

# Cardinal Vachon and the Army of Mary

## DEATH OF CARDINAL LOUIS-ALBERT VACHON

On September 29, 2006, there occurred the death of Cardinal Louis-Albert Vachon, former Archbishop of Quebec, who vigorously fought against the Army of Mary. The following day, a funeral eulogy of the Cardinal appeared in the pages of the newspaper, "Le Soleil", containing the following paragraph concerning the Army of Mary: "Among the troublesome dossiers he had to deal with, Cardinal Vachon revoked, in 1987, the Army of Mary's status as a Pious Association. This act earned him the wrath of the movement's foundress, Marie-Paule Giguère, and that of its numerous faithful. At that time he was supported by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, today Benedict XVI. To this date the decree has never been annulled."

The letter below was sent to the daily, "Le Soleil", in the days following the appearance of that article, in order to present "the other side of the coin".

## So Many Calumnies!

On the occasion of Cardinal Vachon's demise *Le Soleil* published an article by Yves Therrien on Saturday, September 30, honoring his memory; a paragraph in this article dealt with the Army of Mary. The journalist reported that when "Cardinal Vachon revoked, in 1987, the Army of Mary's status as a Pious Association", "this act earned him the wrath of the movement's foundress, Marie-Paule Giguère, and that of its numerous faithful".

This declaration is most astonishing to those who really know the situation. For years our foundress has been subjected to calumnies that have circulated in different milieus, fed by, in particular, certain persons in authority in the Church, and she was insistent that the Work's members not reply to these attacks. When a campaign of defamation against the

Work was launched in the media, some members rose to the defence of the Army of Mary – as did some non-members, persons unknown to us who had perceived the injustice being committed.

Cardinal Vachon has always been treated with respect by our foundress, even though a very pernicious act was perpetrated against the Work concerning which he declared in 1985, "It must be completely destroyed and those future priests gotten rid of" (the Sons of Mary were on the point of leaving to study at the Saint Thomas Aquinas Pontifical University in Rome, some for a first year, others for a second).

Concerning Cardinal Vachon's decree of 1987, Mr. Therrien mentions that the Archbishop had been supported at that time by Cardinal Ratzinger, today Benedict XVI; but it must be made clear that Cardinal Ratzinger had asked the Archbishop of Quebec to proceed "ad normam iuris" (according to the law), something which was not done. In 1987, when some religious authorities of the Vatican learned of this decree they asked the Army of Mary to appeal to Rome. Four years later, the Church's highest court rejected the appeal, judging that it "lacked foundation".

Paradoxically, this tribunal's decision was to confirm the authenticity of the Marian Work: that decision came thirty-three years to the day, after Heaven had foretold to Marie-Paule the "crucifixion" she would have to undergo at the hands of the Church. While still very young, she had offered herself as a victim for souls, and the Lord predicted that she would relive His Passion. Our Lord was crucified at the age of 33; that number has marked the life of our Foundress on a number of occasions.

Marie-Paule is an out-of-the-ordinary mystic; but mystics, before being recognized as such by the Church, are very often rejected and opposed by it.

October 2, 2006

Sylvie Payeur

To date [October 13, 2006], this letter has not been published by the Quebec City daily.

## Liturgical and Pastoral Activities at the Eucharistic and Marian Center Spiri-Maria (November-December 2006 – January-February 2007)

1. Saturday and Sunday, November 11 and 12, 2006  
*Solemn ceremony with the theme: "The souls in purgatory immersed in Jesus' mercy"*
2. Saturday and Sunday, November 25 and 26, 2006  
*Solemn ceremony with the theme: "Jesus returns in His glory – Christ the King"*
3. Saturday and Sunday, December 9 and 10, 2006  
*Solemn ceremony in honor of the Immaculate Conception, the All-Pure*
4. Saturday and Sunday, January 13 and 14, 2007  
*Solemn ceremony with the theme: "Jesus' Baptism"*
5. Saturday and Sunday, January 27 and 28, 2007  
*Solemn ceremony with the theme: "Saint Francis de Sales"*
6. Saturday and Sunday, February 10 and 11, 2007  
*Solemn ceremony in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes and the sick*
7. Saturday and Sunday, February 24 and 25, 2007  
*Solemn ceremony with the theme: "Church of Peter – Church of John"*

On the ordinary days of prayer, the program begins at 9:30 a.m. On Saturdays, it begins with a Marian Hour followed by a solemn Mass, lunch and time for adoration, and the Eucharistic Hour in the afternoon. On Sundays, the program begins with a solemn Mass, followed by the Marian Hour, lunch and adoration, and the Eucharistic Hour in the afternoon. There is a second Sunday Mass at 2:30 p.m.

Everyone is cordially welcome!

**IN MEMORIAM** – **AQUIN**, Arcel - Winnipeg, MB – **BISSONNETTE**, Gilbert - St-Jérôme – **BLANCHETTE**, Aurèle - Smooth Rock Falls ON – **CHAPUT**, Jacques - Lac-Etchemin – **DROLET**, Bernadette - Laval – **GAMACHE**, Suzie - Laval – **GOUPIL**, Gérardine - Lac-Etchemin – **LEMIEUX**, René - Drummondville – **LÉTOURNEAU**, Fleurette - Hearst, ON – **LONGUÉPÉE**, Christine Ouimet - Verdun – **MOREL**, Jocelyn - Trois-Rivières – **MORNEAULT**, Gérard - Edmundston, N.B. – **PARÉ**, Cyrias - Sherbrooke – **PARENT**, Anita - Montreal – **PERRON**, Eugène - Jonquière – **TOPPING**, Donald - Bellevue, SK – **TUPIN**, Denise - St-Martin-des-Champs, France

## NEW ITEMS FOR SALE

– **POSTCARDS**: Twelve different postcards of the nature surrounding Spiri-Maria at Lac-Etchemin. They can be purchased individually or in packages of six postcards.

– **CALENDAR FOR 2007**: Liturgical calendar under the general theme: "The Enchanting Setting of Spiri-Maria", presenting religious thoughts taken from *Life of Love*. Twelve pictures of Spiri-Maria in the form of detachable postcards in color. Format: 8½ x 14 in. (21.5 x 35.5 cm) with white spiral binding.

– **VIDEOCASSETTE AND DVD**: Of the day of prayer held at Spiri-Maria on Sunday, September 17, 2006 in honor of the Triumph of the Cross, with the theme "Towards the Church of John". A recording of the spiritual conferences, the ceremony of appointment and enthronement of the Father of the Church of John, Padre Jean-Pierre, and the solemn Mass.

**Two videocassettes**: (in French only - but may be followed with the written texts in this issue of the paper)

#1 – Morning program of spiritual conferences  
Length: 1 hr 55 min.

#2 – Afternoon program: ceremony of appointment and enthronement of Padre Jean-Pierre; solemn Mass  
Length: 2 hr 35 min.

**Set of 3 DVD** with English soundtrack:

#1 – Morning program of spiritual conferences  
Length: 1 hr 55 min.

#2 – Afternoon program: ceremony of appointment and enthronement of Padre Jean-Pierre  
Length: 1 hr 05 min.

#3 – Solemn Mass in honor of the Triumph of the Cross  
Length: 1 hr 30 min.

In preparation: the ceremony of September 16 in honor of the Triumph of the Cross.

– **THE LAMB OF THE APOCALYPSE**: A photo of the Lamb, the symbol of the Church of John (size: 4 x 6 in. or 10 x 15 cm), or a replica of the Lamb made of solid, resistant plastic (size: 2 x 2 in. or 5 x 5 cm)

– **HOLY PICTURE: The Lamb of the Apocalypse**

A souvenir picture (with a prayer on the back) of the ceremony of enthronement of Padre Jean-Pierre at Spiri-Maria on September 17, 2006.

Available through your local Army of Mary Bookstore or *Le Rosier d'Or*