were above us some "cloudy skies" – which the Knights of Mary would learn about at the end of the ceremonies – the God of Heaven who knows all and can do anything was watching over His children. This kind Pastor, our real bread, made us glimpse eternal goods, that which we cannot understand or see, but which our faith dares to assert against the laws of nature. (Cf. the sequence of the Mass of the Blessed Sacrament.)

Here then is a résumé of these three days inspired by the solemnity of Corpus Christi and the feast of the Lady of All Peoples, this Lady come from heaven who gave several messages about the Holy Eucharist.

Long before the beginning of the recitation of the rosary preceding the ceremony itself, the chapel was filled with a silent and fervent gathering. Then the hymn "Domina Omnium Populorum" resounded while nine flag bearers walked up the center aisle carrying the interna-

tional and national flags, as well as the papal flag that accompanied Father Victor Rizzi, the Marian Father. Then, the assembly recited together the prayer which the choir had just sung, the echo of which still resounded in the chapel vault.

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In union with Marie-Paule, Father Victor welcomed the members and indicated that since it was the solemnity of the Blessed Sacrament in this Year of the Eucharist, the theme chosen for the triduum of prayer was "The Eucharist and the Angels of the Priesthood".

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After having offered to God, through the mediation of Mary, our countries and our hearts, the gathering was invited to associate itself with the offering made by Marie-Paule of certain gifts in crystal, quartz or glass received in the course of the year. All these presents, cross, candle holder, roses and tulips, were placed on the altar, and then Father Pierre Mastropietro encouraged us to pray with hearts that were purified or of crystal.

"Come, True Holy Spirit, come to enlighten the hearts of all peoples, come, your hour has sounded."

"With Mary Immaculate, the Lady of All Peoples, form the Community in which the Host will be radiant: 'Who eats Me and drinks Me takes eternal life and receives the True Spirit.'" (Mother Paul-Marie, The Community of the Lady of All Peoples, Quebec, Éditions Co. Dame, 1998, p.13)

He also encouraged the assembly to pray for priests so that they may always live more and more under the influence of the True Spirit in an increasing fidelity to and a renewed love of the mystery of the Body and Blood of the Total Christ. Thus, numerous priests will be more priestly because many souls will have accepted to become fully hosts for them. (Cf. Bishop Ambroise Leblanc, O.F.M., *The Angels of the Priesthood*.)

To symbolize this hidden apostolate of "soul hosts" or of "angels of the priesthood" who pray and offer their sufferings for the sanctification of priests, there was a procession of the Blessed Sacrament, in which young boys carrying a transparent cross participated. At the end of the procession, a few of these crosses were placed on the main altar while the remainder were set on the altar of the Blessed Sacrament.

As usual, the Choir of the Immaculate, under the direction of Father Hervé Lemay, with Sr. Jacqueline Vermette at the organ, helped the assembly "to pray twice over" (to use Pius X's expression) with its hymns performed in an ineffable harmony.

And precisely in this regard, after the procession of the Blessed Sacrament, Mrs. Jocelyne Lavoie read the testimonial of a lady who experienced an awakening of her faith when she heard the Choir of the Immaculate interpret the hymn "Jésus dans ce mystère" [Jesus in this mystery] during a ceremony at Montmagny.

"After the ceremony," Jocelyne recounted, *"she went to ask for the musical score of the Sister organist so that she herself could sing it at her leisure at home, accompanying herself at the piano. This event,"* she said, *"helped her to revive her faith and to become aware of the sublimeness of the Eucharist."*

She ended her testimonial with these words: *"I thank you for all you do for us. The Army of Mary is a sign of the presence of God in our midst. It draws souls of good will. You radiate God and Mary."*

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Then we listened to Sister Suzanne Palud give us Marie-Paule's reply to this very edifying letter. We will simply give a summary of it here:

"That ceremony in Montmagny brings to mind the spiritual and Eucharistic intensity that usually envelops our members during days of prayer. This ideal of holiness that is proposed and which

touches certain souls comes from a mysterious point in us through which God manifests His Presence by encouraging us to go beyond our human love to focus it on a higher level, that is to say, in the best of what the soul has in it.

"Then we realize that 'science does not resolve the problems of a spiritual order'. The solution is 'the light that comes from within through the Eucharist'.

"This nostalgia of the divine that was aroused in you through the beautiful hymn 'Jesus in this Mystery' gives us a foretaste of the grandeur of the Eucharistic mystery that takes place on the altar and that we experience through Holy Communion.

"To be able to 'perceive this inexpressible mystery' is a grace from God. 'Can there be a greater joy than the one when heaven and earth are joined through the Eucharistic celebration?' However, over and above this feeling of wonder, we must strive to journey towards God who loving looks down upon souls that 'give themselves to Him in an attitude of humility and detachment'."

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The choir helped us prolong our meditation by performing the hymn "Jésus dans ce mystère" which had produced in this lady a spiritual turnabout.

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(What follows in this article does not necessarily respect the unfolding of any given ceremony during the triduum, for there was a new element in the program each day so that certain texts were not presented in the same order, depending on circumstances.)

On **Friday evening**, the ceremony continued with the reading of a text entitled "The Angels of the Priesthood". Father Victor Rizzi presented a summary of the booklet by Bishop Ambroise Leblanc, O.F.M.. The author urges souls to offer their prayers and sacrifices to God in order



Fr. Sylvain Guilbault



Fr. Denis Laprise



Richard Latulippe



Fr. Serge Lépine



Fr. Maurice Péloquin

to obtain numerous and holy priests for the Church. This apostolate has always been encouraged within the Church. *"Nothing is more pleasing to God,"* said Pope Pius XI, *"and nothing is more beneficial for souls."*

Although the faithful cannot officially offer the Sacrifice at the altar, they can nevertheless participate in this priesthood by becoming hosts of the eternal Priesthood.

This had been understood by a seminarian, a sub-deacon, whom illness crucified to his bed for twenty-two years, stopping him in his studies for the priesthood. To a confrere who bemoaned the fact that he would never become a priest, he made this comment: *"I prefer to be a host, however poor and wretched it might be, for whom Jesus is the Priest, than the priest of whom Jesus would be the Host."*

Therefore, the "angels of the priesthood" contribute in a special way to giving holy priests to Christ and to the Church. It is only in heaven that we will see all the hidden and humble influences through which priests will have obtained the greatest conversions and the fruitfulness of their priesthood.

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In order for that which is abstract to become more concrete, young girls brought up to the Eucharistic Jesus small adoring angels, while the choir sang "Bénissez le Seigneur!". This is a wonderful way of inculcating in everyone, young people as well as adults, the importance of becoming "angels of the priesthood". There is no doubt that many people will remember the message as they recount what took place during the ceremony and will get into the habit of offering all the actions of their day for the sanctification of priests.

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After this procession filled with angelic candor and piety, we listened to Father Sylvain Guilbault read two testimonials to us from priests who were won over by the booklet *The Angels of the Priesthood* which Mother Paul-Marie had offered to them as a gift.

The first, without realizing it, united himself to the sufferings of the persons for whom

he celebrated Mass, asking to be associated with their prayers and their merits. Without realizing it, he was asking for "little angels" to help him walk along carrying his cross.

The second had the desire to make this beautiful spirituality known so that priests might truly be *"the salt of the earth and the light of the world"*. (Mt 5:13-14).

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To give the gathering a break as it was a little weary from the heat, thus lessening one's capacity to listen during this long meditation, the choir sang one of Pope Pius XII's favorite hymns, "Ave Verum" by Mozart.

Father Denis Laprise then gave us a synthesis of the life of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus as an "angel of the priesthood".

"From her earliest childhood, she had the vocation of praying for the salvation of souls in general, but she entered the Carmel, she said, 'to save souls and above all to pray for priests'."

"God granted her wish in a tangible manner. In fact, Mother Agnes of Jesus shared with her a letter received from a seminarian who was asking that a Sister dedicate herself to and pray for the spiritual success of his apostolate. In return, he promised to remember her when he would offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass."

"A year later, Mother Marie de Gonzague made the same request of her for a second missionary 'brother'. The Superior informed her that it was possible to have several 'brothers' for whom one could pray and offer sacrifices. Saint Thérèse was most happy, for God was granting her her most cherished desires. She wrote: 'Everything that belongs to me, belongs to each one of them. I really feel that God is too good to portion things out; He is so rich that He gives without measure everything that I ask of Him...'"

Father Denis told us: *"Anyone at any age can embrace this sublime mission. The little Thérèse was an 'angel of the priesthood' from her youth.... She invites all generous souls to imitate her."*

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Finally, the gathering stood up and, upon the invita-

tion of Richard Latulippe, our usual master of ceremonies, everyone recited together a prayer for priests: *"Almighty and eternal God, cast a favorable eye upon Christ, the eternal sovereign Priest, and out of love for Him, have mercy on your priests...."*

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A solemn Mass followed this pious ceremony which prepared souls to unite themselves to the Holy Sacrifice of Christ the Priest and the Host. In the homily, Father Serge Lépine spoke to us of "Mary, Woman of the Eucharist": *"Thanks to its Marian dynamism, everywhere the Army of Mary is founded, it restores the Eucharistic fervor by re-establishing the exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Eucharistic processions, pilgrimages under the theme of the Eucharist."*

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After Mass, outside where the weather was clement, hundreds of participants were once again able to talk. Greetings were exchanged, friendships renewed, children ran about, zigzagging between the adults, impressions of happiness and joy were shared. Then, little by little the crowd dispersed in the night, bringing with it a more intense love of God, as a result of this celebration.

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On **Saturday morning**, a part of the preceding evening's program was repeated, but a special ceremony, that is to say, the "reception of Knights of the Lady" replaced the reading of certain texts which were moved to the afternoon program. Here is a narration of that ceremony:

During the playing of Gounod's "Ave Maria" by Andréanne Caron on the organ and Marie-France Therrien on the flute, the new candidates entered wearing the white alb. They were followed by the Knights wearing the red cape. To each one was assigned a young boy or "page" who would assist him at the appropriate moment.

Brother Ghyslain Létourneau followed the Knights carrying on a cushion the sword that would be used for the reception of the new candidates. Father André Guillemette, preceded by two

young page servants, closed the procession.

The congregation remained standing while Father André, the Spiritual Advisor of the Community of the Lady, blessed the swords to be given the new candidates.

The master of ceremonies then called the new candidates: *"We call upon Léon Palud from Manitoba, Roger Morency and Benoît Castonguay from New Brunswick and Cleo Savoie from Ontario to come forward for the dialogue of reception."*

Having briefly explained the reason for being Knights of the Lady, Father André Guillemette asked each one if he wanted to be a member of the Community of the Lady of All Peoples and if he accepted the role of "Knight of the Lady", which is to contribute to establishing a Kingdom of truth and love by allowing oneself to be drawn by the call of the Mystery to which God is inviting him: *"Léon, Roger, Benoît and Cleo, draw souls in your wake and, like Saint Paul, give yourselves entirely, body, soul and spirit, to the action of Mary Immaculate, the Spouse of the Holy Spirit, and you will see the new springtime of the Church. New centuries are coming and a new Wisdom will enkindle the world."*

And they all replied: *"I am conscious of the call that I received and of the seriousness of my role; I also know that the Holy Spirit will be my strength. The Lady, whose faithful Knight I want to be, is Co-Redemptrix and Mediatrice; she will also be my Advocate."*

Then the candidates received a red and gold cape: red to recall the martyrdom of the Immaculate Heart pierced by a sword of sorrow; gold representing the color of the veil and cincture of the Lady of All Peoples which is similar to the cloth that was wrapped about the Son's body, worn over a white garment "cleansed in the Blood of the Lamb".

The new Knights went to the back of the chapel to don their cape and then returned to the front while the choir sang the majestic hymn "Arise, Sons and Daughters of Mary", stirring the entire gathering. This hymn resounded to such an extent, as though it were an enthusi-



Bro. Marc Lévêque



Charlotte Bélanger



Fr. Denis Thivierge



Sr. Jeanne d'Arc D.



Fr. Carl Beaupré

astic command, that all the assembly stood up. The master of ceremony had to signal it to sit down.

The ceremony continued with the promise of commitment of the four Knights. Then, Father André presented each one with the sword. Placing their right hand on the sword's handle, each in turn named himself before continuing to say together the promise of commitment. Father André gave each one a replica of the sword to remind him that he committed himself to laying bare what is evil.

This was followed by the solemn Mass in honor of Mary, Mother of the Church. Father Maurice Péloquin delivered the homily in which he drew our attention to the fact that "the Eucharist is a Bread of Life, the Bread of Life that Christ is for us and the bread of life that each one of us must become for our neighbor since the grandeur of a life is measured by all the gifts offered out of love, as was the case with Christ's life."

A characteristic of the Masses during the triduum was that the prayer intentions in the General Intercessions were given in five languages: Spanish, German, French, Dutch and English.

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On **Saturday afternoon** we continued with a program that was entitled "Mary and the Angels of the Priesthood".

The Choir of the Immaculate prepared us for the contemplation to follow through the hymn "Vierge Sainte, Dieu t'a choisie". Charlotte Bélanger and Brother Marc Lévêque presented a meditation on "Mary's discreet role in our time".

"Now, the Lady especially explained what her role would be in this time of the Apocalypse. Thus, on May 31, 1954, she appeared to Ida Peerdeman to tell her: 'Here I am. The Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate is standing before you. I have chosen this day because it is on this day [May 31] that the Lady will receive her coronation.'...

"Mary spoke of a coronation; therefore there would be royalty. On that day of May 31, 1954, Ida was unaware of what Pope Pius XII was preparing for the Church con-

cerning the Immaculate. His Holiness, Pope Pius XII was very attentive to the messages of the Lady of All Peoples whom the Pope's sacristan, as he was referred to by the Lady (His Exc. Bishop Jean-Pierre van Lierde, at the time), was immediately transmitting to him. That message would confirm him in his plans. Raoul recounts:

"In the year 1954, there was in Rome a great premonitory gesture. On October 11, Pope Pius XII, through the encyclical 'Ad Caeli Reginam' instituted the feast of the Queenship of Mary..."

" 'We likewise ordain,' wrote the Pope, 'that on the same day the consecration of the human race to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary be renewed, cherishing the hope that through such consecration A NEW ERA MAY BEGIN JOYOUS IN CHRISTIAN PEACE and in the TRIUMPH OF RELIGION.'"

"That is how Pope Pius XII came to prepare the feast of Mary's Queenship, and Mary confirmed him in this at Amsterdam by setting the same date for her coronation. A luminous collaboration between heaven and earth!"

"Furthermore, Pope Pius XII was corresponding to the demands Mary made to the children at Fatima... that the consecration of the human race to the Immaculate Heart of the Virgin Mary be renewed, so that peace might come into the world. That was the message given to Lucia by Mary at Fatima in 1917."

Brother Marc Lévêque read a few excerpts from this Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

"Mother of Mercy, obtain for us peace from God and the grace that is able in an instant to change the heart of man, the grace that brings and fosters peace, and makes it lasting. Queen of Peace, pray for us and give to the warring world that peace for which the nations long, a peace in the truth, in the righteousness, and in the love of Jesus Christ..."

"We consecrate ourselves forever to thee and to thy Immaculate Heart, O Mother and Queen of the world. This we do so that thy love and protection may hasten the triumph of God's kingdom. Thus may all nations, at

peace with one another and with God, proclaim thee blessed, and sing with thee from pole to pole the unending Magnificat of glory, love, and thanksgiving to the Heart of Jesus in which alone they can find truth, life, and peace."

Charlotte continued: " 'This PEACE', wrote Raoul Auclair, 'will not come before the KINGDOM comes!' And he is right. The Kingdom? We must have it, first of all, in our hearts, through our interior reform. Now, here at Spirit-Maria, we can feel its beginnings. How could we explain in any other way all the testimonials from the retreatants or other people after their stay or their visit of the premises, and who repeat, one after the other, 'We have lived celestial days here'?"

"What symbiosis exists between heaven and earth when souls accept to correspond to God's plans even without understanding!..."

"We have serious questions to ask ourselves. Those who are the most dead set against Mary's request are, for the most part, many lay people, men and women religious, priests, bishops and cardinals. Ought we be surprised that everything is going so badly in the world and in the Church? And the corruption, disasters and wars continue."

" 'It will be those of my priesthood who will crucify you,' the Lord told Marie-Paule in 1958. 'All those of my priesthood who are sinning through pride, egoism, through sensuality in all its forms, will cast stones at you.... But one day the truth will shine forth... Then there will be weeping and a gnashing of teeth....'"

" 'Forgive them, Lord,' wrote Marie-Paule, 'for they know not what they do!'"

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(Certain texts having already been summarized in the first part which gives an account of Friday evening's ceremony, we will limit ourselves here to mentioning the new texts.)

Father Denis Thivierge transmitted Mother Paul-Marie's invitation that we become "angels of the priesthood".

"It is not necessary to have a powerful voice in order to pass on the joy of serving God and souls in an apostolic

cause that is 'Marianly' sanctifying. It simply suffices to belong to Mary in order to accelerate our spiritual progression towards Jesus and let Him radiate through us who are 'victims' of a true love, totally given, without reservation.

"For us, to be victims, is to go to Jesus there where He is, that is to say, on the cross, to become victim souls of love with Him. What more can we desire? Nothing, nothing other than doing the will of God. Let us always remember that the cross projects its luminous rays over the world. Every soul, open to grace, is irradiated of the wisdom of God and His lights...."

"Enlightened by the Spirit, borne by Him, we must sow, sow... and sow even more because we are persecuted by a world that has forgotten God and rejected His laws, because we are ridiculed by our people, our families, our friends..., and even by the clergy, the episcopate and the Church. Is that possible? If we are walking in Jesus's footsteps, can it be any other way?..."

"From the very beginning of time, the role of the Woman was announced: 'A WOMAN will crush your head'; it was also announced more particularly in the Apocalypse, as well as through the prophets Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort and Saint Maximilian Marie Kolbe. And what of the Immaculate who, under the title of Lady of All Peoples, clarified her role for our time. She is the one who is acting on this earth, who sees to everything, announces, warns, brings to fulfillment, but to do so, she needs us who are at her service...."

"An excellent means, very powerful, to get through this period of serious disruptions... is to be found in the promise, between God and each one of us, to offer everything for the Pope, the cardinals, the bishops and the priests by becoming 'angels of the priesthood'. What do you think of that? You are free to do so if you wish. Is it not sublime to offer ourselves as victims for those who strike at us? That is the sublime forgiveness that permeates us with the purest rays of Love...."

"This vocation requires nothing more than our con-

sent, our prayer, the total giving of ourselves, our surrender in pure faith. Thus,

'the more we will be hosts, the more they will be priests!' and 'may thy Kingdom come, Lord!'

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Immediately after the reading of this text, Sister Jeanne d'Arc Demers walked up to the microphone set up in front of the communion rail, and shared with us this teaching from Mother Paul-Marie on the offering as a victim of love.

"The little Thérèse of the Child Jesus had given herself to the Lord as a 'victim of love'," she told us. *"This is an example we could follow. It changes nothing in our everyday life except that the offering makes it that much more meritorious."*

"Let us give God all the freedom to apply the merits of our prayers, joys, sufferings, desires, disappointments, upsurges, regrets, etc., and pass all our offerings through Mary's hands, for she knows so well how to present them to Jesus and God the Father."

"To be a 'victim of love' or an 'angel of the priesthood' is to take flight towards unsuspected spheres, such that life and its wounds are made lighter thanks to the loving acceptance of the cross. Without our noticing it, divine Love has penetrated our wounds, purified our soul and, with time, over the years, has sanctified it and divinized it."

"Jesus invites us to drink from the cup and to love to the very end, for the chalice of bitterness will be changed into a cup of the most pure love.... Finally, we will see blossoming the very beautiful springtime of the Church."

"May Mary watch over you and present you to the Father and to the Eucharistic Son as 'angels of the priesthood'."

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To all the meditations of these days of prayer, we would need to add the account given by Father Pierre Mastropietro of the most recent events concerning the Work and, in particular, the Community of the Sons of Mary (see pages 12-14). We also invite you to consult the web site of the Community of the Lady of All Peoples under the section *"The Kingdom of Love in the Truth"* at (www.communautte-dame.qc.ca).

However, since the crux of all these events is the result of Marc Bosquart's writings, it is normal and just that the author be given the right to speak up. Marc Bosquart's thoughts, under the title *"YOU*



Sr. Chantal Buyse



Sr. T. Lalancette



Fr. Benoît Picard

WILL BE ALONE TO THE END", follow this article, on pages 14-15.

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Immediately after Marc Bosquart's text, the choir sang with much devotion: *"Victory, by thy cross is won"*.

The assembly which filled both the lower hall and the chapel itself withdrew in silence, hearts filled with peace and confidence in spite of the news which, from a human point of view, was far from reassuring.

The clement weather given us by Mary provided everyone with an opportunity to exchange the emotion and the upsurges of fervor arising from a day of piety spent in the company of the Eucharistic Jesus and Mary, the Lady of All Peoples.

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On **Sunday morning**, close to 1,000 people made their way to Spiri-Maria. The texts were the same as those of the preceding day, with the exception of a mediation by Father Carl Beaupré entitled *"The Eucharist, Bread of Life, Bread of Love"*. Here is a summary of it: *"From the time it was founded the Army of Mary has always sought to fortify the spiritual life of its Knights by constantly directing them to the Eucharist, Mary and the Pope. Thus, it is with joy and gratitude to Pope John Paul II that the Knights have participated wholeheartedly in this Year of the Eucharist."*

"The Eucharist, Bread of Life, Bread of Love is the most prodigious invention from the Heart of our God. Can there be a greater intimacy or closeness between our soul and God than when we receive Him as food? It was with a view to having us participate in His very own nature that the Lord gave us His Body and Blood."

"Why does God want us so close to Him? In the book, 'Ma vie, c'est le Christ', it is written: 'I came down in divine stages: from Heaven into Mary's womb, from her womb into a manger, from the manger to the cross, from the cross into a piece of bread and a cup of wine, so that, having become nourishment, I might transform you into Me so that together we could ascend in stages through the cross, through the manger of detachment

from egoism, through the maternity of Mary to the haven of the Blessed Trinity.'...

"It was in Amsterdam, the 55th apparition, that the Lady of All Peoples revealed a new facet of the great Eucharistic Mystery, for Amsterdam is the 'city of the Eucharistic Miracle'."

"On Tuesday of Holy Week," Father Carl went on to recount, recalling the events that took place in 1345, *"a man was on his deathbed. A priest was called in to administer the last sacraments to him and he gave him the Holy Eucharist. After the priest left, the sick man vomited; the woman who cared for him meticulously placed everything the man had rejected into the fire."*

"Returning the next morning, she went by the fireplace and, astonished, she saw above the embers the Blessed Host intact and resplendent with light. She immediately wrapped the Body of Christ in a clean cloth, put it in a case and ran to inform the priest who immediately came to see for himself and to bring the Host back to his place of residence. But soon he noticed, to his great fright, that the Holy Host had disappeared. He returned to the sick man's house and found the Host in the case where the lady had put it. The same phenomenon occurred three times. The priest concluded that the Lord wished to be honored at that place."

"That is where the first chapel of the Eucharistic Miracle would be built, for the sick man, miraculously cured, donated the lot his house was on. Many miracles have occurred in this chapel and they still do today. The new chapel commemorating this miracle is one of the most frequently visited chapels in Amsterdam and the Blessed Sacrament is permanently exposed there for perpetual adoration."

"Therefore, it was there at Amsterdam that the Lady of All Peoples manifested herself as the 'Woman of the Eucharist'. Ida Peerdeman recounts: 'Suddenly the vision... was transformed into one of a single holy Host, but one so dazzling with light... Suddenly, it was as if the Host opened up. A Figure emerged from it. A Person

who floated: Someone. His appearance was so sublime, such power emanated from him...'

"And while I contemplated this Being, this unique Being..., something inside me impelled me to keep thinking: 'And yet they are TWO.'... And suddenly, in the middle of Them, a light burst forth. In the middle of Them, yes, an ineffable light, and in this light, a Dove. With the speed of lightning it swooped down towards the globe, in the indescribable radiation of such an intense light...'

"Here it is no longer a matter of commenting or arguing," Father Carl told us, *"but of contemplating and adoring. God is to be adored in His loving plans for humanity...."*

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After having meditated upon this beautiful message given us by Father Carl, the master of ceremonies announced to the congregation that on this Sunday of the feast of the Blessed Sacrament, the Community of the Daughters of Mary had the joy of welcoming two novices who would take the habit.

During the singing of the hymn *"Mon âme en ce jour glorifie"* which is always so touching, there was the entrance of the postulants dressed in a wedding gown. Mélanie Lépine was accompanied by her grandparents, Lucille Bernier and Rosaire Lépine, and Louise Therrien was escorted by her parents, Lucie Avon and Claude Therrien.

Sisters Suzanne Palud (Mother Paul-Marie's assistant) and Chantal Dumas (Mistress of Novices) as well as Father Serge Lépine (Mélanie's uncle) welcomed the two candidates at the front of the chapel.

After the singing of the *"Veni Creator"*, Father Serge blessed the religious habits, as well as the candles and rosaries to be given to the two *"betrothed of Christ"*.

A short dialogue having taken place between the Assistant Superior and the postulants, they were given their habits which they then went to don in a designated location.

During that time, Sister Chantal Buyse unveiled to us the beautiful surprise of the affiliation of a religious community to the Community of the Lady of All Peoples. We will come back to that a little further on.

During the ineffable hymn *"L'Adieu au monde"*, the new novices came up the center aisle, holding a lit candle in their hand. Then, Sister Suzanne gave each one the rosary she will wear attached to

her belt. And after a short recommendation to live a fervent and devout life, the novices, visibly moved as were their parents, went back to their places while the very touching "Maria Mater gratiae" was performed on the organ and violin.

AFFILIATION TO THE COMMUNITY OF THE LADY OF ALL PEOPLES

Sister Chantal Buyse explained: "The affiliation of a religious Community to the Community of the Lady of All Peoples is purely spiritual, in the same way that the Marian Group was providentially formed in Quebec City in 1967...."

"The Community of the Lady of All Peoples is 'a movement of laity and community members encompassing all states of life, all religions, within all classes of society, going from urbanism to patriotism, etc., adapting administrative, economic and social measures in a respect for the rights and duties of the individual, protecting his autonomy, his reputation, while at the same time holding each one responsible for his actions and their consequences. Thus this large Community will include all levels of society: Christian laity and a minority of priests and men and women religious who have remained faithful to their vocation.'..."

"These affiliated communities will pursue a common goal, that of being 'angels of the priesthood'! 'This goal does not oblige anyone to change his way of life. It does not require any prayers, any meetings, any contribution. All that is required is that one give oneself entirely to the great and holy cause of the priesthood, the most Catholic and most apostolic of intentions, espousing all the hopes of the Church, all the Sovereign Pontiff's desires, all the needs of priests and all the interests of the faithful.' (Bishop Ambroise Leblanc, O.F.M., 'The Angels of the Priesthood', p. 6)

"Have confidence more than ever, for it is Mary 'who has received the power to

gather her peoples into one great and single Community.' (51st apparition) To accomplish her plans here below, the Lady uses the men and women who have given themselves over to her action. We have so many reasons to keep up our hope and to cultivate our values with a view to a renewed Church....

"We have the joy of officially welcoming one religious community for women that is affiliating itself to the Community of the Lady of All Peoples. That is how there is a unity of heart, soul and spirit..."

Father Benoît Picard introduced us to the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity from Arkansas, whose chaplain he was for six years. "We greet five of their Sisters present among us.

"This Community was founded by Saint John Eudes at Caen in France on November 25, 1641.... For more than twenty years, this Community has wholeheartedly adhered to the Army of Mary....

"We will be united by the bonds of prayer and the joy of working 'for the salvation of souls'. This spiritual union is open to the Father's plan of love at the beginning of the millennium in which 'great things' are already being achieved by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary."

Sister Theresa Marie Lalancette, Superior of the Community, then shared a testimonial with us in favor of Father Benoît Picard, from which a few excerpts have been taken:

"We, the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity in Arkansas would like to take the opportunity of publicly expressing our gratitude to Father Benedict Picard for the wonderful service he rendered to us Sisters as well as to the people in the community of Hot Springs. During the six years he was our chaplain, he did not confine himself to the ministry of the Sisters of the monastery only; he saw the many people who were looking for spiritual direction and

spared neither his time nor his talents to help those who came to him, attempting to bring everyone he came in contact with closer to the Lord. No one was refused confession or counselling at any time. It was not uncommon for Father to skip a meal or an event in order to give someone a helping hand....

"His good advice, conferences, homilies, counselling (without mentioning his good example) all were the greatest help for a better way of encouraging us to a more generous effort to reform ourselves. Our monastery became a place where we could understand and help each other better. The community of Hot Springs also benefited in so many ways. The beautiful processions, the ecumenical dialogues, the reaching out to the community at large, in particular through the opening of the Adoration Chapel, all showed Father's love and dedication to those around him....

"We pray that we may continue to benefit from his generous giving of self through our continued attempts to grow in our love through the service of others.

"Sincerely,

"Sister Theresa Marie Lalancette, Superior"

It goes without saying that we ended our forenoon of "signs before our eyes" with a solemn Mass of thanksgiving. Father Benoît Picard presided over this solemnity and in his homily he commented on the day's Gospel which spoke of the confrontations Jesus had with the priests, scribes and elders.

Jesus who was God's envoy, the most competent pedagogue and teacher, did not succeed in having these people believe, for all they wanted to do was find fault with him. Thus, He rose above all the incomprehension and continued His work of love with faithfulness and courage.

Thus, Father Benoît told us, "If we are judged poorly, if after having done good we are said to have had bad intentions, or if some try to

harm or hurt us, let us thank God for having given us an opportunity to surpass ourselves in love and to direct our steps towards the incandescent summits of divine love."

Filled with a desire for the True Spirit who believes in Love, who draws everything from Love and lives off Love in spite of the snares (cf. Father Benoît's homily), we carried on with the solemn Mass. The performance of Charpentier's "Sanctus" on its own could elevate hearts to the heights of praise and thanksgiving.

The afternoon program being the same as the previous day, we could end our account here, at least as far as the visible content of the triduum is concerned, but not with regard to its invisible dimension.

It is with much edification that the priests could give an account of how beautiful, touching and consoling it is to hear the many confessions from people of all ages who wish to take advantage of the grace of the sacrament that is available for them. There, they come to rebuild their strength; there they come to acquire the sacramental grace for their life as a couple or for their life of chastity in celibacy, for their professional or student life, to keep holy and fresh their life as children, to promote love amid difficulties, forgive offenses, abandon oneself to Providence and give thanks to the God of mercy.

"Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I covered not. I said, 'I confess my faults to the Lord,' and you took away the guilt of my sin.

"Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but kindness surrounds him who trusts in the Lord.

"Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you just; exult, all you upright of heart."

(Ps 31:5;10-11)

Father Maurice Pélouquin



Young girls carrying a statuette of an angel.



The group of the Knights of the Lady. In the front row are the four new candidates received Saturday morning: Benoît Castonguay, Léon Palud, Cleo Savoie and Roger Morency.



Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of Hot Springs, Arkansas, affiliated to the Community of the Lady of All Peoples.