

"Life of Love," "The Gospel of Life" III



François Pillot

In his encyclical *The Gospel of Life*, Pope John Paul II mentioned the materialistic and egotistical context in which today's man lives, having lost the sense of God and of himself.

In that context, at every instant among the peoples of this earth, tragedies are being lived in a great many areas of daily life. This life, quite ordinary for the most part, is made up of sufferings and pleasures in varying degrees.

Presently, in our time, man has reached the point of a sort of general disorder, in which the balance between and the sense of sufferings and pleasures have been very seriously altered to the point of confusing good and evil. (EV 24)

Pope John Paul II was categorical:

Given such a grave situation, we need now more than ever to have the courage to look the truth in the eye and call things by their proper name, without yielding to convenient compromises or the temptation of self-deception. In this regard the reproach of the Prophet is extremely straightforward: "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness" (Is 5:20) (EV 58)

Our wonderful Catholic religion has been providing us with practical teachings since the birth of the Redeemer, in response to all man's disorders.

And yet, Raoul Auclair – today Saint Raoul Marie – tells us in his Preface to *Life of Love*: "No other era has plunged so deeply into crime and iniquity... Given such peril, Heaven had no other recourse but to intervene with measures other than ordinary." (p. 11)

"LIFE OF LOVE": A RESPONSE OF LOVE TO GOD

In fact, *Life of Love* bears witness to the complete and full application of the Com-

mandments of God (EV 28) in the ordinariness of everyday life, enlightening the reader on his own identity in the image and likeness of God. (EV 36)

All through the Work of *Life of Love*, Mother Paul-Marie had but one "obsession" [may she pardon me for using that term]: obeying God's will:

Dear Lord, how critical the hour is! Who am I? In reality, a simple woman upon earth, but one whose mind is fixed on heaven. Only one thing is important to me: obedience to God's will.¹

Life of Love in its title alone is in itself a very great mystery, and in the content of all the works, *Life of Love* provides a response of love to God and to all men.

- To God in accordance with the original divine plan with the infinite perspective linked to the mystery of the Co-Redemption.
- To man in the openness and light of his royal and divine destiny and in the ordinariness of his day-to-day life from which God is not excluded.

Saint Raoul Marie has repeated to us:

"Of such is 'Life of Love': a life like other lives – externally, the same afflictions, but within, what light, and, above all, what mystery!"²

Is *Life of Love* in opposition with the teaching of the Catholic Church? No, it isn't, given that it is the application and fruit of this teaching, in the same way that it is also the application and the fruit of God's mercy. It can even be said that *Life of Love* is the life of mercy.

Man has forgotten his destiny, his life of union with his Creator. God's plan constantly comes back upon this project of life for man while at the same time respecting his freedom. Who can claim today to limit the ways of light and the incommensurable realities leading man to his union with God, with the Father's Heart?

OUR INTERIOR REFORM

We can note, for example, that the three first volumes of *Life of Love* are entitled:

- I. The Purgative Life
- II. The Illuminative Life
- III. The Unitive Life

This program of the Church has nothing in common with all kinds of eccentricities built on spontaneous and facile reactions. It deals with the spiritual and the mystical life as these were recalled by Pope John Paul II himself in his last work.³ This program concerns all of humanity and not just a few people. In fact, *Life of Love* encourages us to an interior purification as we come to better observe God's commandments, by working on our interior reform and by being quite determined to fight against sin and evil first of all within ourselves. Within this inner disposition, all is light, progressively, in all areas of life, thus allowing man to advance in his quest for union with God. This union cannot take place without the True Spirit, who, through Mary, the Divine Spouse of God, gives us her prayer for our time. This prayer is divine in nature and, as a consequence, capable of enlightening souls amid the darkness and dispelling the darkness itself.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, send now your Spirit over the earth. Let the Holy Spirit live in the hearts

of all peoples, that they may be preserved from corruption, disaster and war. May the Lady of All Peoples, who once was Mary, be our Advocate! Amen.

The Lady⁴ reminds us of Isaiah's words:⁵

In the same manner that the flakes of snow flutter about and fall upon the earth, covering it with a thick blanket, so too will it be with the prayer and the picture, which, propagated throughout the world, will fall into the hearts of all peoples.

Now, just as the snow melts into the earth, so too will the fruit – the Spirit – descend into the hearts of men who, each day, will recite the prayer. Are they not, in effect, asking that the Holy Spirit come into the world?

April 28, 2008

on the feast of Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort

François Pillot

1. Mother Paul-Marie, *Life of Love*, vol. XIII, p. 323.
2. Raoul Auclair, *Life of Love*, Preface, vol. I, p.13.
3. Cf. John Paul II, *Memory and Identity*, 2005.
4. Raoul Auclair, *The Lady of All Peoples*, 30th apparition, April 1, 1951.
5. Isaiah 55:10.

An Experienced Translator: Mr. Earl Masseur

We wish to pay homage to Mr. Earl Masseur who will soon be 94 years old. He devoted thirty-four years to the translation into English of all the Work's writings and, particularly, of *Life of Love*, the mystical sense of which he was able to perceive in order to translate it with the soul of a poet.

In 1973, at Father Philippe Roy's request, he accepted to revise the *Manual of the Army of Mary*, and, a few years later when he had retired, providential events brought him to embark on a second career as he devoted himself totally to translation.

Blessed with good health, he gave himself to this task for days on end, penetrating the

Marian mystery for "our time" in order to transmit all its richness with words that had a flavor of eternity.



Earl Masseur

Recently, Mr. Masseur, seeing his strength deteriorate somewhat, felt obliged to retire. "We would not want to see you grow old," our Foundress said as she expressed to him the gratitude of our English-speaking members. His conscientious work, accomplished in the background out of love for the cause of the Lady of All Peoples, will have repercussions in the centuries to come. **The Directors**