



LE ROYAUME



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

No. 181- SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2006

“THE KINGDOM”

Publication date: November 2006

THE TRIUMPHANT CROSS AND THE LAMB

by Father Maurice PÉLOQUIN

More than a principle, there is, in the history of Mariology, a well-established fact according to which Mary's mission is closely bound in with that of her Son.

The account of the Ascension, for example, is highly significant. Two angels in white garments say to the Apostles: “Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there” (Acts 1:11). In other words, Jesus was taken up into Heaven from whence He will return for the Day of the Lord. The implication of this understanding of the Ascension in the Assumption of the Virgin is clear. Mary was taken up into Heaven, and she will return in order to prepare the people of God, having in view the Day of the Lord.

When Mary returns, her role will be to prepare the people of God for the divine coming, that is to say, to reconcile men with God and with one another in such a way that they will be truly the family of God, or if you will, the family of the sons and daughters of Mary. Considered from this point of view, the Marian apparitions seem to be already an anticipation of Mary's return.

“As she is the dawn which precedes and reveals the Sun of Justice, who is Jesus Christ, she must be seen and recognized in order that Jesus Christ may also be,”¹ even affirms Saint Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort who thus says why the closer we come to the end of the times, the more the presence of Mary makes itself visible. “Being the way by which Jesus came to us the first time, she will also be the way by which he comes to us the second time, though not in the same manner.”²

According to a number of mystical souls, Mary has already begun to prepare this coming of her Son, through engendering the renewed Church. *Chemin de lumière* is the title of a book that brings together the visions of Filiola which are concerned principally with the renewal of the Church. This great French mystic, a member of the Franciscan Third Order, tells of her suffering when Jesus showed her the evil being practised in the Church among the “chosen ones”. Her suffering from this was an agony approaching and united to the agony of Christ in Gethsemane. In the very simple words of a per-

son without a literary formation, she cried out her pain to Jesus in a heartrending fashion, begging Him to have mercy on the world.

To console her, Jesus had her see those who would build what He called “the Church of Light”. The beauty of those visions and of the realities to come overjoyed her. Filiola was ready to suffer anything in order that this Church of Light might finally emerge in all its splendor and gather to its bosom all its children being lost today. With happiness Filiola caught sight of the renewed Church that will come after some purifications. Here is what she writes: “Jesus lets me see his truly faithful ones... I couldn't get over it – they were so few! It was a completely silent gathering, plunged in prayer, all Love. They were as though in Jesus, through the Holy Spirit...”

“Jesus let me see the interior of those (true) apostles whom He chose and who are presently here. Many are suffering with Jesus and His Church, in silence. Their hearts bleed. Many souls live in the Light, to which Jesus has drawn them: it is beautiful, sublime, transparent, pure. There is nothing of that rotten life (of a Mass of Christians shown to Filiola). Oh, how beautiful everything is in the good God! Oh, what sublime peace! All is Spirit, all is pure, without admixture...”³

On April 3, 1976, Filiola described one of her last visions: “The Holy Church is going to find again the true Spirit... Jesus the Christ will reign! The Virgin Mary, the Immaculate, is going to give Jesus back to us, the true Jesus, through the operation of the Holy Spirit. And it is not going to be easy to drive the spirit of compromise from our poor Church that is suffering so much...”

“The Blessed Virgin let me see her wonderful Army of Light... Oh, what an Army (of prayer)! I could have wept...”⁴

Thirty years after the death of Filiola (1976) – in accordance with the promises made her, and in keeping with the indications addressed to Marie-Paule –, one could say that Mary came to Spiri-Maria. And what did she do if not lead her great family into another stage in order to arrive at that Church of Light, which begins first of all in the heart of each one. How can one not sing with joy over such a gift? How can



one not follow with enthusiasm such a Mother?

Mother of God become Mother given to the world by her Son on Calvary, Mary is, at the same time, she who intercedes, who is Mediatrix and Advocate for her children who are all the peoples. At times she even intervenes directly in the history of men in order to transform its outcome (for example, the victory in the battle of Lepanto in 1571), or to warn her children faced with a menacing danger, or again, to pass a message to the entire world, as at Lourdes, at Fatima and at Amsterdam.

Ever increasingly present as Mother of the renewed Church, Mary molds her children and unceasingly brings them to birth spiritually until the Day of the Last Coming when the Mystical Body of Christ, which is the Church, will have reached maturity. Now, this description of the renewed Church, given by Filiola, would it not be what we lived during the celebrations in honor of the Triumph of the Cross? And, along with the Triumphant Cross, we have celebrated the Lamb of the Triumphant Cross and the two witnesses of the

Lamb at the foot of the Cross, Mary and John; Mary the humble handmaid of the Most High, and John the faithful disciple who took Mary into his care, in accordance with the will of Him whom John the Baptist had revealed to him as being the Lamb of God.

Mary, the handmaid of humanity whose life was one of humble and generous service, and John, the beloved apostle who received the Mystery of the Heart of Jesus, stood courageously at the foot of the Cross, beside the suffering Lamb who immolated Himself out of love for us.

"The Lamb that was slain is worthy to receive power, and divinity, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and benediction. To him be glory and power forever and ever!" (Apoc 5:12; 1:6)

Father Maurice Péroquin

1. Saint Louis Marie de Montfort, *True Devotion to Mary*, no. 50 §3.
2. *Id.*, no. 50 §4.
3. Filiola, *Chemin de lumière*, Paris, Téqui, 1975, p. 250.
4. *Id.*, pp. 334.