

Spiri-Maria, September 12-14, 2008: Triduum in Honor of the Triumph of the Cross

"Towards the Summits"



by Sylvie PAYEUR RAYNAULD

On the evening of Friday September 12, there began at the Eucharistic and Marian Center Spiri-Maria a triduum in honor of the Triumph of the Cross, the patron feast of the Army of Mary. Once again, the members of the Community of the Lady of All Peoples came in great numbers from Quebec and several other Canadian provinces, from the United States, France, Belgium, Martinique and Guadeloupe. Every day, up to eleven hundred people were present, happy to be together for these days of prayer and fraternal exchanges.

Friday Evening, September 12

"To the Eucharist"

Friday evening's vigil of prayer was held under the sign of the glorious cross, the liturgical feast of the last day of the triduum, and more particularly under the theme of the Eucharist. As was the case for each of these three days of prayer, the program began with an invocation to the Holy Spirit (hymn and prayer).

On behalf of Mother Paul-Marie and the directors of the Work, Father Eric Roy welcomed everyone "to this chapel Spiri-Maria where Heaven is united with earth and where we have come together in the love and light of God." Father Eric, who is the Superior General of the Community of the Lady of All Peoples, mentioned that to reach the Terrestrial Kingdom, we have to follow our Foundress' footsteps by walking along "the way of purification and sanc-



Fr. Eric Roy

tification leading to eucharistification, and later even to divinization."

"My poor life," Mother Paul-Marie wrote, "the itinerary of which is known as a result of an order from On-High, is a pale reflection of what the next millennium will be like with its generations of families given over to God through Mary and the Holy Spirit.... To my very last breath, I will repeat that I am nothing more than the 'zero' which Mary, our Mother and our guide, has filled with her presence. Thus, out of a NOTHING, she has made of it a heart that beats and loves in accordance with her Heart."

"THROUGH THE CROSS, TO THE LIGHT!"

For her anniversary on September 14, the feast of the Triumph of the Cross, Mother Paul-Marie received, over the summer, a luminous white cross, in the center of which was a white rose with golden accents (is that not the symbol par excellence of the Co-Redemptrix?). This cross was borne in procession by Marc-Ange Rodrigue who would place it next to the Repository.



The luminous cross carried next to the Repository altar.

Father Victor, our Marian Father, sends a paternal message to the Sons of Mary every month. Since this message is also a fitting one for all the Knights of Mary, Father Gilles Devaux read this letter entitled,



Fr. Gilles Devaux

"By the Cross, to the Light!" After having mentioned the feast of the Triumph of the Cross, Father Victor recalled the mission of the Sons of Mary: "To be a Son of Mary is to consent to cooperate always more and more with the Lady of All Peoples in the Work of the Co-Redemption of the world. This must make us realize what our responsibilities are and that they will always be greater as the world immerses itself in an obvious state of corruption. Therefore, let us be courageous, all of us, with all of ourselves, in order to merit the palm of faithfulness in joy and love.

"May we realize that, under the weight of the cross, there germinates the most beautiful fruit that will last for eternity. So, without seeking the cross, may we at least accept it, love it and offer it to God as the best means for our personal sanctification and in order to hasten the conversion of the world. Thus, in this time of silent preparation for a more intense apostolic life, I wish you the courage and the joy of a share in the cross, knowing that it will shine forth one day with all its rays and that it will warm the earth with peace and love which will be the essential characteristics of Christ's reign on earth."

THE EUCHARIST AND THE CROSS – THE MIRACLE OF LANCIANO

The twofold mystery of the redemptive and co-redemptive cross is indissolubly bound in with the Eucharist, and that is what we were reminded of with the four texts which were then read to us and which preceded the Eucharistic concelebration.

To begin with, Brother Gérard Boisvert spoke of the Eucharistic miracle of Lanciano. Towards the 8th century, a Basilian monk



Bro. Gérard Boisvert

celebrating Mass was suddenly overwhelmed by a serious doubt regarding the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and immediately after the Consecration, the miracle took place. "The host became living flesh and the wine became living blood which coagulated into five irregular clots of varying sizes and shapes." These relics, which were carefully preserved, have undergone several tests over the centuries. In 1971, a new scientific study, which was corroborated by a scientific



The reliquary containing the "miraculous flesh and blood" exposed for the veneration of the faithful at Lanciano.

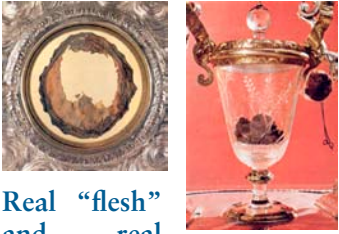
commission from the World Health Organization in 1976, concluded that:

- "The 'miraculous flesh' is really human flesh, made up of striated muscle tissue from the myocardium."
- "The 'miraculous blood' is real blood, its analysis shows this with an absolute and indisputable certainty."
- The flesh and blood are really human in nature and belong to the blood type AB, "quite common among the Jewish people."
- "The blood reacts exactly as normal fresh blood would. Its state of preservation over such a long period of time in a reliquary that is not airtight remains absolutely unexplainable."

Those studies supported the faith that it is truly the living Christ who gives Himself to us in the Eucharist, communicating to us "the benefits of His redemptive death and His glorious life".



Friday, September 12 - The triduum in honor of the Triumph of the Cross began with a ceremony, the theme of which was the Eucharist.



Real "flesh" and real "blood" of a human nature.

A MEETING BETWEEN MARIE-PAULE AND FATHER VICTOR

Gerry Lessard read to us the passage from *Life of Love* in which Marie-Paule recounted her first meetings



Gerry Lessard

with Father Victor during her hospitalization at the *Enfant-Jésus* Hospital in Quebec City at the beginning of 1970, when she almost died twice. Father Victor, who was a chaplain at that hospital at the time, was the first to bring her Communion, and they had spoken of spirituality, especially of redemptive suffering.

At Marie-Paule's request, Father Victor had given her, at that time, the notes on a homily he had written on suffering. On this evening of prayer, Father Victor shares with us those notes written almost forty years ago.



Fr. Victor Rizzi

That text explained that evil comes from men and that, if God does not intervene, it is because He wishes to respect the freedom He gave to man. Nevertheless, "God has not segregated Himself entirely from men's sufferings. Since He could not intervene without doing violence to human liberty, He became man in order to share, voluntarily, in man's suffering and to give it a purpose...."

"It is Jesus who has given meaning to suffering.... He came to tell us that the innocent who suffers is not simply the victim of those who work evil. He is also the one who compensates for his own wrongdoing and the wrongdoing of others. The man who accepts suffering, fashions himself like unto God made man. Suffering is a light for those who have faith, but it remains a scandal for others."

Those words could not resonate more aptly than in the soul of the Handmaid configured to Christ in our time!

"BECOMING EUCHARIST"

Father Issa-Paul Carbonneau presided over the procession of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel. Then,



Father Issa-Paul Carbonneau presided over the procession and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

before the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Father Serge Lépine presented



Fr. Serge Lépine

Mother Paul-Marie's thinking as she underlined the benefits of the Cross and indicated to us how to "become Eucharist".

"The crosses are hurts of the physical, moral or spiritual orders; they are a wound that one feels in the heart, but a wound quickly dressed with a balm that soon alleviates the pain, if it is accepted with love. What a blessing is this balm that elevates the soul and is conducive to the lights required for the soul's progression, or that bears an imprint of eternity...."

"But what is this beneficial balm that assuages the pain and ensures new strength in a renewed joy? It is the LOVE of God that penetrates the wound inflicted in the heart, and the more there are of offerings, the more profoundly does the divine love make its way into the Heart of the heart, that precise place that links us directly to heaven...."

"All of us are invited to follow this royal road of Love, where it is so good to love, even when the heart aches, or better still, to love until the heart aches from having loved so much. When the world will understand that Love is a flower that one must water through the giving of self and through forgiveness in abandonment, but more particularly through the stripping off of one's 'self' to the point where there is nothing left but love, then we will be living in a paradise here below. And this paradise, one carries it in one's heart."

"If one has lost everything for God and there remains nothing but Love, that is being LOVE. To be LOVE is to be HOST!"

EUCCHARISTIC CONCELEBRATION

Mass was presided over by Father Normand Forest who concelebrated with 30 priests. Father Sylvain Guilbault's homily spoke of the day's feast, Mary's holy name.



Father Normand Forest presided over the Mass.

"Mary's name is the key to heaven," and another key is the example she gave us: "her attitude of poor in spirit together with an overflowing charity" which was "revealed through the calm acceptance of the divine plans, often incomprehensible to our intelligence".



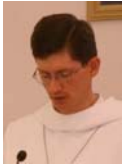
Fr. Sylvain Guilbault

Mary "helps us understand that suffering is not an enemy, but a hymn of hope and a road of light." Father Sylvain told us of Paul Claudel's words which were quoted by Denise Legrix, a woman born without arms and legs but who was happy in spite of it all: "God did not come to suppress suffering; He did not come to explain it either, but He came to fill it with His presence."

Father Sylvain recalled these words of our Foundress: "the Father has fewer and fewer souls that want to receive Him.... Such a good God who has given us everything and who is seeking souls – it is inadmissible!" And he concluded by inviting us to welcome God's gift in the Eucharist "by remaining poor inside, so as to always grow in love for God and souls. Then, Mass and Communion become a unique moment for us to say, like Mary: 'Here is your servant, Lord.' Then we become 'fathers' and 'mothers', in order to carry Jesus to souls and change the world through love. Thus the Eucharist, far from becoming a routine, becomes a divine

lever, and joined with Mary, the 'key to heaven' to enter into the Father's Heart."

The prayer of thanksgiving was given by Father Stéphane Gamache who uttered these words, in regard to Mother Paul-Marie: "Thank you also to you, dear Mother, you who have heroically obeyed to the point of letting your heart be pierced. Just as in former times when the column of clouds guided Israel



Fr. Stéphane Gamache

to the Promised Land, your *Life of Love* – of which the beflowered cross is the symbol – is there before us to indicate the way to the new earth and the new heavens.

"O Divine Trinity, O Trinity of the Immaculate, it is impossible to thank you in a measure equal to your love. However, even if eternity will not be enough to give you thanks, deign, nevertheless, to accept our poor words. May our life lived following the Redeemer and the Co-Redemptrix be our most beautiful hymn of praise. Magnificat, anima mea Dominum!"

The image used by Father Stéphane to describe *Life of Love* – "the beflowered cross", which ended the gathering, brought us back to the symbol which had set the tone at the beginning of the evening's program: the white cross adorned with a rose. Another sign that Providence inspires souls!

Saturday, September 13

Day in Honor of Motherhood



Sr. Suzanne Palud

On Saturday morning, Sister Suzanne Palud, the Superior General of the Community of the Daughters of Mary, read the opening welcome and

emphasized that on this day we would be honoring "Mary in the mystery of her maternity" as well as "all our mothers to whom we owe our life", at a time when "the new generations are threatened under the pretext of one's rights and freedom. We must take up the challenge through love... be victorious

over evil by doing good, that is to say, by restoring to woman all her dignity of a mother."

Sister Suzanne reminded us that, "as of 1964, Marie-Paule 'received' the first rule of life which would become the rule of the Army of Mary," and she wrote at the time:

"For the woman to raise herself up, it is not necessary that she occupy a place of prominence. Mary has set us the most marvelous example of this. The role of woman is to form the man of tomorrow, not to usurp his place... Let us give the world other 'Marys' and we shall contribute to the triumph of Christ through the mediation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

Raymond Michaud entered in procession carrying the international flag of the



Raymond Michaud carrying the flag of the Community of the Lady.

Lady of All Peoples which he would place in the sanctuary. This was followed by a conference and testimonials related to motherhood.

AN APPEAL TO MOTHERS AND FUTURE MOTHERS

Father Benoît Picard spoke particularly to the mothers and to those who would become mothers, encouraging them to offer "their children to God through Mary". Basing himself on biblical examples (Hannah, wife of Elkana, Elizabeth and Zachariah, the Virgin Mary), he stated that "God listens to the holy desires in the woman's heart."

He explained that it was while the mother bore her child in her womb that she could, especially through her desires, influence the future progression of this child. That is how he was influenced by his mother who desired that he become a priest some day. "It is important for the woman to know the wonderful power God has given

her.... The power of holy desires and the consecration to Mary, what a protection, what a blessing!"

Father Benoît went on to say that this was confirmed by the grace Mother Paul-Marie received in the Father's Heart where she was able to admire the delightful sight produced by the mother-of-pearl honeycombs, a grace she commented with these words: "it shows that the Father's Heart welcomes with love all the requests we address to Him for the good of souls" (grace of September 14, 2005, related in *The White Book I*, chap. 7). In a subsequent grace, it was "shown" her that "these little honeycombs of love that make up the totality of the Father's Heart of Love draw to them all the souls of goodwill from over the Total Earth" (*id.*).

Father Benoît concluded with an appeal to mothers and to future mothers: "May love impel you to a life that is totally supernatural based on the deep faith of Mary and of the Lady. A faith that will move mountains, hasten the coming of the times and obtain through its great desires the most beautiful graces there are: the coming of a 'people of priests, a people of kings, an assembly of saints' who will hymn their Lord throughout the entire day of the Kingdom and in the eternal homeland. For 'as the woman goes, so goes the man'" (words said by the Lady of All Peoples, December 10, 1950)."

The mystery of the Woman is closely bound in with the mystery of the cross. That is what the procession to follow would illustrate.

Anne-Marie Dupuis led the procession, presenting "a crystal cross on which there is a rose, as a reminder that the well-accepted cross becomes light because it is uplifted by love. And thus the cross blossoms and one bears it with gratitude, being able to see in it the benefits it produces in the soul that lets itself be purified, divinized, so as to become like crystal." The cross, the symbolism of which reminds us of the white cross displayed the previous evening, was placed next to the Repository.

Chantal Labrie, who car-



Fr. Benoît Picard

ried a large reproduction of the Virgin Mother to be placed in the sanctuary, was followed by some sixty young people – the group of young girls preceding that of the young boys – each carrying a small plaque (or a holy picture for the little ones)



The group of young girls and boys entering in procession to the Repository.

illustrating the same painting. After having deposited their plaques next to the Repository, the young people received a souvenir holy picture of this tableau.



Small plaque of the Virgin Mary carried by young boys and girls.

"MARRIAGE HAS ITS SOURCE IN GOD"

Andréanne Ahern, who was wearing the golden cape



Andréanne Ahern

of an expectant mother, read a text dealing with marriage. She recalled the biblical account of the creation of man and woman, as well as the words from Genesis: "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body." So, "from the very beginning, marriage already had a well-defined place. It is a mutual giving of the husband and wife, an exchange of love that has its source in God."

Taking up a message from Mother Paul-Marie, Andréanne continued: "The fiancés who preserve their bright dreams and who go forward to the altar of offering where their love is blessed by God's minister, see a natural and spiritual union confirmed, through

a life as a couple in which it will not always be easy to safeguard unity. But the heroism of love on certain days will quickly be rewarded with the coming of a child. It is a mysterious flowering to anyone who contemplates at one and the same time the human love and the divine love interlaced in a human will firmly set on having a child and on giving a soul to God.... Marriage draws its strength from the love one has for God.

"To penetrate God's views by forgetting oneself so as to give life, is to say yes to love and open oneself to that so very noble mystery that transforms the spouses. To be 'yes' to God is to accept His plan of love, to conform oneself to His will, which will require our share of renunciations, of course, but which will permit one to acquire an equilibrium whereby one can see looming the most beautiful hopes of a renewed world, 'able to uplift the world and lead it, from one self-transcendence to the other, to a transfigured Church in which order, peace and happiness reign'."

"THE JOY OF BEING A MOTHER"

Véronique Desbiens, accompanied by her husband, Mario Plamondon, and their



Véronique Desbiens accompanied by her husband, Mario Plamondon, and their four children during their testimonial.

four children, gave us her testimonial entitled, "The Joy of Being a Mother".

A member of the Army of Mary for 27 years, that is to say, since her birth, Véronique acknowledged that her parents gave her the inestimable gift of "sound Christian and spiritual values", all the import of which she has been able to evaluate now that she is a mother.

Having participated last year in the triduum in honor

of the Triumph of the Cross, she, like the members present, had been deeply touched by the testimonial of a mother who had given birth to twin girls, one of whom winged her way to heaven a short time after her birth. She found in this testimonial the courage to accept the sufferings generally brought on by her pregnancies (she was already the mother of two boys), in order to give life once again, asking God, if that be His will, that she might give birth to a girl this time.

To her great joy, her desire was doubly granted, for on May 26, 2008, she gave birth to identical twin girls, Léa and Suzie. She ended her testimonial with these words:

"There are twice as many feedings, twice as many diapers to change, of cries to console and fatigue to endure, but I know that grace will always be there so that, in turn, I may teach them to love God and Mary and prepare them to face life by always accepting the crosses they will find along the way. In that way I hope that, along with their brothers, Jean-François and Mathieu, they may become great saints and be strong in their faith. What happiness to watch them both grow up with their older brothers who are so proud of them."

CONSECRATION OF THE UNBORN CHILDREN

Wearing a golden yellow cape, nine expectant mothers consecrated to the divine



Nine mothers-to-be consecrate the child they are carrying to the Quinternity.

Quinternity the child they are carrying. Our thoughts also went out to the thirteen other mothers-to-be who could not be present because of their obligations.

Then, one of these expectant mothers, Émilie Lavigne, presented a text taken from *Life of Love*, concerning a model mother: "Mama Laura who transmitted to her eldest daughter, Marie-Paule, qualities of such a caliber, in



Émilie Lavigne

which alongside simplicity there were generous upsurges, a humble discretion and abandonment to God's will, etc." After having noted the characteristics of the exceptional educator Mama Laura was, Émilie went on to suggest as models to us the women who, following our Foundress, gave to the Army of Mary a very decisive impetus.

"To be victorious over evil by doing good has always been the orientation of the Army of Mary which, from the moment it was founded, turned to women who had suffered much. 'The only thing that drew us to these women,' Marie-Paule indicated, 'was the richness of their spiritual life, because a fruitful apostolate depends on a life of merits.'

"Thus, taking up again the teaching we find in the first pages of *Life of Love*: to the pride and selfishness reigning as masters in today's society, we oppose humility and the giving of self; to the seeking of honors, we set forth the beauty of simplicity; to an inordinate wealth, we are reminded to be charitable and kind to the underprivileged; to the loss of faith, we offer a return to such a beautiful religion that fulfills the soul in search of the infinite."

A BLESSED FAMILY

In her turn, Pauline Bouffard gave a rich testimonial. She and her husband, Alain, were born in deeply Christian families. Alain's mother, Cécile, having become a widow, chose to enter the religious life with the Daughters of Mary.



Pauline Bouffard

Pauline and Alain had twelve children, even though after their second child and as a result of a tubal pregnancy and the removal of a fallopian tube, the doctor had warned the young woman that she would be lucky to be able to have one more child.... But those were not the only noteworthy favors of Providence to this family. Alain has benefited from a miracle twice, a favor he attributes to Marie-Paule.

On December 8, 1991,

Alain had a major heart attack. Heaven was bombarded with prayers: Pauline said Hail Marys and the prayer of the Lady of All Peoples, the Knights of Mary prayed for Alain, and Marie-Paule, having been informed of the situation, sent a message to Pauline: "Have confidence, the Blessed Virgin has cured others."

Alain recovered, but the cardiologist warned him that it would be difficult for him to work from now on. "Marie-Paule asked Alain to promise not work with his arms until she would tell him he could do so." In February 1992, she met Alain at a ceremony of the Work and, placing her hand on his heart, she said to him: "That heart is good; you can start to work." Alain did not have to be told twice, and he immediately returned to the hard labor of the farm. His cardiologist, who came to see him at the sugar house in the spring of 1992, "was surprised to see all that Alain was doing. Based on the medical results, he should have had before him a man who was unable to work."

On February 29, 2008, Alain once again fell victim to illness: "he was out of breath and he had one bout of angina after the other.... On this Friday evening, faced with the very sharp pain, he accepted to go to the hospital. He had always been warned that he could not have a second heart attack, for it would be fatal." The situation was critical. Marie-Paule, warned by Sister Cecile's Superior, wrote to Sister Cécile:

"Yes, dear Cécile, as soon as we received the news about Alain, we prayed for him. And I said to Mary: 'Alain must not die right now. He has a large family and a lot of work, and it is really a very wonderful family.' He will die much later. All the many prayers were effective. Let us give thanks to God."

Alain was operated on March 1. "At the end of the procedure, the nurses mentioned to the cardiologist surgeon that he had done something 'miraculous'. The next day, when the doctor went to Alain's bedside, he said to him: 'What the nurses said yesterday is true: I did something I was not supposed to do and that procedure was totally successful.' And his regular cardiologist confirmed the same thing."

Pauline gave her testimonial of a mother and grandmother who, to date, has sixteen grandchildren.

"I was always very happy to give birth, even if it all demanded renunciations. Material goods come and go, but it is with our children and grandchildren that the real meaning of life is to be found. It is not always easy to work with fourteen different temperaments, but, with interior reform, it is possible. However, we are very fortunate to have known the Army of Mary, for that is where we found the spiritual resources required to form our children. The Work's spirituality has always corresponded to our deepest aspirations, and our family would not have been the same without the Army of Mary. It is thanks to Marie-Paule who remained faithful to her mission that we are practising Catholics today. When we became members of the Army of Mary in the early 1980s, that was for us a lifesaver, because our moral values were declining. We owe so many thanks to Marie-Paule, especially for Alain who benefited from two miracles. He is still here today to watch over our family and to love us."

During the triduum in May 2008, Padre Jean-Pierre told us of an indication from Heaven received by Marie-Paule a few days earlier concerning the return of Christ the King at the time of the Kingdom. Now, as she "received" that indication, "she 'perceived' in the mail that was coming in a picture being sent by Marie-Ève, Pauline and Alain's daughter. This picture showed their five grandsons born between



The five Bouffard babies born between November 2007 and February 2008.

November 2007 and February 2008. Upon seeing that picture, our Foundress heard "People of priests, people of kings!" (Cf. "The Kingdom", no. 191, May-June 2008, p. 15).

Pauline ended her testimonial by reminding us of this grace, in order to share with us a note that Marie-

Paule sent them following the triduum in May 2008.

"Very dear Pauline and Alain. What a joy to see you again and be able to fraternize. Mary has united us to such an extent, you and all the generations to come in the course of the time of the Kingdom.

"A people of priests, a people of kings.' How beautiful that is! And those beautiful little babies [the picture of the five grandsons] that have a place of honor on my desk. God will see to everything in His own good time. Some will marry, others will become priests. Some are required in the various vocations so that it can all multiply.

"Be forever blessed during the thousand years of the Kingdom. Everything must be paid for, and the joys are so tremendous. Have confidence always!"

HOMAGE TO THE FAMILY LIFE

Marie-Ève Bouffard took over from her mother in order to pay homage to family life.



Marie-Ève Bouffard

"While the birthrate was declining, our family kept constantly increasing; while atheism was growing more rampant, religion was the center of our life; while all things must be planned, structured, controlled and legislated, we would call on Providence to see to all our needs; and while women were liberating themselves, mother accepted, without complaining, the work that increased over the years. Ours was a life always going against the current. Those major points describe the education we received and our life as a family, of which I am the second of twelve children and the eldest of the girls."

She described her life on the farm, accustomed, along with her brothers and sisters, to participate at a very early age in the various tasks needing to be done, which quickly fostered in them a sense of responsibility. Although she did very well in school, at the end of her high school, she decided not to pursue her studies in order to help her parents. At the age of nineteen, she met a young Anglophone gentleman from a well-off

family, a simple person but a Protestant, whom she accepted to marry, for he consented to respect her beliefs and the requirements of the Church in the matter of natural methods of birth control. Her parents were concerned because their two eldest, Janick and Marie-Ève, had chosen to marry someone from another religious confession. They confided their concern to Marie-Paule who replied:

"Two children will get married soon. Two adult children so devoted, accustomed to working, capable of accomplishing so many things. Under the circumstances, I know that you must have passed through 'a whole gamut of emotions and uncertainty', which is normal. But there are Protestants with good intentions just as there are Catholic with bad intentions. And if God is permitting these unions, that is because He has His views. Can we understand why two people, sometimes so different, are bound together? Different also on the human level in their upsurges or their beliefs, which will require a mutual respect. Gentleness, understanding and the example that attracts will be required and not persuasive words that rebuff.

"In all things, the spiritual aspect is entrusted to the Lady of All Peoples. Your two children, who have done so much for you, with you, for her Work of love, will certainly benefit from her maternal goodness. Let us have confidence. Let each one be free and patient! Beautiful graces must be paid for.

"What counts is not to 'vanquish but to convince'. However, I prefer writing: 'it is not to vanquish but rather to attract by the beauty, the harmony, the joy of the heart and soul.'

"We must respect our Protestant brothers and sisters, love them and understand them. I know that you



Marie-Ève Bouffard and her husband Neil with their four children. They are accompanied by the grandparents Pauline and Alain Bouffard.

are capable of imposing nothing, except of course, the same freedom for Janick and Marie-Ève to practice their religion. Let us be confident! God sometimes has astonishing ways."

Neil, Marie-Ève's husband, came forward and she continued the narration of their story.

"We were married on October 7, 2000, on the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, during which I asked the Lord that our children be sensitive to the suffering in the world and that they appreciate simplicity....We are now the blessed parents of four children: Charlotte, Joseph, Gloria and Henry."

The four children, accompanied by their grandparents, Pauline and Alain, joined Marie-Ève and Neil. The young woman recounted the circumstances of Henry's birth on November 11, 2007. She shared with us her happiness as a mother in the home: "I am enjoying the time spent with them, which brings me great satisfaction, something which so many mothers who could do so are depriving themselves of because they do not feel they have been fulfilled in the eyes of others. What a challenge it is to be a mother, and to be the one who forms these little souls lent us, without being certain that we will succeed but by abandoning ourselves to Providence and having Mary as a model."

This testimonial brought the morning program to a close, a program honoring our mothers who are walking in the wake of our Mother Immaculate in order to form the children of the Kingdom.

Saturday Afternoon,
September 13

Ceremony of Baptism

The assembly gathered again at 1:30 p.m. for the rosary recited by children. This was followed by the ceremony of baptism, a sacrament about which Mother Paul-Marie said: "God grants His graces through His ministers by depositing the seed of the sanctification that will be possible, the seed of His love, in the child's soul and heart. The parents and the Church will also be the happy beneficiaries of this."

Five babies were baptized on that day: Laëticia



The parents and godparents present five babies to the Church of John to be baptized and consecrated to Mary.

Rodrigue, Sarah Vacchio, Mathéo Paquet, Maxime Bohémier and Olivier Brousseau. For the ceremony, the mothers wore the short golden cape which the expectant mothers had worn in the morning, this cape symbolizing the royal mission of the woman, called to form "the people of priests, the people of kings" of the Kingdom. After their baptism, the children were consecrated to Mary Immaculate by their parents.

The Mass was then celebrated by thirty-four priests with Father Gilbert Dampousse as main cele-



Father Gilbert Dampousse presided over the Mass of September 13, 2008.

brant. Father Rémi Tremblay delivered the homily which was a celebration of motherhood and was intended particularly for all mothers for whom Mary Immaculate is the model. After having recalled their very important mission, he dealt with "the mystery of the Woman in her dignity, as God had created her in the beginning", and which Maria Valtorta, reporting Jesus' words, presented thus:

"[The formation of the woman] is to be sensitive, which is even more perfect, because [her] purpose is procreation. Woman was to be the sweetness of God on the Earth... God had therefore gifted her with a super-eminent sensitive spirit, so that, one day as a mother,



Fr. Rémi Tremblay

she could and would know how to open the eyes of the hearts of her children to the love for God and their fellow-creatures, as man would open the eyes of intelligence of his children to understanding and acting...." (*The Poem of the Man-God*, vol. IV, p. 38).

"We who are consecrated to our Mother in Heaven," declared Father Rémi, "we are all privileged ones of Mary who introduces us into the renewed Church, into a plan of Love that includes all the souls of all the peoples in the world." It falls upon women to "prepare the 'civilization of love' of tomorrow", knowing that "in motherhood, be it physical or spiritual, **every woman is in the likeness of the Immaculate** for the greater glory of God."

Finally, during this celebration of motherhood, our deepest gratitude goes out to "all those women who, throughout the 400 years of the history of New France, have transmitted the bright flame of the Catholic faith, of devotion to Mary, and the beautiful French language. That history is now opening up onto luminous horizons, towards the Kingdom, for our children. An everlasting thank-you for this new motherhood coming to us through the Co-Redemption."

Father Denis Laprise said the prayer of thanksgiving after Communion:

"After having celebrated the grandeur and the joy of motherhood, we raise up to you, O Jesus, and through Mary, Mother of Grace, our sentiments of deepest gratitude.

"Thank you for these little children who have become, through Baptism, your sons and daughters.

"Thank you for the generous mothers who offer up their child with such love and joy.

"Thank you for the wonderful families growing up in the shadow of the Church of John, under the regard of Jesus, our Divine Redeemer, and of Mary Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate, Lady of All Peoples and Sovereign of the Earth.

"Thank you to you, Mother Paul-Marie, Mother of all souls, of whom we are the sons and daughters of pre-

dilection through our membership in the Family of the Sons and Daughters of Mary..."

The program of this day dedicated to motherhood made us penetrate the heart of one of God's best kept secrets: the sublimity of the Woman's mission so closely bound in with the cross. The Lady of All Peoples, with her back to the cross, is the prototype of the renewed woman whose influence will be determining for the coming of the Kingdom.

Sunday, September 14 Feast of the Triumph of the Cross

"Towards the Summits"

On this Sunday morning, Father Victor welcomed us to Spiri-Maria reminding us that it was the feast of the Triumph of the Cross which is "the symbol of the Army of Mary. In fact, it was under the sign of the cross that Mary raised up her Works which, today, form the Church of John, that is to say, the renewed Church of Peter for our time."

It was also "under the sign of the cross" that our Foundress travelled the long route of her *Life of Love*, when, in her wake, there were "surprising and lasting conversions, under the impetus of grace". And the program of this last day of our triduum, which had as a theme "Towards the summits", would give us an opportunity "to hear vibrant testimonials that encourage us to always look upwards to loftier heights."

First of all, a golden stylized cross, made in metal, the arms of which end in four lilies (recently given to Mother Paul-Marie) was borne in procession by Charles Fournier and placed in the sanctuary. Then, the morning conferences began.

"OPENING OUR EYES TO DISCOVER THE KINGDOM"

Father Carl Beaupré urged us to "open our eyes to discover the Kingdom", taking up a short meditation found in the "*Prions en Église*" of July 2008: "To be a disciple is to live in a state of wonderment, learning each day to open wide our eyes

in order to see and discover the Kingdom in the events that are the closest to us."

He explained to us that we must "possess a simple heart, a child's heart," for "he who possesses the heart of a child stands in awe, on the one hand, before the Work of creation in which he is able to see the beauty of the Creator, and on the other hand, before the even greater beauty of the divine Works, the signs of which he is able to discover in providential events."

At a very early age, our Foundress "was formed to hear God's mysterious language. In the Constitutions of the Community of the Sons and Daughters of Mary, she gave us the secret in three very specific points: the love of simplicity, paying attention to the grace of the present moment and the understanding of providential events...."

"And what an admirable Wisdom God is revealing to humanity in this time of the Co-Redemption! We will never be able to reproach Mother Paul-Marie with having kept hidden the Father's plan of love, a plan which she herself was learning to discover through the providential events, the divine demands and the realization of the indications she received in pure faith."

Father Carl recalled a letter she wrote to Cardinal Roy on June 14, 1980:

"No one was obliged to believe in the words of Christ the Redeemer, come on earth to carry out the loving designs of the Father, but those who did believe came into the possession of a treasure which they never wanted to lose, so precious was it.

"No one was obliged to believe in the words of Mary Co-Redemptrix, who passed through the NOTHING that I am, in order to carry out the designs of the Father..., but those who have believed have come into the possession of a treasure which they would never want to lose, so precious and consoling it is to their souls.

"The Work of the Father was announced at Amsterdam; it has been realized...."

"*Life of Love*, in fifteen volumes, tells the story of



Fr. Carl Beaupré

the life of the Lady of All Peoples.... *Life of Love* is the realization of the messages of Mary, the Lady of All Peoples...."

"Thus, all that was announced at La Salette, at Fatima, at Amsterdam and in Quebec, has been realized and is still being realized in an astonishing manner, in spite of all the opposition on the part of the episcopate, the clergy and the religious Communities to these interventions by heaven...."

"And now, Mary is going to take the lead, for she is still directing her army.

"Happy will be her officers who, having discovered the truth, will know how to profit from that LIGHT which will shine out over the Church and make it resplendent, for, as the Lady promised, *'there will not be found a people which will not have acknowledged the Lady of All Peoples'* (June 15, 1952).

"*'Mary, the Lady of All Peoples, has been sent into this world so that by this title and prayer she may preserve the world from a universal disaster'* (May 10, 1953)."

And Father Carl ended with these words:

"For more than 37 years, the men and women who were able to open wide their eyes – simply, with their hearts open to the grace of the present moment and attentive to providential events and the signs of the times – have been able to admire the Work which God, through the Lady of All Peoples, has accomplished with a view to the Kingdom that is and is coming. They stand in wonderment and from their grateful heart springs forth the sublime hymn of the 'Te Deum'."

"A CONVERSION: A MIRACLE!"

Denis Fournier, the father of six children, gave the testimonial of his conversion which, like all conversions, he compares to a miracle. After a pious childhood, he stepped back with regard to his faith during his adolescence as a result of external pressure. A meeting would completely change his life: a young lady, Johanne, a member of the Army of Mary, who possessed what he was looking for in a woman: purity and deep-set family and religious



Denis Fournier

values.

However, difficulties arose between them because of the Army of Mary, for those close to Denis warned him against this Work. He accepted to begin reading *Life of Love* and that is when everything became clear for him: "I was overcome by the strength and love the soul discovers as it reads the volumes of *Life of Love*."

He married Johanne on August 22, 1992. Their union has been blessed with six children: Charles, Jean-François, Alexandra, Laura, Sarah and Benjamin. All six would come, with his wife Johanne,



Johanne and Denis Fournier with their six children during their testimonial.

to stand about him while he gave his testimonial.

Denis recounted certain episodes in their family life in which the protection of Providence was palpable. Thus, Laura recovered in an inexplicable manner from a serious head injury. ("The doctors were astounded by the evidence of the miracle granted us by the Lady of All Peoples," Denis indicated.) As for their son Charles, the parents had the shock of learning that he was suffering from type 1 diabetes, but, in this trial, prayer sustained the family.

In 2006, a fire broke out in the firm where Denis worked. He immediately requested the protection of the Lady of All Peoples, and the fire which burned everything nonetheless respected his desk; he was able to recover some files and their family picture. He also told us how Providence watched over him with regard to his professional activities.

In powerfully emotive words, he shared with us the richness of his faith, ending with these words:

"It is on my knees that I give thanks to the Lady for all she gives us, and I ask her to keep me faithful until I reach heaven. Before so many graces, the only thing I can do is to embrace and love with all my heart the cross the Lady puts before me and asks me to make it

blossom. Glory to the Trinity!"

"THE POWER OF THE AVE MARIA"

The rest of the program would lead us to the very top of Mount Everest... As a first step, Father Maurice Péloquin, by means of the story of a mountain climber, would help us discover "the power of the Ave Maria".

Professor Franceschini of Milan was climbing the Ortles glacier in the Italian Alps, etching "in the ice with his ice pick the words, 'Ave Maria', in order to mark his path at the steepest and most dangerous spots, this with a view to his descent. Thus his ascent was punctuated, at one and the same time, by prayer, rest and a hymn of praise, given all the beauty of the surroundings, for the Mother of God and the Creator of the world."

A short time later, an Austrian mountain climber climbed the glacier and he noticed the "Ave Marias" marking the way and he spurned "the very naive and very credulous heart of a professor who would lend himself to such nonsense." Suddenly, however, a violent snow storm broke out, and it was the words of the "Ave Maria" that guided him along the difficult descent, giving him renewed courage and energy. "It was with tears of joy that he wrote to Professor Franceschini to thank him for having saved his life, promising that every day of his life, he would recite at least one 'Ave Maria'."

"Now we can easily understand the meaning of this story," Father Maurice commented. "All along our ascent along the path of holiness, it is necessary to address ourselves to the Virgin Mary, through whom sal-



The young girls, followed by the boys, entered in procession as a decade of the rosary was being recited.

vation came into the world. May our 'Aves', uttered all along the way, sustain our courage and our hope... Thus, our hearts will be incessantly transported far above our cares, far beyond our anxieties, to the Kingdom of the beatitudes."

While a child recited a decade of the rosary, a procession of eighty young people (with the girls preceding the boys) was set in motion, going around the chapel. Little girls carrying the letters of the salutation "Ave Maria" were followed by other youngsters carrying a rosary in their hands, which they would then be able to keep as a souvenir. A soloist interpreted Schubert's Ave Maria as the letters of the "AVE MARIA" were placed before Our Lady's throne.



The letters "Ave Maria" borne in procession by little girls and placed before the throne of the Lady.

"BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT, THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS THEIRS!"

Fr. Gilbert Damphousse helped us discover Pier Giorgio Frassati, beatified by Pope John Paul II who named him the patron saint of sportsmen.



Fr. Gilbert Damphousse

Pier Giorgio Frassati was born on April 6, 1901 in Turin. "His father was a lawyer and a journalist. He was the founder and director of the daily newspaper *La Stampa*, quite broadly distributed in Italy. He would become a senator and then an ambassador. His mother, a well-known artist, a painter, helped him discover the beauty of nature, as he accompanied her on hikes in the mountains" where she would settle to paint. "He was only eight years old when he realized that he liked mountain climbing." While an adolescent,

he said:

"Every day, I am more passionately in love with the mountain; I am fascinated by it and I desire to climb to its summits, reach the most daring heights..., and if my studies permitted it, I would like to spend long days contemplating, in this pure air, the grandeur of the Creator. I understand the attraction for light, the desire to climb towards the summits, to find God face to face."



Pier Giorgio Frassati climbing to the summits.

He was always joyful, so much so "that Pope John Paul II would nickname him 'the man of the eight beatitudes'. For him, to be a Catholic meant 'to be joyful'!"

Pier Giorgio helped the poor and the sick, even depriving himself of essentials to help them. "In 1922, he entered the Dominican Third Order, taking as a rule this statement: 'On your own, you will do nothing, but if you set God at the center of all your actions, then you will reach your goal.'"

His life was marked by a constant forgetting of self: for his mother, he gave up the priesthood; for his sister's happiness as she wanted to get married and for peace in the home, he sacrificed his love of a young lady; and because his father wanted him to work at *La Stampa*, he gave up his desire to become a mining engineer, even as he had hoped to become a missionary among the laborers.

At the age of 24, he caught poliomyelitis while looking after a sick person, and he died six days later. "His funeral was like an apotheosis as a result of the unexpected affluence of people, from the most well-known to the poorest of the city. All those he had helped were there. Overwhelmed by this, his parents dropped their plans to separate and Mr. Frassati returned to the faith."

The secret of Pier Giorgio's spiritual ascent is doubtless to be found in this exhortation he wrote one day to some children: "Eat the bread of angels and you will find in it the strength to wage the inner struggles,

the battles against the passions and the tribulations because Jesus Christ promised that those who would receive the Holy Eucharist would have eternal life and the necessary graces to reach it. When you will be entirely consumed by this Eucharistic fire, then you will be able, in all honesty, to thank God who called you to be a part of His legion and you will experience a peace which those who are happy here on earth will have never known. For true happiness, my dear friends, is not to be found in the pleasures of this world or in worldly goods but in the peace of conscience, and it is given only to those who have a pure heart and mind."

A MOUNTAIN CLIMBER FROM QUEBEC ON MOUNT EVEREST

A speaker whom the general public recognizes came forward. It was Sebastian Sasseville who, on May 25, 2008, successfully climbed Mount Everest, becoming the first Canadian suffering from type 1 diabetes to have accomplished that feat. His parents, Christian and Claudette, members of the Work for a long time, gave their testimonial after that of their son.

Straightaway, Sebastian emphasized that he was not there "to vaunt a sporting feat", being motivated especially by "the desire to send a message, a message of hope to those living with type 1 diabetes... To all those who are willing to hear it, I repeat that, in spite of the illness, there is no limit to what one can accomplish, be this in the area of sports, the arts or academically." It is a matter of effort and determination, he said, "but that is not where it all begins. It all begins with the acceptance of the illness. That is the first step to be taken, and nothing can be accomplished until there is acceptance."

He told us of the stages in his ascent of Mount Everest, an obstacle that became for him "a school and a guide". "Thanks to Mount Everest, I understood that all the obstacles, even those we have not chosen, could be changed into gifts. Today, more than six years after my

diagnosis, I have accepted my illness, and I have made of it a gift, a gift that I would never want to return. The illness is a part of my life and has given it meaning. I use it every day to grow and to help others grow. The illness, the obstacle, has become an indispensable tool in my progression or journey."

On May 25, when no one believed in him, he was the only member of his expedition to succeed in reaching the summit of Mount Everest, whereas the others had been forced to quit. Nevertheless, "having come back down to earth", his best memory was not of the twenty or so minutes spent on the summit, but rather of the "hundreds of sacrifices, [which led him] to Mount Everest; the trials, the experiences, the dozens of friendships that developed; the five wonderful years of preparation spent in the shadows." He went on to say: "That is the story I came to share with you today. The story of a life spent accepting obstacles, using them... The story of a life spent becoming a champion in the silence of training rather than in the race. And I hope that my story will serve to inspire the young and not so young, whether or not they are ill."

What an example of determination and courage! Qualities which we discover in his parents who were also heroic in silence and prayer.

"CLIMBING OUR MOUNTAINS WITH THE LADY OF ALL PEOPLES"

Claudette and Christian Sasseville, worried when



Claudette and Christian Sasseville, Sebastian's parents.

their son Sebastian would undertake perilous expeditions, often recommended him to Mother Paul-Marie's prayers, and, alternately, they shared their sentiments with us.

First of all, Christian told us that when Sebastian was preparing to board the plane for Nepal on the evening of March 22, 2008, he gave him Marie-Paule's picture which he always carried with him, asking Sebastian to "carry her to the top". "Of course,"

he commented, "I meant by that, that the picture, that is to say, Marie-Paule, would protect him during the entire expedition." He and Claudette were well aware of "all the dangers inherent in such an expedition," and it was in their prayers for their son that they drew the necessary strength to climb their own "mountain".

Christian took up the narration again: "Monday, March 24, Easter Monday. Sebastian had arrived in Nepal and we sent him one last e-mail before he began the gradual ascent of the mountain. A short message which included one last recommendation and I quote: 'A short recommendation: Marie-Paule's picture. If you would put it in your shirt pocket on your chest, I am sure that she would look after your lungs and generally take care of you. Try it!'"

Sebastian achieved his goal two months later, as Christian confirmed: "In the afternoon of May 25, the news came, the tremendous news, to the effect that Sebastian had reached the summit on the morning of May 25, Nepal time, thus becoming the first Canadian suffering from type 1 diabetes, and the third one in the world, to have reached the summit of Mount Everest.... A few days later, we received the first e-mail message from Sebastian." Here is a passage from it: "Let me tell you that I have done my purgatory. They were two months of great sufferings. I have a picture of me on the summit with Marie-Paule's picture in my hands. I suppose that that too is a first!"

And Claudette added: "Following upon the success of the expedition, prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude were sent up from my soul, for I was deeply convinced that Heaven and the Lady had protected Sebastian throughout this perilous ascent...."

"We were quite surprised, during the ceremony of last May 31, when the Lord asked Mother Paul-Marie to accept the title of Sovereign of the Earth, to realize the providential coincidence, to the effect that, in the preceding days, Mother Paul-Marie had been led, in a certain way, to the summit of the earth. Does not God speak to us through the language of events?"

"We should mention, furthermore, that the name given to Mount Everest by different peoples living in that area of the world bring us back to that title of Sovereign of the earth. In fact, the Tibetan name for the mountain means 'Mother of the universe', while in ancient Sanskrit (which is the language of the Hindu religious texts), the name given to the mountain meant 'holy mountain'. And in Nepal, Mount Everest would already have had a name that meant 'Dwelling of the Divinity'."

Christian summed up in these words the lesson to be drawn from this venture, the account of which brought the morning program to a close: "How can we not think that the Lady of All Peoples is repeating her invitation that we also climb 'our mountains'? They are often multiple and daily, these mountains, but to climb them no doubt feeds our interior reform, an obligatory passage towards the 'summits' where the Lady is waiting for us, where the world is waiting for us."

CEREMONY OF RECEPTION INTO THE COMMUNITY OF THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF MARY

We gathered again in the afternoon to say a rosary and then assist at a ceremony of reception into the Community of the Sons of Mary. Leander Van Renterghem from Belgium made his commitment as a postulant and Gabriel Caron from St. Ulric in the Matane region took the habit of the Sons of Mary.

Father Denis Thivierge recalled the founding of the Community of the Sons and Daughters of Mary and the



Commitment as a postulant by Leander Van Renterghem from Belgium.



Gabriel Caron takes the habit in the Community of the Sons of Mary.



Fr. Denis Thivierge

words Heaven said to Mother Paul-Marie in August 1983, after eleven Sons and Daughters of Mary had made their profession of vows: "You see what the sacrifice of your vocation has led to." She understood. "I sacrificed life in religion, and it was to see today a flourishing religious Community of men and women. God is great. All for His glory!" (*Vie d'Amour, Appendice*, vol. I, p. 138)

On this same day in Arkansas, Claudia Joubert from Jonquière made her commitment as a postulant with the Daughters of Mary



Claudia Joubert entered as a postulant with the Daughters of Mary.

who have been called to work with the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd affiliated with the Community of the Lady of All Peoples.

OUR JUBILARIANS

A short biography of six members of the Community of the Sons and Daughters of Mary who were celebrating this year their 65th, 60th or 25th anniversary of religious profession was presented.

– **Father Roland Marcoux:** profession of vows with the Brothers of the Sacred Heart on August 15, 1943 – 65 years ago – to then become a Son of Mary when the Community was founded on May 31, 1981, before becoming a priest six years later.



Fr. Roland Marcoux

– **Sister Gracia Marceau:** profession of vows on July 22, 1948 – 60 years ago – with the Sisters Oblates of Mary and the Good Shepherd of Quebec, who became a Daughter of Mary when this Community was founded; an artist and a seamstress with fairy fingers!



Sr. Gracia Marceau

– **Father Lionel Bélanger:** profession of vows with

the Sons of Mary in 1983 and ordained a priest by Pope John Paul II in Rome in 1986.



Fr. Lionel Bélanger

– **Fr. André Guillemette:** profession of vows with the Sons of Mary in 1983 and ordained a priest in 1989, after which he spent twelve years of ministry in France before returning to Quebec.



Fr. André Guillemette

– **Father Rémi Tremblay:** profession of vows with the Sons of Mary in 1983 and ordained a priest in 1987. He was a parish priest for some ten years in the Diocese of L'Aquila in Italy and then in Nova Scotia before returning to Quebec.



Fr. Rémi Tremblay

– **Sister Carmen Gagné:** profession of vows with the Daughters of Mary in 1983, after having taken the Community's habit at Lisieux during a pilgrimage of the Work.



Sr. Carmen Gagné

EUCCHARISTIC CONCELEBRATION

The Mass was the culminating point which brought our triduum to a close. It was presided over by Father Benoît Picard and concelebrated by thirty-one priests. Father Maurice Péloquin delivered the homily which focussed on the day's liturgical feast, the Triumph of the Cross.



Fr. Maurice Péloquin

"We can speak highly of the cross, give wonderful catechetics on it, discourse upon it, but the priority of all priorities is to have as a program of life the ideal of joining within ourselves the cross and glory, to the point of resembling Christ. According to the Gospel, it is necessary for us, if we want to be admitted into His Kingdom, to opt for humility and the stripping off of self, make a career of the giving of ourselves and ser-



September 14, 2008 - Mass in honor of the Triumph of the Cross, presided over by Father Benoît Picard and concelebrated by thirty-one priests.

vice. There you have all the beauty that is concealed in this Christian paradox of the cross being raised to give life and of a crucified person being a source of victory. Truly the cross is the folly of God that confounds the wisdom of the world. 'Since the world did not come to know God through 'wisdom', it pleased God to save us through the absurdity of the descent.' (cf. 1 Cor 1:21)...

"Let us let ourselves be attracted by Christ as He manifests Himself on the cross, as He revealed Himself in Saint Edith Stein, in Saint Padre Pio, in Marie-Paule. Their existence could appear to be a defeat, but it is precisely in their sufferings united with those of Christ that the brilliance of love is reflected and vanquishes the darkness of selfishness and hatred.

"Let us walk along this mystical road which they opened for us. Nothing can bring us greater satisfaction than becoming disciples for whom "living is Christ", for whom loving is leaving all the room to Him to the point of becoming Eucharist, to the point of considering it as a grace to be able to feel the benefits of His Passion."

Father Eric Roy addressed a final word to the assembly in the form of a prayer of thanksgiving, coming back, first of all, on the beautiful things we lived during this triduum.

"We are called upon to mount to the highest summits of holiness. The Redeemer and the Co-Redemptrix, through their sufferings and their redemptive sacrifice, opened for us the Eucharistic World – one of those summits we are called to climb – so that one day we may find our true dwelling place in God. The heart of the Father's Heart is wide open. He is waiting for us... and the Lady of All Peoples, as we know, has opened the way for us to reach it. With

courage and by means of the Eucharist, a precious gift and an inexhaustible source of graces accessible to all souls of good will, we can continue this ascent leading us to happiness."

He thanked all those who contributed to the success of this triduum, and our Foundress, first of all. "Let us remember that it is thanks to the cross well accepted, to her faithfulness and her unconditional obedience, that today we are able to contemplate the highly spiritual possibilities and the great secrets of God's love for humanity."

Without forgetting those who were involved in the smooth unfolding of the program of these days of prayer, among whom are the Daughters of Mary and in particular Sister Micheline Hupé, our thanks go out more particularly to our very devoted priests (particularly in the ministry of the confessional), to the members of the Service and Order Unit, the Choir of the Immaculate under the direction of Father Hervé Lemay and accompanied by talented instrumentalists – at the organ, Sister Jacqueline Vermette and Lucie Beauchemin; on the trumpet, Jean-Philippe Laprise; on the violin, Hélène and Pascale Therrien; on the transverse flute, Marie-France Therrien – who added a note of solemnity to the beauty of the hymns interpreted by the choir, among which was the majestic "Te Deum" sung at the very end as a hymn of thanksgiving.

From Spiri-Maria where the heart of the Father's Heart beats, the Knights of Mary then dispersed to bring to their respective milieu the graces received during this triduum, a sowing of the new Kingdom, the first rays of which we can contemplate.

September 15, 2008

Sylvie Payeur Raynauld