



# "The Church Is Founded 'on the Apostles and the Prophets'"

by Sylvie PAYEUR-RAYNAULD

His Em. Card. Ratzinger



His Eminence Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger,  
who became Pope Benedict XVI in 2005

To whom do we owe obedience in the Church? The question is worth reflecting upon, as a result of the interrogation formulated in July 2005 by one of our correspondents:

"The Army of Mary swears that it is faithful to the Church, but the bishops have banned it. How can one disobey the bishops and remain faithful to the Church?"

A passage from the Gospel of Saint Matthew already provides a lead in answering:

While the Pharisees were scandalized over Jesus' words, He declared to His disciples: "Let them go their way; they are blind leaders of the blind. If one blind man leads another, both will end in a pit." (Mt 15:14)

If certain authorities are blind, that is to say, incapable of recognizing God's Envoy, must we deny that we see and, in turn, become blind by rejecting this Envoy? Yet, "if one blind man leads another, both will end in a pit."

Would the Church be any further ahead because of this? Does not our fidelity to the Church commit us to accept to become, like Christ, signs of contradiction?

We know that many parallels can be drawn between our time and that of Christ's first manifestation on this earth. The Co-Redemption is in the likeness of the Redemption and, just as the Redeemer was rejected by the religious authorities of His time, the same is true of the Co-Redemptrix in our time.

The apostles of the Lady have a crucial mission for the future of the Church and of mankind, and it is just as unthinkable for them to be unfaithful to this mission as it was for Christ's Apostles to be unfaithful to the calling they had received.

Furthermore, the history of the Church confirms us in our desire to be faithful to the Work of the Lady in spite of the rejection by Church authorities who have eyes to see but do not see.

## THE PROPHETS IN THE CHURCH

Mr. Niels Christian Hvidt conducted a very interesting interview in 1999, for the Italian review *30 Giorni*, with Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, then the Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. In this interview entitled "The Problem of Christian Prophecy",<sup>1</sup> Cardinal Ratzinger's answers are of a remarkable aptness to confirm the authenticity of our Foundress' mission.

### – What a Prophet Is

"The prophet is someone who tells the truth by virtue of his contact with God; the truth for today which, of course, also sheds light on the future. It is not a matter of predicting the future in all its details, but rather of rendering present, at this moment, the truth of God and indicating the path to follow."

(Cardinal Ratzinger, no. 1)

Marie-Paule was prepared for her mission by the Lord and by Mary. She wrote in *Life of Love*: "When cer-

tain souls are chosen by God for the duty of setting things right – and this under His command – they must, with a courage akin to heroism, live each day in a profound charity that will incessantly excuse the lack of comprehension on the part of those who should be the first to understand." (*Life of Love*, vol. VIII, chap. 46, p. 235)

### – The "Face-to-Face with God"

"I quite willingly see the heart or the root of the prophetic element being found in this face-to-face with God, in this fact of conversing with Him as one would with a friend. It is only by virtue of this direct meeting with God that the prophet can speak in time." (Cardinal Ratzinger, no. 1)

Marie-Paule lives in constant communion with Heaven. As her charism was purified, the first interior locutions she received in her childhood gave way to an increasingly more intimate mode of communication with the On-High, as one can note while reading through *Life of Love*.

### – "The Role of Prophet Cannot Be Institutionalized"

"The Church is founded 'on the apostles and the prophets' (Eph 2:20; cf. Eph 4:11)... The modern exegete tells us that the concept of apostle must be understood in a broader sense and that of prophet must be referred back to the prophets in the Church... The Old Testament shows us that the role of the prophet cannot be institutionalized..."

"God reserves the right to intervene directly in the Church through charisms, in order to wake it up, to warn it, to promote it and to sanctify it. I believe that this prophetic-charismatic history cuts across the time of the Church. It is always present, especially in the most critical times, in the periods of transition." (Cardinal Ratzinger, no. 4)

The world is going through a most trying period of transition. Marie-Paule wrote to Father Jacques Gilbert on September 6, 2002, "I think heaven is represented on earth in order to counterbalance the infernal hordes that are infesting the earth. It is the triumph of evil and scandals are spread everywhere! When Mary's hour comes, everything will be reversed and the new world will see so much beauty in the light." (*"Le dernier coup..." et l'héroïque pardon!*, p. 367)

### – Mary, a Prophetess

"There exists an ancient patristic tradition which qualifies Mary not as a priestess but as a prophetess. In that tradition, the title of prophetess is the title par excellence of Mary. It is in Mary that is precisely defined what prophecy is, that is to say, that intimate ability to listen, to perceive, to feel whereby one can experience the consolation of the Holy Spirit by welcoming Him within oneself... and by offering Him to the world. It could be said, in a sense and without wishing to be categorical, that

the Marian line represents exactly the prophetic dimension in the Church."

(Cardinal Ratzinger, no. 5)

Marian apparitions are one of the means through which Mary exercises her prophetic mission in our time, and, like the prophets, she is rejected...

### – "The Prophetic Feminine Line" in the Church

"The prophetic feminine line has a great importance in the history of the Church, an importance which the examples of Catherine of Siena and Brigitte of Sweden can help us understand. Both of them spoke to a Church in which the College of Apostles existed and in which the sacraments were distributed... They awakened the Church and highlighted within it once again the charism of unity, the evangelical courage and humility, as well as evangelization." (Cardinal Ratzinger, no. 5)

It was upon a request from Heaven that Marie-Paule began writing to warn of the dangers threatening the Church and the world, and quite often her warnings were badly received.

She wrote to Father J.-Armand Veilleux, on February 12, 1972: "The boat is sinking... Yes, the Catholic world is falling apart... the providential call is making itself heard in such an obvious manner, and we are taking every means to work within the strictest observance of the established laws." (*"Le dernier coup..." et l'héroïque pardon!*, p. 104)

### – Prophecy Precedes Theology

"I believe that it is possible to demonstrate that, for all the great theologians, a new elaboration is possible only if the prophetic element has begun by first opening a passageway... Theology, in the strict sense of a theological science, is not prophetic. It can only become a living theology when it is impelled and enlightened by a prophetic impetus." (Cardinal Ratzinger, no. 6)

Marc Bosquart is one of those prophets who opens new ways for a "living theology"... The Credo that he was impelled to write and that has been so adamantly decried was published in the paper *Le Royaume* at the express request of Heaven which clearly indicated to Marie-Paule: "You must publish it. Later, people will be able to see that you had your prophets." (*"The Kingdom"*, no. 152, November-December 2001, p. 4)

### – Tripartite Diagram of the History of God with Men

There exists "different ways of referring to Christ according to whether He is the One who is coming, who has already come or who is yet to return. The reason why, under many aspects, the time of the Church, on the structural level, is equivalent to the Old Testament or at least is very similar to it, all of that merits being studied and looked into in an ever greater depth..." (Cardinal Ratzinger, no. 9)

Can these words from Cardinal Ratzinger not indicate that the Church is called to renew itself in order to come under the influence of a new Law, like the people of God in the Old Testament?

The Church is waiting for another fulfillment.

"[The Fathers of the Church] have proposed a tripartite diagram [of the history of God with men]: *umbra, imago, veritas* [shadow, image, truth] in which the New Testament is the *imago* [image]. In this way, the expectation with regard to the final fulfillment remains open, and the time of the New Testament, the time of the Church, is seen as a subsequent stage, more elevated, but always a part of the road of the promise....

"The Fathers of the Church forcefully emphasized the intermediate nature of the New Testament in which the promises have not yet all been fulfilled. Christ truly came in the flesh, but the Church is still waiting for His complete Revelation in glory." (Cardinal Ratzinger, no. 10)

These comments are similar to quite well known ideas within the Army of Mary: after the 4,000 years of the Promise (Old Testament – "*umbra*"), the time of the Father, there followed the 2,000 years of the Son (New Testament – "*imago*"), and now there comes the 1,000 years of the True Spirit ("*veritas*"). This last stage of 1,000 years is prepared by Mary, as Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort predicted and as the Lady of All Peoples has announced:

"The Lady appears holding a child in her arms.... *'It is He, again, whom I wish to bring to this world,'*" she said to her messenger Ida. (9th message)

These words from the Lady tie in with this message from the Lord to Marie-Paule on May 4, 1958: "*It is you, my child, who suffer my Passion and who, in the name of my beloved Mother, will give Christ back to the world.*" (*Life of Love*, vol. I, chap. 53, p. 334)

### "Reach What Is Yet to Come"

"The prophets are the people who bring out the dimension of hope in Christianity. They are the instruments that allow us to reach what is yet to come." (Cardinal Ratzinger, no. 11)

A striking trait of Marie-Paule's writings is the note of hope that dominates in spite of the darkness in which our world is plunged, for the

victory was promised to Mary and the Kingdom will finally be established on earth. In fact, this Kingdom has been open since September 14, 2001, according to what Heaven "indicated" to Marie-Paule, thus opening the way for the third period of the Church – that which we owe to the Sacrifice of the Handmaid.

### – Private Revelation

"The term [private] is understood to mean that the revelations of Christian mystics and prophets can never be elevated to the same level as biblical Revelation; they can only lead to this latter and be measured against it. Moreover, this does not mean that this type of revelation is not important for the Church in its entirety. Lourdes and Fatima prove just the opposite. In the final analysis, these revelations are nothing more than a new calling to biblical Revelation, and that is precisely what gives them their importance." (Cardinal Ratzinger, no. 14)

The "new ideas" that are transmitted within the Army of Mary are supported by biblical Revelation (especially the books of Genesis and Revelation). The Lady of All Peoples affirmed this: "*I do not bring a new doctrine. I now bring the old ideas.*" (49th message)

### – The Suffering of the Prophets Persecuted by the Church

"The prophetic impact cannot occur without there being reciprocal suffering. The prophet is called in a specific manner to an imitation of Christ's suffering. In fact, he is recognized as a prophet because he is prepared to suffer and share in the cross with Christ. He does not seek to impose himself. His message is verified and rendered fruitful through the cross." (Cardinal Ratzinger, no. 15)

Mr. Hvidt said to Cardinal Ratzinger: "It is regrettable to see that the majority of the prophets of the Church have been rejected during their lifetime. It seems almost inevitable that the Church adopts a critical attitude and even an attitude of refusal in their regard. That is what can be observed for the majority of Christian prophets and prophetesses." (Question 16)

"Yes, that is true. Ignatius of Loyola was sent to prison; the same thing happened to Saint John of the Cross. Brigitte of Sweden was almost condemned by the Council of Basle.... [The

Church] must be vigilant so as not to incur the reproach of having 'killed the prophets.'" (Cardinal Ratzinger, no. 16)

Marie-Paule wrote to Father J.-Armand Veilleux on February 12, 1972: "It is the clergy, the Jewish priests, who crucified the Lord and again it will be the present priesthood that will condemn the souls called to the co-redemption...."

"This interior voice which never deceives said to me at the end of December: *'It is those of my priesthood who will crucify you, and my priests are also my bishops.'*..."

"Everything is shown me..., through pictures..., about individuals, even religious and of the hierarchy, regarding the state of their soul and their machinations, and God permits that the events are confirmed in the days that follow...."

"The worst is yet to come. We know this and we walk in complete humility to the goal, to the end. Christ had to die on the cross for the redemption. If He had shirked it, would there have been redemption?..."

"We have been forewarned of all that is coming and it is the clergy, once again, that will inflict the worst humiliation upon itself." (*"Le dernier coup..." et l'héroïque pardon!*, pp. 104-105)

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On July 15, 2005, Mother Paul-Marie received this indication from Heaven: "*WE HAVE REACHED THE DARK PERIOD FOR THE CHURCH AND FOR THE WORLD.*" The Church has struck and is still striking the Foundress of the Army of Mary, and the Church and the world will experience the aftershocks of this.

At the end of her mission, Marie-Paule will be able to say again, as she wrote it to Father Veilleux on September 8, 1985:

"I am not the one who accomplished something; it is Mary who did so through her poor handmaid who is more and more aware of being like the 'useless servant'. I simply obeyed." (*"Le dernier coup..." et l'héroïque pardon!*, p. 151)

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1. This interview with Cardinal Ratzinger can be found on Internet in French at the following address given us by Mr. Gérard Boisvert: [http://205.237.49.178/pdfdoc/probl\\_proph\\_chr.pdf](http://205.237.49.178/pdfdoc/probl_proph_chr.pdf)