



LE ROYAUME

« Que ton règne vienne... sur la terre comme au ciel. »

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“THE KINGDOM”

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“A Tree Is Judged by Its Fruit”

(Mt 12:33)



Since August 1971 and at Providence's pace, the Work that is the Army of Mary has developed to become the Community of the Lady of All Peoples. Its influence is manifested most particularly in the power of its fruitfulness. So many beautiful vocations have sprung up in it due to the enlightening direction and teaching which is always based on the Triple White – the Eucharist, Mary and the Pope. The divine element is powerfully operative in it. This one sign, this exceptional fecundity, ought to suffice to identify it as a Work of God, since a tree is known by its fruit.



“What a pouring out of spring!”
A tree is judged by its flowers and fruit.

Situated in Ville Lasalle in the southern part of the island of Montreal, the parish, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, where I spent the greater part of my youth, numbers several thousand parishioners. In 30 years, outside the Work, I cannot remember having heard of a single vocation coming from that parish, except for some married men (one or two) who entered the clerical state by becoming permanent deacons. The talk was more about debts and closings. Of the three priests who ministered to this former pilgrimage site, only one remains and he must serve not only our parish but the neighboring parish as well, which has no priest! One church has already been closed and there is talk of coupling some

churches and closing others, churches that, not so long ago, were flourishing but now cannot be kept up.

I was 19 years old when I came to know the Army of Mary. I was still living with my parents and I was not especially fervent. I was going to Mass on Sunday and that was it. I was invited by a school friend to participate in Father Philippe Roy's catechism courses recorded on video cassettes, in the recitation of the rosary followed by the litany of the Blessed Virgin and ending with the act of consecration to Mary. There were some hymns and then the return home.

The weekly meetings were held at a kind lady's place, for the little group was not welcome in the parish church, although that did not

prevent us from appreciating our good parish priest who simply did not understand this Work. When all of us were there – which did not happen very often – we numbered about fifteen persons, but usually we were about seven or eight. Well, over the course of the years, this little Army of Mary Center gave birth to six religious vocations: Fathers Serge Lépine, André Viens, Benoît Picard; Sisters Anne-Marie Audet, Jocelyne Lessard, Mélanie Lépine. And that does not take into account the beautiful vocations to marriage which, open to the precious gift of life, offer to God the fruit of their love in order to people Heaven with the elect. And the power of that fecundity does not stop there! This kind of buds from the outpouring

of spring still hold in store many surprises for the world. But the future will carry on this story for us.



Fr. Serge Lépine Fr. André Viens Fr. Benoît Picard



Sr. Anne-M. Audet Sr. Jocelyne Lessard Sr. Mélanie Lépine

In the meantime, it is legitimate to ask ourselves how many more vocations the Church would have seen germinate if the Army of Mary had been accepted and promoted like all Works of God should be. We will probably never know. Nonetheless, the blunt refusal on the part of those who should have acknowledged and appreciated the Work has contributed, nevertheless, to fortifying the Sons and Daughters of Mary. Deo gratias!

Some will think that this little Marian Center of incredible fruitfulness is an exception. I grant this, but it is remarkable that only a few kilometers from it another Center of the Army of Mary had, at the same time, a similar fecundity.

In effect, in the town of Verdun, that borders on Ville Lasalle, there were also four



Sisters Claire Du Cap and Suzanne Fontaine

vocations: Sisters Claire, Jocelyne and Francine Du Cap and Suzanne Fontaine.

"A tree is judged by its fruit" (Mt 12:33). Let him who has eyes to see take note! Whereas, in what concerns religion, everything seems to be going to rack and ruin, and that "NEVER BEFORE IN THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH HAS THE LEVEL OF MORALS BEEN SO LOW."¹ the Lady of All Peoples, always united to the Spirit who vivifies, is



The twins, Srs. Francine and Jocelyne Du Cap

building up the renewed Church that has lost none of its power to burgeon. Like every Work of God, it knows the secret of humble beginnings. Already a sowing, with the promise of springtime, is germinating and will soon flourish and astonish the world. If, as we believe, the Sons and

Daughters of Mary, religious and lay people alike, are the first fruits of the radiant Church² glimpsed and foretold by John Paul II the Great, what will it be like at the hour of the harvest?

Do not let yourselves be put out by deceptive appearances or the loud cries of those who are blind.

This embattled Work will soon become a people of priests, a people of kings, an assembly of saints, and peace will reign, for the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary will spread wider and wider, passing from the dawn of the Reign of Love

to the zenith of the Kingdom.

Father Benoît Picard

1. Divine words spoken to Marie-Paule, 1957: "Accept, my child, to drink this chalice to the dregs. If you only knew how much my priests make me suffer! Look all about you, my child: a tidal wave of materialism has been let loose. There is much ado about everything but souls. I can count those truly priestly souls who are genuinely making progress in accordance with my law. Oh my child! How sorrowfully my heart bleeds. Never before in the history of the Church has the level of morals been so low." (Life of Love, vol. 1, p. 293)
2. Cf. "The Kingdom", no. 177, p. 19.

Healthy Fruit

From one issue to the next, the paper is prepared in accordance with providential events. Articles come in to Mother Paul-Marie without her seeking them, without any consultation between authors who sometimes do not even know one another. Thus it was that Father Benoît Picard wrote the preceding text in which he has us savor the fruit of the Army of Mary.

Some days later a letter from Miss Thérèse Chabot, the first regional Animator for Coaticook and the districts around it, in the diocese of Sherbrooke, told of six vocations that flowered in the little Marian Centers for which she had the responsibility. She writes: "Thank you for such a wonderful paper! It is Heaven on earth. What a marvelous grace we have had, to have been chosen, especially to understand and to accept to suffer in order to achieve the Triumph of good over evil. I never thought I would live such beautiful things 'from Heaven' when I began to give myself for my 'little ones' in 1974.

"I will never forget those lovely, kind families that brought me the joy of giving myself for them... The Blessed Virgin chose some from among them for herself... We now have six vocations that have come to flower

in Kingscroft and Coaticook.

"I am taking this opportunity to greet Sister Suzanne and Sister Aline D'Amours, Brother Ghyslain and Sister Maryse Létourneau, Sister Cécile Bouffard and the very recent Samuel [Lejeune]."

We should say a few words about the life of Thérèse, an elite soul completely given for priests to whom she has devoted herself.

Born in 1927 in a deeply religious family, Thérèse learned, at a very early age, to say her rosary by following it on her mother's beads. Her mother also instilled in her a great respect for priests. She had a happy childhood and adolescence. At the age of ten, she told in "her memoirs" how she was fascinated by the priest. She was already preparing herself for the vocation that would be hers. Starting out as a teacher, she devoted herself for four years to the children in the country schools. She had to travel long distances on foot, but her love for children lent her wings. She wanted to continue her career in teaching, but her mother was opposed to this, finding the distance too long for her daughter. Thérèse tells us how she felt: "I was disappointed not to go back to teaching, but my mother, without realizing it, by refusing to let me return, was following 'God's plan' for her youngest daughter. The dear God was there waiting for me!"

At the age of 22, and not teaching, she had no commitments. So, in response to the desire of a priest she became a housekeeper and would remain such all her life. More than fifty years have



Thérèse Chabot (2005)

passed and she has been the "Angel of the Priesthood" for twenty-seven priests whose path she crossed. "To suffer in order to obtain holy priests...!", such is her prayer. "Holy Mary, Mother of the Priesthood, give me to understand that I am responsible for the holiness of many priests..., that I can help them only by sanctifying myself. Help me to sanctify myself and to forget myself."

Let us go back some years and see Thérèse in her apostolate with the young families of the Army of Mary.

In 1971 she was told about a recently founded Marian group, but she did not join it in order to continue devoting herself to her parish priest weakened by sickness and in need of constant attention. He did tell her, "You should join this excellent Marian group just founded," but she was thinking only of him. After his demise in 1972, she went to Cap-de-la-Madeleine, being "somewhat curious" as she says, and mixed in with the throng there brought together by the Army of Mary. "It was there that the Blessed Virgin took me by the hand," Thérèse confides to us.

In a short time she became the first regional Animator for fifteen parishes. Fifteen Centers were founded! Soon the rectory where she lived was transformed into classrooms for catechism. Every available room was taken for children, grouped according to their age. They began at the age of three years. It was from there that there sprang the beautiful vocations formed by Thérèse. With the burning heart of an apostle, she set the region on fire.

We should point out, in this group, the presence of

Sister Cécile Bouffard, mother and grandmother of a large family. Having become a widow, she is consecrating the last years of her life to the Community.

And Thérèse, who is now 79 years old, writes: "I thank the Lord for these beautiful vocations, and I continue to give of myself in order to have others, and especially for our priests."

Sister Micheline Hupé

OTHER SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF MARY FROM THE REGION OF SHERBROOKE

Sherbrooke and the region surrounding it have been a veritable nursery of Marian souls who, after having discovered the Army of Mary, generously gave themselves to this Work.

The first group of Sons of Mary to take the habit, May 31, 1981, was, with the exception of Father Victor Rizzi, composed of religious from that region: Father Denis Laprise and Brothers Hervé Lemay, Roland Marcoux and Maurice Pélouquin.



Fathers Denis Laprise and Victor Rizzi



Fr. Hervé Lemay Fr. Roland Marcoux Fr. Maurice Pélouquin

Father Victor left Italy in 1964 in order to study theology with the Camillian Fathers in Sherbrooke where he remained a number of years.

Two Sisters from Sherbrooke were in the first group of the Daughters of Mary: Sister Louise Laprise (sister of Father Denis) and Sister Geneviève Benoît (now



Sisters Louise Laprise and Geneviève Benoît



Sr. Cécile Bouffard Sr. Suzanne D'Amours Sr. Aline D'Amours



Sr. Maryse Létourneau Bro. G. Létourneau Samuel Lejeune

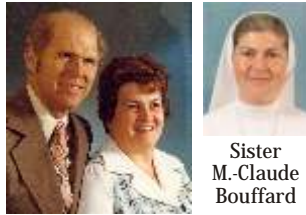
deceased).

Other members of the Community of the Sons of Mary are originally from Sherbrooke: Fathers Bruno Ruel and Luc Beaudette, and Brothers Dominic Larkin and Michel Drapeau.



Fathers
Bruno
Ruel and
Luc
Beaudette

Brothers
Dominic
Larkin and
Michel
Drapeau



Léandre and Thérèse Bouffard

In the Daughters of Mary, Sister Marie-Claude Bouffard is originally from Sherbrooke; her parents, Thérèse and Léandre Bouffard, were the godmother and godfather of the Army of Mary in that city.

Sister Marie-Claude's aunt, Sister Cécile Bouffard (her mother's sister), was the first

Animator of the Army of Mary in Kingscrot where she lived. Then, following her husband's death, she went to live in Sherbrooke. It was Mrs. Jeanne d'Arc D'Amours who succeeded her as Animator for the parish and who had the joy of seeing consecrate themselves to Mary in her Community her 14th and 15th children, Suzanne and Aline.



J. d'Arc
D'Amours

The Community of the Daughters of Mary has in it two other representatives from the region of Sher-



Sisters
Thérèse
Laprise
and Héléne
Rivard

brooke: Sister Thérèse Laprise (Father Denis' mother) and Sister Héléne Rivard.

Sylvie Payeur, who was the first novice in the Community of the Daughters of Mary and who had to leave it after many years for health reasons, also comes from the region of Sherbrooke.



Sylvie
Payeur
(religious
from 1982
to 1993)

Sylvie Payeur-Raynaud

Becoming Other Marys

In the Middle Ages the year began with the Annunciation. And, in fact, the Annunciation was the real beginning of the Christian world because it was the beginning of our salvation. It is the mystery of God become man – perfectly God and perfectly man, perfectly Man-God. For that, He made Himself ever so little in the womb of the Virgin Mary, while remaining infinitely great. What an extraordinary mystery!

Well then, with Mary, let us consider this mystery of God so little and so great and thank Him for continuing His Work of salvation with all of us who, through grace, have become children of God and of Mary.

It is true that the angel's Annunciation concerned, in a unique way, the Virgin Mary, but since the Word of God is always living and timely it is also addressed to us personally. Consequently, let the Messenger fascinate us and the message touch us, for God is earnestly requesting our "fiat" also to collaborate in the establishment of His Reign.

The difference between Mary and us lies in the quality of her perfection. In fact, Mary is the immaculate creature, the only one who never sinned, the only one who was such as God wanted her to be. With her, no compensation ever had to be made for any divergence between God's plan for her and her adherence to that plan.

As for us, never have either our being or our actions been equal to God's plan for us. We do not achieve the ideal He had in creating us. And the divergence between our existence and that which God wanted for us has to be compensated for by incessant reparation.

So here are the words

God addresses to each of us on this day of the Annunciation: "Rejoice, you who are full of the divine favor, the Lord is with you." If, each morning, we were to advert to the fact that what is true, in an unparalleled manner for the "Full-of-Grace", is nevertheless true also for us, our life would be transfigured to the extent that we would no longer see it in the same way. Every day would be a happy day, for we would find out that God constantly bestows on us the favor of His friendship and of the Body and Blood of His Son in the Eucharist and in us.

To welcome this message with faith is to already permit God to transform our life by His grace. These words of the Gospel that fall into our soul and upon our conscience are not imaginary; they are tied in with a reality that renews itself effectively each day, though it is a reality different from that in Mary's case. To believe that God speaks to us through the words of an angel cannot but have an effect, so true is it that a word from God that comes down from heaven, does not re-ascend without having first saturated and fecundated us in one way or another.

And, as with Mary, the angel unveils to us God's project: you have been chosen to give life to the Messiah, to give Him your life and to give Him to the world. Here again, this maternity concerns Mary in an exclusive manner, but we can still take the words of the angel Gabriel for ourselves.

In effect, it falls to us, as disciples of Christ, to give flesh to the project of love God has conceived for this world, by constituting ourselves His collaborators in establishing peace and love

in our society that has such a great need of these, so torn is it with violence and hatred, at times beginning with our closest relationships.

United to Mary, let us likewise listen to these words that are addressed to each of us individually: "Do not fear; you have found grace with God." Of course, finding grace with God, like Mary, does not mean escaping suffering, being protected from misfortune – Mary's soul was pierced by the sword of suffering –; finding grace with God means seeing each of us invested with a responsibility and, at the same time, given the means to cope with it successfully, however impossible that may seem. Each one is chosen by God to contribute to the coming of the Kingdom of God. Each one is called to give of himself in order to give flesh to God's project through accomplishing in his flesh what is lacking to the salvific Passion of Christ.

The grace of God is not a divine favor that shelters us from harm or even from sin; nor is it a privilege that spares us the need for effort; it is a gift that gives us the power to give ourselves. So it is quite normal to be troubled, disturbed by it, as was Mary.

In revealing Mary's unique vocation, the words of the angel Gabriel tell us, at the same time, something of our own vocation, for we also must let the Holy Spirit fe-

cundate our flesh in order that it may be inhabited by the Life of God.

As with Mary, the collaboration asked of us in bringing about the Kingdom of God, could seem to us humanly impossible and we could ask ourselves, "How is this possible?" And the angel reminds us of that truth that runs all throughout the Bible and that explains the miracle of grace in the lives of so many men and women who have achieved holiness: "Nothing is impossible to God."

"And the Word was made flesh"; He became an embryo in the flesh of a woman who believed in the word of God, who left herself open to the action of the Holy Spirit in order to give life to Him who gives Life. As was the case with her, let us leave our heart open to the good angel God has given us and be docile to the action of the Spirit, permitting the Word of God to take flesh in us in order that His Kingdom may come.

During this celebration of the Eucharist, on the day that we commemorate the historic Annunciation of the coming of Christ in human flesh, may it implant us in the very flesh of Christ present in the host and in our life! And, in the face of our unworthiness and incomprehension of this Mystery, let us have recourse to the words of the Church: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death."

Father Maurice Pélouquin

– I pray for the Church of Peter, in which are rooted all the fibres of our soul, that it may finally rejoice, in understanding and acceptance, the splendid Flower of the Church of John, acquired through so much self-sacrifice and heroic immolation, even... How wonderful that would be! From a sincerely grateful heart.

Sister Gracia Marceau

– You make us love the cross, the Eucharist, and you draw us into the Father's Heart; so, how can we not be happy? May we remain united in suffering and prayer.

Ghislaine Légaré

– We discover such wonderful things in the paper *Le Royaume*. God is full of love for us; all we need do is accept it. D.Soupras