

**Days of Prayer
in Honor of
the Triumph of the Cross,
September 10, 11,
17 and 18, 2005, at
the Eucharistic and Marian
Center Spiri-Maria,
at Lac-Étchemin**

"God of Love and Light", that was the theme of the four days of prayer held at the Eucharistic and Marian Center Spiri-Maria on September 10 and 11, 17 and 18, 2005, that is, the two weekends surrounding the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, the patronal feast day of the Army of Mary.

This theme chosen by our Foundress following a grace of Light was to be, without her realizing it, the harbinger of a new stage in her life as another very special grace awaited her at the Mass of September 14 celebrated in her suite. (That grace was communicated to the members on September 18, at the end of the afternoon, thus bringing to a close the four days of prayer.)

These gatherings of prayer took place in an atmosphere of lofty spirituality focussing upon the Triple White and more particularly the Eucharist, as the Year of the Eucharist decreed by Pope John Paul II was coming to an end.

For the circumstance, a magnificent bas relief of the Last Supper had been placed before the altar of the Blessed Sacrament, reminding us of the last meal Jesus had with His disciples before His death on the Cross. (Pictures taken during these days of prayer may be found on the center pages of the French edition of the paper.)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

On the weekend of September 10 and 11, hundreds of Knights of Mary from both Eastern and Western Canada, and the United States gathered to pray and fraternize together.

On Saturday, September 10, after the recitation of the rosary (the mysteries of light), our Marian Father, Father Victor Rizzi (who succeeded Father Philippe Roy in this role), welcomed us on behalf of Mother Paul-Marie. After having announced the program centered on the Last Supper, he specified that "for the unfolding of these days of prayer, we are turning more particularly to tomorrow's generation" and that several young people would be called upon to read the texts proposed for our meditation in the course of the forenoon, some of these young people having been a part of a group of some twenty young men and women who recently joined the Work of the Oblate-Patriots.

Interspersed with hymns interpreted by the Choir of the Immaculate under the direction of Father Hervé Lemay or musical selections of a religious nature, the morning's texts were for us a return to the source, for they were all taken from the writings of our Foundress, which are always of a special depth and fervor.

The choice of texts was made by Sister Micheline Hupé. We regret not being able to print them in their entirety, but we must limit ourselves to certain key passages for each one.

God of Love and Light



A) First Part – Towards the Glorious Cross

The first text, "The Mass, the Sacrifice of the Cross, A Mystery of Love" was read by Father Denis Thivierge.



Fr. Denis Thivierge

"The silent refuge of the heart elevates our spiritual being and is duplicated in our soul open to the mysterious world that retains it. The power of silence draws the soul to pure love, to adoration, to thanksgiving and transfigures it in the mystery of the Cross. So it is that the Mass, with its wonderful liturgy, becomes for us a haven of peace, a superlative tonic through the Word and the Eucharistic Bread which, each day, will be our viaticum, our strength, our source of life...."

"Let us accept the cross presented to us. Our "Fiat!" is an elevator that lifts the soul to new heights, and our heaven having been made clearer, we are open to the purest of love. This is living heaven on earth. Then, we can no longer ask God to free us from this or that suffering, but say to Him, instead, every morning as we arise: 'I want all you want. Your will, Lord, is my will.' From that moment, our life changes and it is the gold of love which ennoble all our actions. Life is so beautiful, regardless of the battle being waged against us as it was against Jesus. Let us be adoring souls, happy and peaceful! Only the Spirit can help us enter into the Mystery of Love that embraces us and opens our heart to the Infinite."



Mikaël Lemoine

Mikaël Lemoine presented a text entitled "Towards the Glorious Cross". "It is in the Heart of Mary, our Mother, that the Army of Mary finds its vital source. That Heart was crushed with suffering; that Heart shared intimately in the suffering of the Sacred Heart of her divine Son, Jesus. Thus, it was on Calvary at the foot of the Cross, from the suffering and passion of the united Hearts of Jesus and Mary, He the Redeemer and she the Co-Redemptrix, that the Army of Mary was born.

"Each one of us should say what the great Saint Paul already humbly affirmed: 'It is no longer I that is living, but Christ living in me.' More than that, each one of us should say it by applying these words to Mary, using her as our model this time: 'It is no longer I who live, but Mary dwelling in me.'"

B) Second Part – The Cross, the Source of Hope

During the singing of *Lauda Sion*, the Blessed Sacrament was borne in procession within the chapel, and then an-

other procession was set in motion in honor of the Eucharist, with various objects, eloquently symbolic, being carried up to the sanctuary and next to the altar of the Blessed Sacrament.

Mrs. Pierrette Roy led the procession with a glass cross decorated with a rose which she placed on the altar of the Blessed Sacrament. Then two candles, one with the image of the Virgin of the Lily and the other with the image of the chalice surmounted by a host, were carried to the main altar by Sister Laëticia Alard and Brother Paul Marion respectively, while Paul Gingras carried to the altar a representation of the Last Supper.

The procession continued with little boys each presenting a holy picture of the chalice surmounted by the host (a holy picture they could then keep) and young boys and adolescents each carrying a small plaque with the same picture. These latter would give their plaque to a Daughter of Mary who would put it either on the main altar or on a table in front of the altar, or on the side altar of the Blessed Sacrament and a small table set beside it.

The offering made by these young people was followed by the reading of a text on the role of the laity and the hope to which the young people, the generation of tomorrow, give rise. The title of the text was "The Hour of the Laity" and it was read by Bertrand Desbiens. It began with the following words of our Lord to our Foundress:



Bertrand Desbiens

"IT IS THE LAY PEOPLE WHO WILL SAVE THE WORLD, ALONG WITH A SMALL NUMBER OF PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS WHO HAVE REMAINED FAITHFUL TO THEIR VOCATION." (*Life of Love*, vol. IX, chap. 17, p. 101)

The text itself set out the program of the Knights of Mary:

"Assembled in a Marian Army, these soldiers, Knights of Mary work, according to their program of life, at their personal reform and have been doing so for more than thirty years, for we can change nothing round about us if we have wrought no change in ourselves.

"With a program for a balanced spiritual life, and in a fidelity docile to the directives of the Fathers of the Church and Vatican II, following their very precise ideas, each one, in the struggle to which he is subjected, retains confidence in Mary who gives him strength of soul, the source of peace and love...."

"In each era God causes to arise forms of the apostolate which meet the needs of the times. More than ever, the Army of Mary was necessary in our time for the instilling in hearts of the spirit of adoration and to save them from the ruin that would be wrought by moral licentiousness and desacralization at the

end of a decadent second millennium....

"The reign of Christ is brought about through a life lived in conformity with His laws. A solid and enduring apostolic activity comes from the flowing of the divine life in oneself: 'The richer the life, the more abundant the fruits.' The Army of Mary has given proof of that, fulfilling the Lord's words at the time of its foundation.

"If the religious authorities are solicitous for this Work, the Church will flourish spiritually and materially.' But what a battle is being waged by the Church against this Work, to the point of even forbidding its entry into churches which, furthermore, have become too small for its celebrations. The result has been a decline in the practice of religion and financial difficulties for the churches. But let us not abandon hope. This time of rebellion and confusion is coming to an end. It is when everything is going badly in the Church and the world that God uses little ones who, to pass along His messages, must carry the cross, but these crosses accepted well have their tomorrows of light and consolation.

"Do not be afraid! We have confidence in you, dear young people! Go forward!"

Then the role of the woman was brought to mind for us by Father Sylvain Guilbault who read the message addressed to women by the Fathers of the Council on December 8, 1965, already forty years ago. Here are a few excerpts from it:



Fr. Sylvain Guilbault

"But the hour is coming, in fact has come, when the vocation of woman is being achieved in its fulness, the hour in which woman acquires in the world an influence, an effect, and a power never hitherto achieved.

"That is why, at this moment when the human race is undergoing so deep a transformation, women impregnated with the spirit of the gospel can do much to aid mankind in not falling....

"Lastly, women in trial, who stand upright at the foot of the cross like Mary, you who so often in history have given to men the strength to battle unto the very end and to give witness to the point of martyrdom, aid them now still once more to retain courage in their great undertakings, while at the same time maintaining patience and an esteem for humble beginnings....

"Women of the entire universe, whether Christian or non-believing, you to whom life is entrusted at this grave moment in history, it is for you to save the peace of the world."

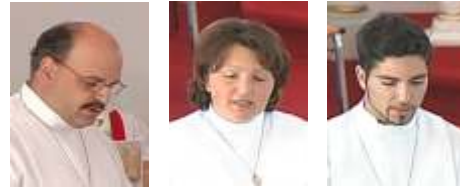
These words from the Fathers of the Council are being fulfilled in a super-eminent manner in the life of our Foundress whose mission is precisely to bring peace to this world in darkness.

C) Part Three – The Cross, the Source of Love

A procession in honor of the Immaculate got underway: little girls walked up to the sanctuary each presenting a holy picture of the Virgin of the Lily (a holy picture they would then be able to keep). They were followed by young girls and adolescent girls carrying small plaques bearing the same picture, plaques which would be placed at the front next to those bearing the image of the chalice and host, and before the statue of the

Lady of All Peoples.

The text entitled "The Purity of Intention" was read by three members of the same family: Mario and Marthe Ahern and their son Marie-Dominique.



Mario, Marthe, Marie-Dominique Ahern

"Chastity or purity always begets lucidity of thought.... Before He begins to introduce a soul to an understanding of His mysteries, God subjects it to purification of heart. This purification is effected through renunciation and anguish which, if accepted with generosity, will eventually detach the heart from creatures and purify the mind. When the Holy Spirit finds in us purity of spirit He always grants enlightenment, increasingly.

"Purity is of such value that Satan always strives to wound souls through impurity, for a fault of sensuality invariably opens the door to other faults and sins. This was the case in the Terrestrial Paradise, and it is still the case in our licentious world carried away by the floodwaters of eroticism in all its many forms.

"The world ridicules the pure, but if humanity still benefits from some little light, this is due to those who remain pure in the world. It is they who help others to stay on the straight path of rectitude and who bring back to it, and support, those who have strayed....

"Mary is a vessel of purity, of openness, of love. In her dwell wisdom, justice and strength which she communicates to those who consecrate themselves to her and who live only for love of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. And such as these become, here on earth, other Marys or other Johns...."

D) Part Four – The Cross, A Source of Light

Marie-Hélène Têtu read the text "The Power of Love".



Marie-Hélène Têtu

"How explain that power of the Love of God in us, that thirst, that hunger to receive Him each day in the Eucharist? How explain the love that we feel for Christ's Church, whereas the doors of churches are closed to us and the things heard could cause those with the best will not only to vacillate but to turn away for ever? Strong in prayer, in joy, in pardon, we must stand strong at the foot of the cross that uplifts us because we have learned to accept it with love....

"But what is this beneficent balm that assuages the pain and ensures new strength in a renewed joy? It is the LOVE of God that penetrates the wound inflicted on the heart, and the more there are of offerings, the more profoundly does the divine love make its way into the Heart of the heart, that precise place that links us directly to heaven."

This was followed by the text "So Much Love Has Been Given Us" presented by Marc-André Laprise.

"What is required to understand the signs of the times?

"We must open our hearts and not raise obstacles through our intellectual reasoning, always limited, and which



Marc-André Laprise

only increases the confusion.

"In Christ's time, the doctors of the law were the ones who led the people astray and who fought against the One who had been foretold and who came....

"Who are the ones who have an open heart? They are the pure of heart who, like Saint John, do not raise obstacles to God's plans; they are the converted who remain attached to Mary in a fervent devotion, who have remained lowly and humble, who are not surprised by God's plan of love, knowing full well that He is the one accomplishing His Work through the poor human beings who are faithful to Him....

"A little over two thousand years ago, on Easter morning, the gates of the eternal Kingdom were opened. And now, the gates of the terrestrial Kingdom are opening, and this is already perceptible to those who have 'seen' and have 'believed'. And as it has always been in all the beginnings of a spiritual nature, it is the small number that will enter into it."



Micheline Ouellette

Finally, Mrs. Micheline Ouellette, a Mother in the Family of the Sons and Daughters of Mary, transmitted a message of love to us from our Foundress. This message, entitled "To Live Off Love" brought the morning conferences to a close.

"Dear Knights of Mary,

"Through the Army of Mary, a source of graces and blessings, we opened ourselves to a light of a great and gentle intensity, a light which, through its sudden appearance, has shed light along our road, and we have understood that this LIGHT is guiding history and marking it with the sign of the divine seal. Forcing us to consider all things from a new perspective, this light has aroused in us a deep and ardent need for absolute truth. With a poignant lucidity, we have seen the action of Providence in a Work of Love. Who could give the mysterious explanation of what took place in the deepest part of our soul, without any exaltation, but so very much adapted to that which is real? In the intimate depths of our soul, we have tasted the incommunicable 'reality'. Then, we understood what a 'providential event' is, that language of God in every life receptive to grace, or within a Work. In the turmoil of joy and intimate echoing in the depths of the soul in love, our souls were stirred and moved by the same essential values and the same hopes....

"In this ending of an END, as a keen sentiment of love, wrapped in the grandeur of God, allows us to contemplate all that the Cross accentuates because it transforms suffering into a superabundance of joy, how can we not praise God and Mary Immaculate!"



Richard Latulippe

E) The Solemn Mass

Before Mass, Richard Latulippe, the Master of Ceremonies, informed us that half of the collection taken up during these four days of prayer would be added to the donation being prepared by the Army of Mary and its associated Works in support of the victims of the

hurricane which devastated the United States at the beginning of September.



Mass presided over by Fr. Daniel Gauthier

The Mass was concelebrated by Father Daniel Gauthier and seventeen priests. Father Serge Lépine delivered the homily in which he reminded us of the bonds that exist between the Cross and the Eucharist.



Fr. Serge Lépine

"In the Gospel of Saint John, Christ told His Apostles, a short time before His Passion, that when He would be raised from earth, He would draw everything to Him (cf. Jn 12:32). Since the Eucharistic Mystery is the re-actualization of the mystery of the Cross, Christ, in His Blessed Sacrament, wants to draw us to Him in His Sacrament of Love so that in His wake and in our small measure we too might become Eucharist through our offering and the loving acceptance of our crosses. All the crosses we accept with love transform us into a little grain of wheat which is intended to be incorporated into the Divine Host....

"If all of us are called to become Eucharist, how much more so and in a unique capacity this is the case with the Immaculate, the Co-Redemptrix who corresponded so perfectly to this call to become Eucharist.... The Immaculate is united with the Host through her perfect union with her divine Son, not solely through pure prerogative but because she has been incorporated in the Host as a grain of wheat that was crushed, ground by the Cross, having participated in its sufferings in a unique way, so that when we contemplate the divine Host, we see the love of the Redeemer and the love of the Co-Redemptrix which form but one single Love. The fire of divine Love enkindles that of the Immaculate who, through her Fiat, echoes perfectly the divine will. Thus God, in His tremendous love, desired that the Immaculate participate in the divine glory by allowing her to be a living Host. Every time the words 'This is my body, this is my blood' are said, they recall the mystery of the Redemption and of the Co-Redemption that has now been accomplished.

"May we, in this Year of the Eucharist and on this commemoration of the Triumph of the Cross, have, through the Lady, a generous heart, humble and pure, in order to allow the Divine Baker to transform us, to transform the world into a multitude of grains of wheat, divinized, made Eucharist, so that Love may be victorious in the hearts of all peoples. May the Lady of All Peoples, who once was Mary, be our Advocate. Amen."

F) Afternoon Program

After the noon meal, the Knights of Mary gathered once again in the chapel or the lower level of this latter, in order to be informed, this time, of all the details

concerning the latest developments with regard to the Work and the Community of the Sons of Mary: the Pontifical Commissioner's letter of August 15, 2005, and the replies of the Sons of Mary, as well as the interventions from God who is constantly watching over His Work of Love. Given that the afternoon program was the same for the four days and out of a concern for transparency, we will present, in their entirety, all the texts that were read, after this report, as well as the comments which linked them one with the other.

Finally the hymn of the *Te Deum* ended this day which had all the characteristics of an apotheosis and which marked an important milestone in the history of the Work.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

The program for this Sunday, morning and afternoon, was modelled on that of the previous day.



Jean-Louis Desbiens



Mélanie Dupuis



Jean-Gabriel Michaud



Emmanuel Gaudreault



Marie-Hélène Côté



Daniel Couture



Martin Vaillancourt

In the morning, the texts from Mother Paul-Marie, which were different from those presented on Saturday, were read by Jean-Louis Desbiens, Mélanie Dupuis, Jean-Gabriel Michaud, Emmanuel Gaudreault, Marie-Hélène Côté, Daniel Couture and Martin Vaillancourt. Once again a Mother from the Family of the Sons and Daughters of Mary, Mrs. Suzanne Rioux, read the message from Mother Paul-Marie, "To Live Off Love", which brought the morning conferences to a close.



Suzanne Rioux

Mass was presided over by Father Eric Roy who was joined by eighteen fellow priests and a deacon. At the beginning of Mass, Samuel Lejeune from Coati-



Samuel Lejeune's commitment as a postulant with the Sons of Mary.

cook, made his commitment as a postulant in the Community of the Sons of Mary. The Community also welcomed a novice: at the Offertory, Mikaël Lemoine



Mikaël Lemoine, accompanied by his parents, Diane and Luc Lemoine, was accepted as a novice by Father Eric Roy, Superior General of the Sons of Mary.

from Sainte-Agathe in Manitoba took the habit of the Sons of Mary.



Fr. Benoît Picard

Father Benoît Picard delivered the homily: "When a soul offers itself as a 'victim of love', is it aware that already it is taking flight towards unsuspected spheres? Most of the time, it does not know this, but from that very moment, it emerges

in such a light that the hope of the world, now illuminated, rests upon it....

"But where does this wisdom of the cross, this folly of love come from? Yes, we know from where, from the Lady of Light. She has led us directly to the cross which had to be planted once again in the world. Listen well: planted once again in the world! This cross, a scandal and disgrace in all ages, becomes glorious because it is solidly planted in the world of today, here and now....

"The cross may surprise us and even destabilize us for a short while. But let us not be men and women who step back from or allow themselves to become discouraged even if we happen to falter or to momentarily abandon the good fight; that is human. Forgetting themselves, souls emerge from the darkness into the so very beautiful Light. We can already see the top of their heads. They will become numerous: it is and will be the Church, the Community of the Lady. And we will be surprised to see coming together such a diversity of peoples. United, they will sing the God of Love. But before that, we now need the Cross of the Co-Redemption. Really, it will be ignominious only for a certain period of time; later it will be glorious for ever! The Cross being planted once again in the world is a doubly glorious Cross. And what glory! It blooms. Oh hearts open to grace! You will be fortified by it and you will see coming from your hands and your footsteps the Light of Him who has never deceived you.

"Be adored, O Father of Light, for your plan of love, for the triumph of your Son and of the Lady, the Handmaid and Spouse, the Co-Redemptrix who once was Mary!"

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

The Knights of Mary gathered once again at the Eucharistic and Marian Center Spiri-Maria on September 17 and 18. Joining the Canadians and Americans, there was a group of pilgrims from France who had arrived on September 14 and had been on retreat at Spiri-Maria on September 15 and 16. (Before returning to France on Wednesday, September 21, they would also make a pilgrimage by visiting some of the places where Marie-Paule lived.)



Fr. André Guillemette



Anne-Marie Rivard



Michel Rodrigue



Fr. Carl Beaupré



Christiane Frigo



François-G. Foligné



Marie-Paule Michaud



Marc-André Gagné

The program was nearly identical to that of Saturday September 10. In the morning, Marie-Paule's texts (some of which were the same as those of September 10) were read by Fr. André Guillemette, Anne-Marie-Rivard, Michel Rodrigue, Fr. Carl Beaupré, Christiane Frigo, François-Gilles Foligné, Marie-Paule Michaud and Marc-André Gagné.

Mrs. Christiane Frigo spoke to us of "The Role of the Woman, After the Example of Mary": "The woman has a place of great importance in the divine plan, as have, through Mary, all those women who are consecrated to Her, whether they have always remained faithful or have been restored to grace. The role that has devolved on her does not usurp man's place; this role is the source, is the mediation of love; it is the elevation of the soul, the inspiration with a view to humanization, spiritualization, equilibrium, to the uplifting of the world, while she remains upright at the foot of the cross. God has given to woman a charism of love; it is the role proper to her to offer, to welcome, to be understanding, to enlighten, to protect, to appease, to console, to support, to serve, and thus to give and to give of self. And above all, is she not called upon to give life?"

"This 'mystical priesthood', which is that of every baptized person, must be lived first of all by the woman in order for it to be passed on to coming generations, to the end that each one may give himself or herself, in his or her turn, to the service of love which we owe to God and to others..."



Hélène B. Santos

Mother Paul-Marie's message, "To Live Off Love" was read by a Mother of the Family of the Sons and Daughters of Mary, Mrs. Hélène Bélanger-Santos.

The Mass was celebrated by Father Luc Beaudette with seventeen fellow priests. Father Gilles Devaux delivered the homily: "The Eucharist is God's love on earth and it is through the sacrament of love that Jesus communicates to us His love. In speaking to my parishioners I liked to remind them that the essential of their undertaking in the faith was to be found in this meeting with Christ, for they could really receive Him in them under the tan-



Mass presided over by Fr. Luc Beaudette

gible sign of the sacrament. One does not go to Mass for the priest, or for the homily, but rather to have the privilege of receiving Him in us, of this tangible contact with Him. It is the priest's duty to let Christ come to the forefront as much as possible and to disappear himself behind the sacrament in order that Christ's presence may be made more apparent in the world. This unique meeting is the most beautiful of all the prayers man can say, for this prayer makes him live as if in a partnership with his creator... No other prayer, however beautiful it may be, will ever be able to equal this privileged contact we have at Communion time."



Fr. Gilles Devaux

Father Gilles then recalled to our memory "our late Holy Father, Pope John Paul II". After having mentioned that twice he had the privilege of attending this latter's private Mass, Father Gilles told us that he retained "the ineffaceable memory of this man in prayer. And all of you likewise..., will recall how absorbed in God this holy man became when he knelt before the tabernacle. It was there that John Paul II got his strength, his courage, his lights, especially in times of sickness, and in times of adversity, he found his peace there on his knees before the Eucharistic Christ. Moreover, the last gift he left us is this Year of the Eucharist in which he gave to the entire Church the graces and the opportunity to renew this divine contact to which the men and women saints knew so well how to give the first place at the heart of their life."

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

For the last day of prayer in honor of the Triumph of the Cross, almost the same program awaited us.

In the forenoon, the texts from Mother



David Boily



Évelyne Rivard



Samuel Lejeune



France Rivard



Jean Têtu



Diane Bellemarre



Paul-Marie (some of which were the same as those of September 11), were read by David Boily, Evelyne Rivard, Sister Denise Charron

Samuel Lejeune, France Rivard, Jean Têtu, Diane Bellemarre and Sister Denise Charron.



Daniel Bouchard

Daniel Bouchard then presented his own personal testimonial entitled "The One I Was Waiting For..."

"All of us, members of the Work of the Lady of All Peoples, have transformed ourselves as a result of our contact with Marie-Paule. She has taught us to recognize the presence of God in us and in the events which shape us.... Prayer, that intimate contact with our Creator which Mother Paul-Marie has taught us, becomes our intrusion into the day-to-day activities of the world. It becomes our glorious Cross."

Daniel also shared with us his own personal story: although he was a non-practising Catholic, he nonetheless gave himself "totally to Jesus, knowing that He alone was the Truth." And convinced that Jesus would never abandon him, Daniel went on to say: "Ten years later, weary and plunged in darkness, friends introduced me to Marie-Paule, That was a great mercy, for I understood everything. Yes, I saw LIGHT shining in the darkness. The desert in which I was wandering gave way to hope. It was she, Marie-Paule, the one I was waiting for. Today, with the passage of twenty-five years, I am certain that Jesus is the one who led me to her. He did not abandon me. Is that not marvelous and quite significant? Jesus showed me the one who would transform my being! Thus He cannot be against her. And Marie-Paule had me enter into an intimate relationship with Jesus in a way that was absolutely un hoped-for...."

"Love, always more love, in the giving, the acceptance, the duties of one's state, family life, relationships; that is what Mother Paul-Marie has helped us discover. And that is what leads us to happiness. At the beginning I was alone, but now we are seven. [Daniel and his wife Andrée have five children.]

"How happy we are; we are little but well aware that we have understood Jesus' message."



Suzanne Bélanger

An Animator of the Army of Mary, Mrs. Suzanne Bélanger, then read the message from our Foundress, "To Live Off Love", a message which ended with these words: "In this ending of an END, as a keen sentiment of love, wrapped in the grandeur of God, allows us to contemplate all that the Cross accentuates because it transforms suffering into a superabundance of joy, how can we not praise God and Mary Immaculate!"

A collection would be taken up before the celebration of the Mass.

A Collection for the Disaster Victims

The spiritual meditations which preceded Mass led to the putting into practice of the principal of charity. In effect, Richard Latulippe, the Master of Ceremonies, made the following announcement:

"After this, a single collection will be taken up which, this time, will be special. We have been informed of the calamities which have hit various cities in the United States. The Army of Mary and its

associated Works are preparing to make a contribution in aid of these victims. Those who wish to participate in this action are welcome to do so. We will add to the donations made by the Works, half of the collection taken up on each of these four days of prayer. We will inform you of the final total in the paper *Le Royaume*. We sincerely thank you."

During the collection, the priests prepared for the celebration of Mass, as we listened to the beautiful selection, *Maria Mater gratiae* by Prosper Guidi, performed on the organ and the violin.

The Celebration of Mass

Father Jean-François Mastropietro presided over Mass which he con-



**Mass presided over
by Father Jean-François Mastropietro**

celebrated with fourteen fellow priests. In his homily, Father Angelo Gonthier commented upon the day's Gospel, the theme of which was the calling of laborers to work in the Lord's vineyard, and

he addressed himself particularly to the young people. "The landowner takes pleasure in going out whenever he feels like it, and as the day advances, as the Church develops in time, God searches, calls and enriches His vineyard more and more with new workers. Even among us within the Work, the workers of the first hour intermingle with those of the last hour. Among all these members, I would like to draw your attention to the generation of young people whom the good God has brought forth within our ranks....

"How can we not be absolutely pleased by their presence during these days of prayer! I encourage you to take note of this force that is offered us and of which we must take care, but I also urge the young people to become aware of what they are. 'You are the future of the Church,' as Pope John Paul II liked to repeat before the entire world....

"Dear young people, let me appeal to you. Christ alone can bring you to discover your potential in a wonderful equilibrium so that you will be able to benefit from that which you truly are.... Be generous and persevere, even if your faith suffers from solitude. Tell yourself that the Church too is suffering from the desertion of its young people, just as much as you are."

Father Angelo then urged young people to become "sowers of hope", helping their brothers and sisters to accept the cross. "All of history shows us



**Fr. Angelo
Gonthier**

that at the basis of the great questions raised by man, there is always a context of life from which the cross emerges.... It is in the Eucharist that you will find the strength, the serenity, the joy and the perseverance to continue your mission among those of your generation....

"Together, this year, let us set as our objective the discovery of the life of our Foundress, in order to learn to live off the Eucharist. In fact, *Life of Love* prompts us to live, in our day-to-day life, a completely spiritual adventure, vivifying, entirely centered on the Eucharist."

While some Knights were meditating upon these texts before the Blessed Sacrament, others enjoyed their noon meal as they fraternized before coming to replace the adorers. Throughout these four days of prayer, we lived celestial hours, the effects of which will long be felt in our soul as they illuminate the Kingdom.

The members were then convened to the chapel once again at 1:45 p.m., in order to be informed of the developments concerning the Community of the Sons of Mary.

September 21, 2005

Sylvie Payeur-Raynauld

(continued on page 7)