



"Another Page Is Added to the Dossier on the Sons of Mary"

"I Want Paul to Serve Mass"

On reading Father Denis Laprise's letter to the Pontifical Commissioner, in *Le Royaume*, no. 175, page 21 of the English edition, I felt a lump in my throat as I thought of what happened in Manitoba on the occasion of our daughter's wedding October 22, 2005. Here are some of the facts.

On Wednesday, October 19, there was the rehearsal in order that the wedding ceremony might run smoothly, in Saint Boniface Cathedral with the cathedral parish priest, Father Bonn. At one moment during the rehearsal he asked who could serve Mass. My husband and I suggested one of our sons, a suggestion quickly accepted. Our daughter said to me, in a low voice, "I want Paul to serve Mass."

Back at the house after the rehearsal, my husband suggested, as a measure of prudence, that he return to the rectory to advise Father Bonin that Paul is a Brother in the Community of the Sons of Mary. By so doing, he wanted to avoid a situation that could be difficult for our son in religion the day of the wedding. On learning that Paul belonged to the Community of the Sons of Mary the parish priest let it be known that Paul would not be allowed to serve Mass. My husband tried to make him see that his son was very Catholic and that he could be considered as the brother of the bride if not as a Son of Mary. Even after consultation with Archbishop Goulet, the Archbishop of Saint Boniface, the answer was still "no". His reason – that of the parish priest – was that the Sons of Mary adhere to a doctrine foreign to the Catholic faith. They cannot act as Mass servers, above all not in Saint Boniface Cathedral. As he was leaving the rectory my husband remarked to the parish priest that it was fortunate Paul's mother had not been present, for he, the priest, would certainly have seen tears in her eyes.

The day of the wedding, the parish priest, on seeing me, took my hand and said to me, "Oh Madam!" To which I replied, "Let's not speak of it, Father; it's too painful." – "Yes, I know," he said, "but it was not my decision, it was the bishop's decision." What a tournabout in the space of a year when Father Denis Laprise, on a visit to Manitoba, was able to celebrate the marriage of our son, Marc, and this was af-



October 22, 2005 – Nicole Marion and Christian Kirouac's wedding in the Saint Boniface Cathedral in Manitoba. Our congratulations!

ter the parish priest had consulted Archbishop Goulet.

In the end, Marc served the wedding Mass and Brother Paul remained seated with us in the first bench. The parish priest knew that the entire family had been hurt by this refusal. He even confided to our son-in-law that he had not been able to sleep during the night, so much had this situation upset him.

What is difficult to understand is that for some years now, in the dioceses of Saint Boniface and Winnipeg, a prayer for religious and priestly vocations is often recited before or after Mass. And here we have a number of religious vocations, coming from Manitoba families belonging to the Army of Mary for a long time, being rejected. Another page has just been added to the voluminous dossier on the Sons of Mary.

I thank Jesus and Mary for all the blessings granted our family. I thank them for all the joys and sorrows experienced for almost 30 years in this Work of Heaven guided by her who speaks only of giving, pardon and love.

A Golden Harvest

In 1972 that the Army of Mary was established in Manitoba. The seed that was sown there was to germinate, grow and ripen over the years through the formation given numerous families there. Since then, three vocations to the priesthood and eleven to life in religion, three Brothers and eight Sisters, have flourished.

When Marie-Paule went to Manitoba to establish the Army of Mary there, in 1972, she asked of Mary that vocations would one day multiply there, in the image of those vast prairies charged with golden wheat, so rich with a promising and abundant harvest. But is it possible that such a request could become a reality? Mother Paul-Marie explains that "in the thousand years of the Kingdom there will be an explosion of vocations coming from those generations of families so well prepared for the uplifting and renewal of the Church."

So it is not surprising that at this time so many vocations have already been given the Church through these families that are open to the spiritual and mystical horizons that have been revealed to them.

May the Triune God bless, through Mary the Commander in Chief of the heavenly armies, those homes which have given, and which will give, vocations, as well as those young people, gripped by an ideal, who go seriously towards life as a couple, hoping that God will give them little angels to cherish.

The Directors

I ask of Mary, Lady of All Peoples, that at the end of our sojourn on earth we may be able to say, "We have stood firm in faith and love despite the trials along the way!" I am confident that "when all will seem lost, the Immaculate Heart of Mary will triumph."

Mrs. Laurette Marion

The Legend of the Fireflies

In the manger, Mary had adorned her Son in the layette of the poor. She would have liked to have dressed Him in ceremonial garb, more worthy of His rank, He who was the little King of Heaven come on earth to save humanity. For, through divine knowledge, she knew His grandeur and royalty, but material poverty was the destiny of this Holy Family. She also knew by celestial intuition that three great Kings of this earth would soon come to visit Him and see His state of destitution. Joseph shared Mary's sadness. And so, to encourage her gentle spouse, she said to him: "We have nothing, but God will see to our needs!"

As day gave way to night, the little fireflies awakened for their nocturnal rounds in all the brightness of their starry beauty. One

of them had heard the conversation of the thoughtful parents whose Child lay in a manger. It shared this with its winged companions. "If we were to get together..." it said. And they set to work. During the night these hardworking glow worms alit on the white garment of the poor Infant Jesus and began to rid themselves of their little lights in order to pin them on and embroider a radiant constellation upon the fabric. "We will no longer shine in the eyes of the world so that He may truly become the Light of the nations!" said the Queen of the fireflies in a sacrificial gesture that was immediately imitated by the others.

Hardly had dawn appeared that Mary awoke and she marvelled when she suddenly saw the drab garment that yesterday covered the Child transformed into a royal robe glittering with a thousand lights.

During that time, the little fireflies, stripped of their precious attire kept repeating to each other: "We are disappearing be-

fore the eyes of the world so that He may shine more and more!"

And the little fireflies were happy to now serve in the shadows and in silence, having sacrificed their ceremonial garb to be content with the laborious task of being a pollination agent, toiling in a hidden but just as fruitful manner.

Jeannine Thiffault-Blanchette

Love Is Everything

Jesus' Passion was also Mary's Passion. She was the only one who understood Jesus' cry of abandonment. The measure of suffering is that of love; the measure of love is that of grace. And Mary was full of grace, love, and suffering. Love is what gives life to all the virtues, to all good works. Love is everything.

Thérèse Audet

–With *Le Royaume*, we live in joy and peace. It gives me wings to go to the end of this major battle.... Florestine Cantin-Roy