

Towards a "Community of Love"

MYSTICAL "VISION" CONFIRMED

In volume XII of *Life of Love*, the French edition of which was published in 1979, Marie-Paule gives an account of a "vision" that upset her. She suddenly "saw" the Church of Peter under the allegorical form of a boat that is sinking. At the time, she wrote the following:

"Then, to my great surprise, I 'see' above me an immense boat, the bottom of which is black and full of fissures and rents through which the water is entering uninterruptedly. I 'learn' that this boat symbolizes the Church which is going to sink." (*Life of Love*, vol. XII, chap. 22, p. 103)

The timeliness of this "vision" of our Foundress was confirmed last June 29 by Pope Benedict XVI who, in noting the sad state of the Church of Peter, described it by using this same allegory of a boat taking water:

Again and again the little barque of the Church is ripped apart by the winds of ideologies, whose waters seep into her and seem to condemn her to sink. Yet, precisely in the suffering Church, Christ is victorious. (Homily for the solemnity of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, June 29, 2006)

Now, an important fact that should be retained: on that same day as Pope Benedict XVI confirmed the mystical intuition of our Foundress, that is to say, on June 29, 2006, he was celebrating the 55th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. And 55 is the number linked to the mystery of the Lady of All Peoples. Is this a mere coincidence or is it a providential event proving that the True Spirit is at work? We should also note that, at the same time as the Pope was describing the shipwrecked state of the present Church, he also glimpsed its victory, for he immediately added: *"Yet, precisely in the suffering Church, Christ is victorious."*

TOWARDS A "COMMUNITY OF LOVE"

On more than one occasion, Pope Benedict XVI has expressed the hope of seeing the Church of Peter being transformed to become a "community of love". And an essential fact is that he wanted this to be accomplished under the guidance of the Virgin Mary, as he stated last April.

May the Virgin Mary, whom the Litany of Loreto makes us invoke as "Cause of our joy", obtain for us that we always experience the joy of being part of the spiritual edifice of the Church, a "community of love", born from the Heart of Christ. (Regina Caeli, April 17, 2006)

Four months later, on August 30, 2006, Cardinal Bertone acknowledged that Pope Benedict XVI has made the theme that the Church be like a "communion of love" his pastoral priority, impelled along this path by the prompting of the Virgin Mary:

[Cardinal Bertone] *underlined that, as is manifested by his encyclical "Deus caritas est", the Pope has chosen as his pastoral priority "to build up the Church in charity as a communion of love". In that context, he emphasized that it was "the Marian principle which impelled, guided and helped him, powerfully, in his own way, to build the Church as a community of love".* (*Zenit*, Fr. ed., August 30, 2006)

However, in order to achieve this "community of love" it will first be necessary that the word "love" regain its plenary dignity. And the present Pope is well aware of this. Pope John Paul II had paved the way for the "civilization of love", and he had done so to such an extent that it had become the leitmotiv of his preaching. Pope Benedict

XVI is following the same road by expressing the hope that the word "love" will reconquer its nobleness. In January 2006, he declared:

The word "love" is used so much today that one is almost afraid to pronounce it... And yet, it is a primordial word, expression of the primordial reality... We must take it up again,... give back to it its original splendor so that it might illuminate our life... This awareness led me to choose love as the theme of my first encyclical. (*Zenit*, January 23, 2006)

Furthermore, according to what Cardinal Poupart reported on May 4, 2006, Pope Benedict XVI again brought up the topic in another vibrant plea so that the word "love" might once again regain its dignity.

The Pope is convinced that it is necessary that the word "love", used so frequently and yet so often misunderstood, be given again its true meaning in order that it might be a luminous beacon for our day-to-day living. (*Vatican Information Service*, Fr. ed., May 4, 2006)

As a consequence, if the word "love" is to become "a luminous beacon for our day-to-day living", then we are of the opinion that the work of *Life of Love* is the spiritual tool par excellence to achieve this. With this inspired work, and by its very title, we are seeing, grandly, the word "love" being given again its proper significance. This series of books, published in obedience to a divine order, is nothing more than the Gospel lived to the fullest in the sanctification of one's daily life. It is a work that can touch all states of life by helping believers to spiritualize their everyday life. More than that: "Life of Love" would have the power to convert the whole world, even the bishops," said a high dignitary in the Church. Marie-Paule has done and written so very much to foster the reassertion of the value of the word "love", a word that has become so hackneyed today. A collection of poems even bears witness to this, in which we can read these lines written in 1959 and which, more than ever, seem to have prophetic overtones:

*Let us put the accent on love,
Charity will flourish again;
Christ will have returned
And peace will reign.*

(Marie-Paule, *Amour*, collection of poems, Quebec, Vie d'Amour inc., 1993, p. 48)

ADOPTING THE SPIRIT OF JOHN

Last August 23, Pope Benedict XVI urged the faithful attending his audience to adopt the spirit of the Apostle John, and he invited them to do so particularly by not identifying themselves with the spirit of the world. The Pope indicated at that time:

[The Apostle] *John exhorts the Christian communities of Asia Minor, dismayed at God's silence in the face of the persecutions to which they were exposed at the end of the first century, to be steadfast in the faith and not to identify with the pagan world.* (Audience, August 23, 2006)

Here is a providential fact. The Family of the Sons and Daughters of Mary, a Work issued from the Army of Mary and raised in 1981 for the sanctification of the family, proposes in its ritual of reception that one adopt the spirit of John. The proof of the matter is to be found in the dialogue of reception where one can read these words imbued with the spirit of the beloved Apostle: "To be an Auxiliary Member is to live as a religious in the world..." which means, obviously, that one must not identify with the pagan world if one wants to

commit oneself under Mary's banner. And always with regard to the Family of the Sons and Daughters of Mary, one of the elements of its piety is the Consecration to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Now, last August, Pope Benedict XVI encouraged this devotion with these comments:

The devotion to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary constitutes a source of strength and serenity, indicated the Pope in his greeting to the pilgrims from Slovenia. (*Zenit*, Fr. ed., August 30, 2006)

The mystical inspiration of this ritual of reception of the Family of the Sons and Daughters of Mary, developed by Mother Paul-Marie in the spirit of John the Apostle, has just been confirmed by the present Pope.

ANOTHER MYSTICAL "INTUITION" CONFIRMED

In the year 2000, Mother Paul-Marie had developed the thought that Pope John Paul II was accomplishing his fruitful pontificate imbued with the spirit of John the Apostle. She wrote in *Le Royaume* of March-April 2000 these eloquent words which speak for themselves:

What light and what glory for the earth this Pope John Paul II is, he who possesses the spirit of John, the Apostle so loved by Jesus, and who is the contemporary Apostle so loved by Mary to whom he has given his life: "Totus Tuus" ('All for You'). (*The Kingdom*, no. 139, p. 5)

In the course of the month of April last, that is to say, six years later, astonishingly, Pope Benedict XVI confirmed the mystical intuition of what our Foundress had written concerning Pope John Paul II. The passage that follows bears witness to this:

Benedict XVI sees in John Paul II the image of the "beloved disciple who stood under the cross with Mary". In fact, the Pope emphasized the Marian dimension of John Paul II's life. (*Zenit*, Fr. ed., April 3, 2006)

The Pope said:

We might say that among the Apostles, he, the Successor of Peter, supremely imitated John the "beloved disciple", who stood under the Cross with Mary at the moment of the Redeemer's abandonment and death. (Homily on the anniversary of Pope John Paul II's death, April 3, 2006)

So John Paul II came to prepare the compost in which the Church of John will germinate. Marie-Paule had first predicted it. And the present Pope confirms it.

THE CHURCH OF JOHN WILL FOSTER ECUMENISM

The Church of John which, on September 17, 2006, was launched at Spiri-Maria through the appointment by divine will of Padre Jean-Pierre, will see all the peoples and all religions being brought together, for it is with the spirit of John that the ecumenical bonds will need to be woven. The Apostle John has this great power of being able to open hearts, if we believe what the Patriarch Athenagoras said, in a manner that was most certainly inspired, "John is at the basis of our loftiest spirituality. The silent ones, for having followed in his wake, know the mysterious exchange of hearts. By invoking John, their heart opens." (*Vatican Information Service*, Fr. ed., June 5, 2006)

Under the impetus of the Lady of All Peoples, the Church of John, last September 17, has opened the doors of the renewed Church to us, the doors of that community of love for which hearts have longed for such a long time. Long live the Church of John!

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