

We Are All Brothers in Jesus Christ

Dear Knights of Mary,

Who can separate us from the love of God, since, by Baptism, we are all members of the Mystical Body of Christ and, by the Eucharist, we already have in us eternal life? So, let us not be afraid; let us love God with all our heart and our brothers as ourself.

Let us give thanks to God for the most recent slap in the face just administered us by "our friend" Father Michel Fournier. Today he accuses us of disobedience to the authorities of the Church.

Above all else, it must be recognized that the Work of the Lady of All Peoples is a Work of the mystical order that comes to us from Heaven, in the same manner that the Church founded on the Apostles came from Heaven. And the two are marked by persecution. That is why we must not be astonished today if we have to endure the thunderbolts of those who oppose every undertaking by God for the renewal of His Church.

Let us recall what happened at the moment the Church of the Apostles was born, and the persecution of these latter by the high

priests. Fortunately there was among them an exceptional man, Gamaliel, a member of the Sanhedrin, a Doctor of the Law, respected by all the people. He arose and declared openly before all the Sanhedrin:

"Men of Israel, be careful how you deal with these people.... What I suggest, therefore, is that you leave these men alone and let them go. If this enterprise, this movement of theirs, is of human origin it will break up of its own accord; but if it does in fact come from God you will not only be unable to destroy them, but you might find yourselves fighting against God" (Acts 5:35,38-39).

Dear Knights of Mary, is it not that which is happening to us also today? Like the first Apostles, we are obliged, faced as we are with the incredulity of the Church authorities, to make an agonizing choice; follow the orders of the authorities of the Church or, instead, follow, in faith, the will of God expressed to us by her whom He has chosen for the renewal of His Church.

Now, if the authorities of the Church looked upon us as brothers in Jesus Christ,

they would not condemn us; they would take the trouble to scrutinized everything, under God's eyes, in order to verify if the Work of the Lady of All Peoples is indeed a Work of God for our time.

And we firmly believe that it is a Work of God. That is why God's judgment will be very severe for the authorities who will seek to condemn it in the name of the law, making the letter of the law far more important than the salvation of souls. Let us leave to God the task of judging their actions, and let fraternal pardon be our most sincere response and the one most in conformity with the Lord's will.

Dear Knights of Mary, let us be faithful to our commitments in the Work and let us remain under the protection of the Lady of All Peoples in reviving our faith in God and His divine Mother to whom we have consecrated ourselves with all our heart. For if the Lord has raised up the Church of John it was precisely to renew the Church of Peter that neither believed in nor accepted the requests and interventions of the Lady of All Peoples when she asked it to recite publicly the

prayer she gave it and to change nothing in it.

Moreover, what a false idea the authorities of the Church have concerning our foundress Mother Paul-Marie, they who have not made the slightest effort to discern the authenticity of her mystical life. They should have waited a while longer before making a pronouncement on her to whom the Lord said in 1958: *"So the hour of crucifixion has arrived. And it will be those of my priesthood who will crucify you. Like me, you are innocent, but on all sides they will cry out that you are hateful, the most infamous of creatures"* (*Life of Love*, vol. I, p. 329).

Yes, Mother Paul-Marie is a true mystic. For myself, I firmly believe in this, and I have been a witness of it for more than 35 years. Great, then, is the responsibility of those who have wrongly judged this Work of God, and immense will be the shame they will have to submit to for having condemned it. Let us pray for them, because they are our brothers.

Fr. Victor Rizzi, O.F.F.M.



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A TRUE PROPHET

(on the feast of Saint Cyril of Alexandria)

"Beware of false prophets," the Lord solemnly declares. And He takes care to point out how to recognize a true prophet from a false: *"By their fruits you shall know them."* This way of distinguishing the true from false prophets, divine Works from works of the Evil One holds good for all times.

"By their fruits you shall know them." In the first reading we have the example of Abraham. The most marvelous fruit that proves the authenticity of his mission as patriarch and prophet is the faith that animated him and drove him to obey all that God asked of him. What divine orders contrary to all human wisdom he received from God, and Abraham always obeyed! As a reward for his fidelity God promised him descendants, although only an outstanding miracle could bring this about: *"Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants."* And the sacred text adds: *"Abraham had faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him*

justified." Because of that faith the Lord made a covenant with him and fulfilled His promise by giving him as his son, Isaac, who was himself patriarch and prophet.

We are celebrating today the feast of Saint Cyril of Alexandria. He also can be known by his fruits. Enlightened by the lights of the Holy Spirit, it was he who, at the Council of Ephesus in 431, had the expression, MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, accepted. That means that he is the one to whom we owe the promulgation of the first Marian dogma, and this by Pope Celestine I, in the course of that same Council. During his fight against Nestorius who denied the divine motherhood of Mary, Cyril wrote to the monks of Egypt: *"If the Lord Jesus is God, how could the Virgin who bore Him and brought Him into the world not be the Mother of God?"* There you have the powerful faith that animated him, that he knew how to defend and that made him the great prophet of the Mother of God.

We are living in troubled

times when distinguishing the true prophets from the false is absolutely necessary. There is so much confusion even within the Church. Who is telling the truth? More than ever, that sentence of the Lord must serve as our means of recognition: *"By their fruits you shall know them."* God's benediction on behalf of Abraham and his descendants is not foreign to us in the Lady's Work. Moved by God, our Foundress drew on it to bless her spiritual descendants: *"May Almighty God bless the Sons and Daughters of Mary and multiply them like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore."* That blessing intimately links Mother Paul-Marie's faith to that of Abraham. Just like Abraham, her obedience to all that God asks of her is the seal certifying the quality of her faith, even when the divine orders very often run counter to all human wisdom and logic.

Did not God, by reason of her faith and obedience, judge her to be "justified"? Did He not make a covenant with her and, through her, accomplish the Work of the Co-Redemption? There you have the marvelous fruit of a

whole *Life of Love*.

But there is still more, Saint Cyril of Alexandria was the originator of the first Marian dogma in constituting himself the defender of that more than glorious title, Holy Mary Mother of God. There high in heaven, how he must have rejoiced, last May 31, over the promulgation of the dogma of Mary Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate, which is the keystone of the entire Marian mystery! Is not that dogma the most marvelous fruit that crowns the Work and life of the Lady of All Peoples and proves by that very fact the authenticity of her mission?

For so many years within the Work we have savored nothing but fruits of divine perfume. So how can there be any doubts? *"By their fruits you shall know them,"* the Lord said. May all the fruits of the Co-Redemption now gush out over all peoples. Amen.

Father Carl Beaupré

Cf. Readings: Gn 15:1-12; 17-18a; Ps 104[105]; Mt 7:15-20.



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