

The Force of the Truth

The act of excommunication against the members of the Army of Mary by the Church is the realization of what was foretold Marie-Paule in 1958. It is the result of an underground war waged for more than thirty-six years in an attempt to destroy, once and for all, a divine Work.

Sylvie Payeur R., in a remarkable

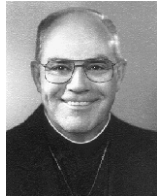
summarization, "The Army of Mary, the Hidden Side of a Long Saga", that appeared in "The Kingdom", no. 186, of July-August 2007, related a number of outstanding facts from among all the actions taken by men of the Church against the Work. There was not a single gratuitous affirmation in her work. On the contrary, for each

of the facts reported – and for many others not related – the Army of Mary possesses all the proofs of what it affirms! Thus, Sylvie wrote: "So many priests and religious authorities, including Bishop Gratton and Bishop Blais, would proclaim for all to hear that Marie-Paule was 'crazy', a 'religious crank', 'schizophrenic'." Following is a letter, from among others, that proves this declaration.



Bishop Jean Gratton

Bishop Jean Gratton's Letter to Lionel Bélanger



Brother Lionel Bélanger

Bishop's House, Mont-Laurier
July 17, 1984

Mr. Lionel Bélanger
St-Jovite, Que.

Dear Lionel,

Following up on our conversation of July 12, I want to make clear certain aspects of my thinking in regard to you or, if you will, your status.

The months and the years pass rapidly. It was in 1982 that you got in touch with me. There was the re-entry into the Grand Seminary, etc., etc. There is probably no other dossier that has engrossed me as much as yours. That is not an expression of regret but rather of interest for what you are. This is already the summer of 1984, and I must be clear on that last point gone into the other day, namely the Army of Mary, or, if you will, the Sons of Mary.

In case what I have just written gives the impression that you were a burden or that I regret having accepted the path you have followed since 1982, I want to say the following. As a person, you please me. You have maturity, know how to get along with people sympathetically, while not being blind to their qualities and faults. It is interesting to discuss with you matters of the Church, parishes, etc. The judgments in your regard at this time are in agreement with the brief portrait I have just sketched. I come now to the Son of Mary aspect.

I did not hide from you what I think of the Army of Mary, of Marie-Paule. You said to me at the end of the discussion, that faced with the decision of eventually having to break with what you call the Community (Sons of Mary), you would be asking reflection and prayer in order to take the decision. I think that we have reached that point. In 1982 and then in 1983, you told me that this group represented for you simply a "home". Father Beausoleil in no way reproaches you with making yourself an apostle of the Army of Mary. I think that, all the same, I put the true question to you the other day.

I went again to the Quebec sources. I spoke to Bishop Marc Leclerc and to Father André Lessard, the parish priest of Saint Pius X parish in which territory the Sons of Mary are. Moreover, he has already met you. – Rome is asking the Archbishop of Quebec to settle the problem, something that, between us, isn't easy (already said) because there are good people "in it" and not everything is bad, even if inspiration is drawn from her (and the expressions are not mine) who is called a "religious crank", "paranoiac". If you look in the dictionary, you will understand the mistrust, the pride, the warped mind that are traits characteristic of such persons. As for what concerns "illumination", you'll understand that a person affected by it claims to discover the truth

himself, has his secrets, his inspirations. It is the characteristic of sects that, as the need arises or according to circumstances, latch onto either witnesses given or to the good values they are living. As an example, if I admire the zeal of Jehovah Witnesses or of the Disciples of Infinite Love, that does not mean that they are in line with the Church, with the Gospel. No historical error has ever presented itself as being totally false or totally true. When you told me that Marie-Paule quoted Father Philippe to you and then the postulator of a cause... of a Mexican lady, I saw in that and recognized the usual scenario. At times, obviously, the authority of the Pope is invoked. Now, I spoke to you of Rome, of the visits to the Congregation where we spoke precisely of the Army of Mary. And Rome asked us to see precisely to a settlement of the problem, understanding very well just how delicate the matter is. – Everything is not perfect in the Church, our parishes, our priests, our bishops. I know this, as do many others. When it is a matter of a tendency to sectarianism, the heart has to be hardened, foreseeing, as history tells us, to what such a tendency can lead. It was extremely difficult to write and warn the Charismatics against certain tendencies, whereas we (bishops) admitted the merits of their prayer, of their hymns also. Finally, Cardinal Suenens himself, an apostle of the Charismatic Movement, had to write his recent book on the ministry of liberation. With these latter, it was the primary trend of the Evangelists (the sole authority of the Gospel) and the fundamentalist interpretation of Scripture that eventually perverted their manner of proceeding. That does not mean that the bishops were against prayer! – I'm babbling or writing at great length... excuse me. Speaking of prayer, I can tell the members of Prayer Renewal, and this regularly, that they have given us the taste (for prayer). As an example, and this you already know, it is not because they form a choir in his parish that Father Lessard does not approve of the Sons of Mary.

There you are! I am thus placing you squarely before a serious decision to be taken. My own position is clear and has become clearer since 1982. Without having terminated what is called the probationary period, thought will eventually have to be given to ordination... if things go well, shaping up in a positive sense. There is no question of my eventually calling you to an incardination by the diaconate while at the same time you have ties with the Sons of Mary. So you have a choice to make. My prayers go with you in your decision. It does happen that painful decisions have to be taken with a view to service to the Church, to detachment, but without any big show.

May the Lord help you, and Mary also. Fraternaly,

+ Jean Gratton
Bishop of Mont-Laurier